



BIML 07 No. 266/JFM/RG

30 April 2007

To: CIML Members

Subject: Draft extension of the ILAC/OIML Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to the IAF (International Accreditation Forum)

Dear Colleagues,

After the MoU was signed in November 2006 between ILAC and the OIML, it was suggested to extend this cooperation to also include the International Accreditation Forum, since the IAF has developed a Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) which aims to ensure equivalency of certification delivered by certification bodies accredited by IAF MLA Members.

The IAF MLA concerns three issues:

- Product Certification;
- Quality Management System Certification;
- Environnemental Management System Certification.

Product Certification and Quality Management System Certification are activities which may be involved in certification schemes in legal metrology (e.g. type examination, conformity to type).

Consequently the OIML, ILAC and the IAF have drawn up a revision of the existing MoU between ILAC and the OIML to extend this cooperation to embrace the three Organizations.

The draft was submitted to the Members of the IAF Executive Committee in March 2007 and it was agreed to circulate it for comments among CIML Members and IAF Members.

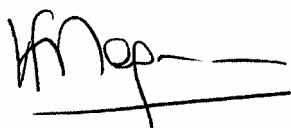
Consequently, the draft MoU, which is to be signed at the ILAC/IAF General Assembly in November 2007, is annexed to the present Circular.

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You are invited to comment on it at the latest by **31 August 2007**. Any comments received will be examined at the 42nd CIML Meeting in October in order to allow the CIML President to approve and sign the final version.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require further clarification.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JFM', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Jean-François Magaña
BIML Director

Copies:

- IAF Chair
- ILAC Chair
- ILAC Secretary
- ILAC/IAF Liaison Officer



DRAFT

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
BETWEEN
THE INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION COOPERATION (ILAC),
THE INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION FORUM (IAF)
AND
THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF LEGAL METROLOGY (OIML)**

**The Chair of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC),
The Chair of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and
The President of the International Committee of Legal Metrology (CIML),**

- considering that measurement plays an essential role in developing confidence between trading partners and in demonstrating that goods comply with written specifications and legal requirements;
- considering that accreditation and legal metrology are key elements of an essential infrastructure for national and international consistency of measurements;
- considering that the use of competent product certification, quality system certification, laboratory testing and calibration service and inspection service in legal metrology controls must be encouraged;
- considering that the existence of a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) between ILAC members has already led to the acceptance of test data delivered by an accredited body from another country by a number of national regulatory bodies and that further acceptance is being pursued in a number of regulated sectors (e.g. electromagnetic compatibility (EMC), energy efficiency, food);
- considering that the existence of a Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) between IAF members has already led to the acceptance of certifications delivered by an accredited certification body from another country by a number of national certification bodies;
- considering the importance of the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) Mutual Acceptance Arrangement (MAA), the ILAC MRA and the IAF MLA to underpin a unified worldwide metrology system for consumer protection, industry, commerce and world-wide trade; and
- considering the complementary nature of OIML, ILAC and IAF work and the benefits of working together for the development of an international, global metrology system

have agreed to cooperate through this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Scope of the Memorandum of Understanding

The aim of the cooperation between ILAC, IAF and the OIML is to:

- a) maintain an active ILAC-IAF-OIML liaison by:
 - i) facilitating common approaches in the interpretation and implementation of ISO/IEC 17025, ISO/IEC Guide 65, ISO/IEC 17021 and other relevant standards and/or technical criteria, and
 - ii) harmonizing assessment procedures;
- b) share interpretations of common issues of relevance to laboratories and/or certification bodies by:
 - i) exchanging information,
 - ii) jointly developing publications and, where practicable, conducting joint work on the development of technical guides, standards, procedures and policies relevant to the affected laboratories and/or certification bodies, and
 - iii) cooperating in the development of joint training courses for assessors and conformity assessment experts operating in the field of legal metrology;
- c) establish lists of technical and metrological experts and assessors trained by OIML and ILAC full Members and IAF MLA signatories;
- d) request ILAC and IAF Members to use technical and metrological experts and assessors from the above-mentioned lists whenever legal metrology is included in the scope of the accreditation;
- e) request IAF Members to promote, to the certification bodies, the use of technical and metrological experts validated by the OIML when legal metrology enters into the scope of the certification ;
- f) request the OIML to use assessors, trained by the OIML for OIML peer assessments, from ILAC full Members;
- g) request the OIML to recognize accreditations delivered under the conditions defined in this MoU;
- h) promote and develop the consistency and complementarity of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement, the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement and the OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement;
- i) promote and develop inter-laboratory comparisons and, in particular, proficiency testing; and
- j) invite representatives of each Organization to participate as liaisons in certain meetings of the other Organizations.

Implementation

This Memorandum of Understanding will come into force upon its signature by the ILAC Chair, the IAF Chair and the CIML President, and will remain in force until terminated in accordance with the provisions hereafter defined. It will be reviewed every three years.

Two work programs implementing this MoU will be decided on during an annual tripartite meeting:

- one by the ILAC Chair and the CIML President;
- one by the IAF Chair and the CIML President.

The appropriate ILAC bodies, IAF bodies and the International Bureau of Legal Metrology (BIML) will be responsible for implementing these work programs and for reporting on them at the ILAC General Assembly, at the IAF General Assembly and at the CIML Meeting.

Amendments

This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended at any time by a written agreement between the parties.

Termination

This Memorandum of Understanding may be terminated by either party upon three months written notice.

Daniel Pierre
Chair
International Laboratory Accreditation
Cooperation (ILAC)

Thomas Facklam
Chair
International Accreditation
Forum (IAF)

Alan Johnston
President
International Committee of Legal Metrology (for the OIML)

Signed on: _____