



MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING

Between

The International Accreditation Forum, Inc. (IAF)

and

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)

and

The International Halal Accreditation Forum (IHAF)

1.0 General Considerations

- 1.1 Recognizing the roles played by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) in administering a network of multilateral mutual recognition arrangements of bodies providing accreditation of conformity assessment bodies using international standards;
- 1.2 Considering the role played by the International Halal Accreditation Forum (IHAF) in the recognition of accreditation bodies that accredit Halal conformity assessment bodies using the same international standards and relying on the peer evaluation process of IAF and ILAC as a prerequisite for IHAF multi-lateral agreement signatories;
- 1.3 Considering that Halal schemes include requirements of a religious and of a technical nature;
- 1.4 Considering that IAF and ILAC activities are aimed at giving confidence to the market in the competence and impartiality of CABs to perform conformity assessment activities based only on requirements of a technical nature;
- 1.5 Considering that IAF and ILAC are not promoting any technical or religious standards or schemes, nor any political activity, directly or indirectly.
- 1.6 Considering that ILAC, IAF and IHAF believe in the principles of non-discrimination on the grounds of religion, race or sex.
- 1.7 The Chair of IAF, the Chair of ILAC and the Secretary General of IHAF have, in accordance with their constitutions and relevant by-laws, agreed upon this Memorandum of Understanding to govern cooperation between IAF, ILAC and IHAF (hereinafter the "Parties") and the coordination of their activities in areas where their functions and activities are complementary and supportive.



2.0 Purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- 2.1 The purpose of this MoU is to promote cooperation on issues of common interest and to describe the technical scope and limits of such cooperation. The methodology of implementation of joint activities under this MoU and the monitoring of its implementation shall be agreed between the Parties.
- 2.2 With a view to facilitating the effective attainment of the objectives set forth in their respective constituent instruments, IAF, ILAC and IHAF agree to act in close cooperation with each other and to consult each other as appropriate regarding matters of mutual interest.
- 2.3 Subject to compliance with the internal rules of each Party, appropriate arrangements may be made for the reciprocal representation of IAF, ILAC and IHAF as participants at meetings convened under their respective auspices which consider matters in which the others have an interest.
- 2.4 This MoU is not intended to create any legal relationship between the parties, but rather a spirit of cooperation on matters related to the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies for Halal schemes.

3.0 Principles of Recognition

- 3.1 IHAF's main objective is to ensure the credibility of CABs and facilitate trade in Halal products and services.
- 3.2 IHAF has created a platform whereby member accreditation bodies are part of a multilateral arrangement that enables the mutual acceptance and recognition of Halal conformity compliance results. The objectives are the removal of duplication in Halal verification, testing, and certification, and ultimately the facilitation of trade in Halal products and services between the members.
- 3.3 IHAF recognizes Halal schemes and explains to CABs, ABs and companies how to apply/evaluate these schemes.
- 3.4 To avoid unnecessary duplication, IHAF and IHAF members rely on activities already performed by IAF and ILAC and their recognised regions, and by CABs accredited by signatories to the IAF multilateral recognition arrangement and the ILAC mutual recognition arrangement.



- 3.5 In this regard, IAF and IHAF members agree that this MoU only covers activities based on requirements of a technical nature and will never be applicable to requirements of a religious nature that remain solely within the sphere of IHAF agreements. IHAF establishes the requirements of a religious nature.
- 3.6 IAF and ILAC members are able to perform accreditation of activities with requirements of a religious nature that could be in line or in contrast with IHAF endorsed schemes.

4.0 Administrative and Financial Considerations

- 4.1 The implementation of the activities envisaged by this MoU shall depend on the availability of the necessary financial resources according to the regulations and procedures in force in the three Parties.
- 4.2 The following contact persons are specified for the purposes of this MoU
- 4.2.1 For IAF, the Secretary of IAF
 - 4.2.2 For ILAC, the Secretary of ILAC
 - 4.2.3 For IHAF, the Secretary General of IHAF

5.0 Final Clauses

- 5.1 This MoU may be amended by mutual written agreement of the Parties.
- 5.2 Each Party may terminate this MoU by giving the other Parties at least six months' written notice of such intention.
- 5.3 Existing activities which are due to be completed within one calendar year from the date of notice of termination shall not be affected unless otherwise provided for.
- 5.4 The MoU shall enter into force upon signature by the Chairs of both IAF and ILAC and the Secretary General of IHAF.
- 5.5 This MoU shall be reviewed by the Parties every three years.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly appointed representatives of IAF, ILAC and IHAF, respectively have, on behalf of the Parties, signed the present MoU in three authentic originals in English, at the places and on the dates set forth below.

For IAF

Xiao Jinhua

Chair

Date: 30th October 2018

Place: Singapore

For ILAC

Merih Malmqvist Nilsson

Chair

Date: 30 October 2018

Place: Singapore

For IHAF

Mohamed Saleh Badri

Secretary General

Date: 30/10/2018

Place: Singapore