

The OIML MAA: Your passport for type approvals worldwide

Your contact to apply for your MAA Evaluation Report: Any of the Issuing Participants – The list for a specific category is given in the relevant Declaration of Mutual Confidence which is available on the OIML web site under the heading “MAA”

Use of your MAA Evaluation Report: Among all the Participants listed in the relevant Declaration of Mutual Confidence

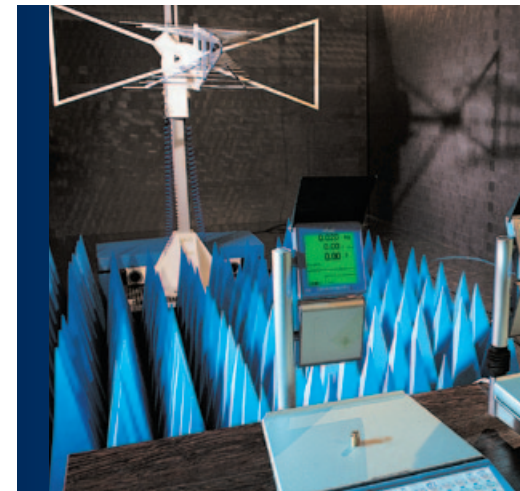


TYPE EVALUATION OF MEASURING INSTRUMENTS

MUTUAL ACCEPTANCE ARRANGEMENT

www.oiml.org/maa

Complete, regularly updated information putting you in touch with developments and helping you to make a success of the MAA



Your product tested once
Test results utilized among MAA Participants

Your next move: Meet with your National OIML Representative:

Either: Your CIML Member (OIML Member States)

Or: Your Corresponding Member Contact Person (OIML Corresponding Members)

www.oiml.org

A passport that ensures

Competence
Confidence
Cooperation

OIML: Who are we?

The International Organization of Legal Metrology was created by an intergovernmental Treaty signed in 1955. **Legal metrology** is the activity by which a government sets up and enforces regulations related to measurement units, measurements and measuring instruments. The OIML is an “International Standard Setting Body” in the sense of the World Trade Organization’s Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement. The role of the OIML is to develop mutual information and mutual confidence among its Members, and to provide “model regulations” that the Member States commit to using in their national legislation – we call these International Recommendations.

On this basis, we develop international systems for facilitating mutual recognitions in legal metrology amongst OIML Members. The two systems currently in place are:

- the OIML Basic Certificate System for Measuring Instruments, by which participants use harmonized methods to assess and certify the conformity of types of measuring instruments with the requirements of OIML Recommendations (on a voluntary basis); and
- the Mutual Acceptance Arrangement (MAA), which is an additional tool and which includes evaluation of testing laboratories responsible for type evaluation of measuring instruments. Within this Arrangement, participants declare that they intend to accept and utilize each other’s test results.

Membership

Member States are countries which have signed and ratified the Treaty; they are committed to implementing Conference decisions and to participating actively in the work of the Organization.

Corresponding Members are countries or economies which did not sign the Treaty, but which express an interest in the work of the OIML and want to participate in it.

In addition, the OIML has general liaisons with:

- other international organizations in the field of metrology, accreditation and standardization;
- other international organizations in technical fields;
- international organizations for economic issues (trade, economic development); and
- international and regional organizations of manufacturers, users of instruments, and consumers.

The OIML: a key player in legal metrology offering tools to Members and services to manufacturers of measuring instruments

Two complementary OIML Systems

Competence Confidence Cooperation

The OIML Basic Certificate System

The OIML Basic Certificate System for Measuring Instruments was set up in 1991. Today it covers about 50 categories of measuring instruments and aims to facilitate and harmonize the work of national and regional bodies in charge of type evaluation of measuring instruments and to harmonize the practices of testing laboratories.

It is a voluntary system in which Certificates of Conformity are issued by OIML Issuing Authorities that are designated by the representative of the OIML in the various Member States.

This System was set up to help manufacturers demonstrate that the measuring instruments they manufacture conform to the requirements in the various countries in which they request type approval.

Naturally, the whole concept is based on the principle that national and/or regional regulations are aligned on the requirements of the relevant OIML Recommendations.

The OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement

The OIML MAA was set up in 2005 and today covers several categories of measuring instruments.

It will be extended step by step to other categories that are already covered by the OIML Basic Certificate System.

It is an additional tool designed to increase confidence through a formal evaluation of testing laboratories involved in type testing of measuring instruments.

Although it is still a voluntary System, Participants formally declare their intention to accept and utilize test results provided by the evaluated testing laboratories.

This Arrangement is a real advantage for manufacturers who intend to apply for type approval in those OIML Member States that do not have their own test facilities, and also in those countries in which the relevant national regulation is not fully aligned with the requirements in the relevant OIML Recommendation.



Your product tested once...
As a manufacturer, one of your primary goals is to reduce the cost of testing and evaluating your measuring instruments when seeking certification of the type (or "model") of your instruments in different countries around the world.

... test results utilized among all the MAA Participants
The OIML MAA can help you achieve this goal, since its main aim is to provide you with the means to have your product tested in one laboratory whilst ensuring that the test results are used by all the participants in the MAA to issue multiple national certifications.

OIML MAA: a guarantee of competence and of valid testing and examination results on the basis of OIML Recommendations

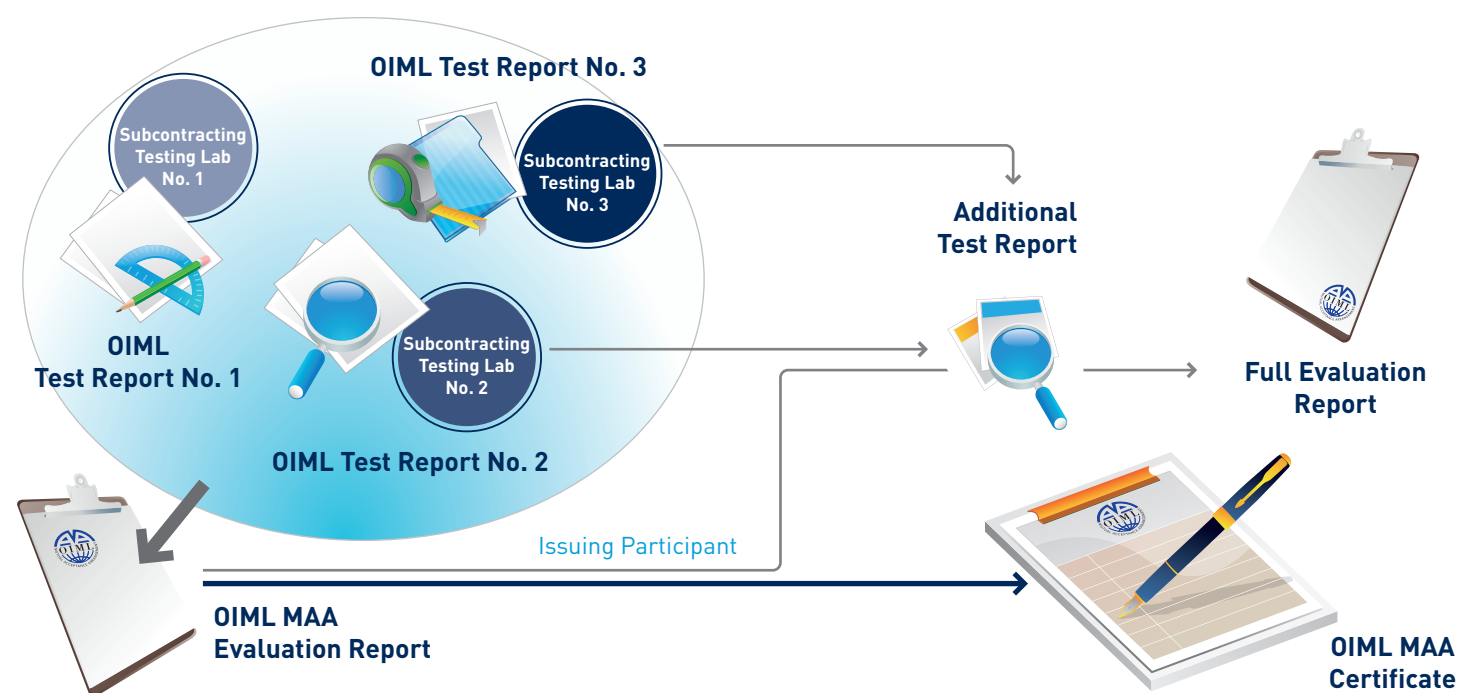
What guarantees Testing Laboratory competence?

- an initial assessment of the competence of those Testing Laboratories that are involved in type testing is carried out, followed by periodic surveillance
- OIML MAA Issuing Participants, which issue OIML MAA Certificates of Conformity, designate their Testing Laboratories; these are duly registered and maintained by the OIML after initial and subsequent assessments
- an essential tool used to assess the competence of Testing Laboratories is ISO/IEC 17025 *General requirements for competence of testing and calibration laboratories*

How is this competence demonstrated?

- either by accreditation by a national accreditation body, signatory of the ILAC (Interlaboratory Accreditation Cooperation) Mutual Recognition Arrangement, or
- by peer assessment conducted under the responsibility of the OIML

For accredited Testing Laboratories, through its cooperation with ILAC, the OIML ensures that the accreditation covers the relevant scope of testing and that appropriate experts and assessors are part of the assessment team.



For non-accredited Testing Laboratories, the OIML organizes their conformity assessments in cooperation with ILAC for the use of quality system assessors. Technical experts are those validated by the OIML.

The key issue is to guarantee a perfect equivalency of both the accreditation and peer assessment processes, in particular with regard to the assessment team's competence, the conformity assessment supporting documents, and the assessment reports.

In addition, all the assessment reports (accreditation or peer assessment) are submitted to and reviewed by a unique OIML Committee composed of experts in the appropriate scope of measuring instruments and representative of each participating countries in the MAA.

- Such a conformity assessment process ensures:
- equivalency in the competence of the various registered Testing Laboratories
 - equivalency in the testing procedures applied
 - equivalency in the testing reports

OIML MAA: Confidence and Cooperation between Participants

Guaranteeing the competence of Testing Laboratories creates confidence in the Evaluation Reports provided by Issuing Participants; these are based on the test reports issued by the Testing Laboratories. The OIML Committee responsible for reviewing the Testing Laboratory assessment reports

■ The OIML MAA: Benefits for manufacturers

- Competence of Testing Laboratories leads to confidence in test results
- Confidence and cooperation between Participants is validated through a formal Declaration
- Cooperation is achieved through the use of Evaluation Reports and test results:
- one set of tests
 - additional national tests included
 - application for type approval easier

is a forum to exchange information on technical issues and testing procedures and is therefore an additional tool to foster confidence among Participants. Such confidence leads to cooperation between Participants who declare their willingness to use the Evaluation Reports and test results issued by the other Participants. The foundation for formalizing this confidence and cooperation is the "Declaration of Mutual Confidence", signed by each MAA Participant for each specific single category of measuring instrument. In this way, the OIML assists those countries that do not have their own test facilities, enabling them to rely on the OIML MAA Evaluation Reports of Issuing Participants. This represents a major opportunity for manufacturers to access additional markets, and thus develop their business based on a solid structure providing the guarantees they require. Another advantage of the OIML MAA is that it can also take into account additional national tests since in the real world the multitude of national technical regulations is not necessarily fully aligned with the requirements of the relevant OIML Recommendations. These additional tests (and the associated testing procedures) are assessed in the same way as those of the OIML Recommendations and are reviewed by the appropriate OIML Committee. They are made publicly available and manufacturers may request any of the Testing Laboratories to carry them out, providing the latter are willing to do so.

There are three types of participants:

Issuing Participants – OIML Issuing Authorities or national type approval bodies from OIML Member States, which issue OIML MAA Evaluation Reports and MAA Certificates of Conformity

Utilizing Participants – National type approval bodies from OIML Member States which issue neither OIML MAA Evaluation Reports nor MAA Certificates of Conformity, but which accept to utilize those issued by the Issuing Participants. Issuing Participants are also Utilizing Participants, since they accept to use Reports and test results from the other Issuing Participants

Associates – National type approval bodies from OIML Corresponding Members which declare they accept OIML MAA Evaluation Reports issued by the Issuing Participants

Testing facilities for vehicle engines

