



**Note
to CIML Members and OIML Corresponding Members**

Subject: Surveys conducted by ILAC and the OIML according to the joint ILAC/OIML Working Program for 2009-2010 – Information on accreditation in the field of legal metrology

Dear Colleagues,

On the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation), IAF (International Accreditation Forum) and the OIML, a joint ILAC/OIML Working Program was developed. It is revised every year during an annual tripartite meeting.

Among the joint actions decided in 2009 was the organization of two surveys (one managed by ILAC and the other by the OIML, among their respective Members) on accreditation in the field of legal metrology.

The aim of these surveys was:

- To collect information from ILAC members concerning how many accreditation bodies are actively accrediting organizations working in the fields of legal metrology covered by the OIML Declarations of Mutual Confidence;
- To collect information from OIML Members (Member States and Corresponding Members) concerning:
 - countries which request accreditation of national type approval bodies, bodies responsible for initial and periodic verifications;
 - the requirements used to evaluate the competence of the relevant bodies.

From both sides, unfortunately very few replies were received; consequently it is not possible to draw any valid conclusions.

However, it has been decided to provide the results (summarized in the annex) of these two surveys for informational purposes.

Survey conducted by ILAC

The questionnaire sent out by ILAC requested answers to the following questions:

- How many laboratories have you accredited in the field of:
 - Testing water meters according to OIML R 49;
 - Testing load cells according to OIML R 60;
 - Testing non-automatic weighing instruments according to OIML R 76;
- If accreditation was delivered, which requirements were used?

Fifteen ILAC Full Members replied.

Among those national accreditation bodies that declared having accredited testing laboratories in these three domains of legal metrology, six indicated that the accreditations were delivered on the basis of ISO/IEC 17025 *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*. One mentioned the use of ISO/IEC 17020 *General criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection*.

It should be highlighted that most of the time, legal metrology or even testing according to the relevant OIML Recommendations is not clearly indicated in the accreditation scope. This means that the replies provided may not be realistic.

In addition, if we consider the accreditation of notified bodies for the implementation of the European Directive for Measuring Instruments (MID), notified bodies for module B (Type Examination) may be accredited as product certification bodies on the basis of EN 45011 (ISO/IEC Guide 65 *General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems*) and the accreditation of the associated laboratories may not be visible as an accreditation in the field of legal metrology.

Survey conducted by the OIML

The questionnaire sent out by the OIML contained the following questions:

- Does your national regulation require type approval for certain categories of measuring instruments?
- Does your national regulation require initial verification to be carried out on certain instruments before they are placed on the market or put into use?
- Does your national regulation allow the manufacturer of the instrument and/or the owner of the type approval certificate to be responsible for the initial verification?
- Does your national regulation require subsequent verifications for certain categories of measuring instruments?

In case of the answer was “yes” to any of the questions, additional questions were asked: whether the responsible bodies need to be accredited and if “yes” according to which reference standards.

Twenty OIML Members sent in replies. Among them, twelve were sent by countries outside Europe.

No formal conclusions may be drawn. Analysis of the figures may however demonstrate a tendency for accreditation to be more widely required for bodies responsible for subsequent verification. This is probably due to the fact that for several years, national regulations authorize designated third-party bodies to perform subsequent (in service) verifications of measuring instruments.

We would like to thank those Members States and Corresponding Members that provided information in response to the questionnaire.

The results of these two surveys have been taken into account in the revision of the joint ILAC/OIML Working Program, in particular to develop the cooperation, at national or regional level, between legal metrology bodies and accreditation bodies. Training sessions organized at national or regional level for assessors are one aspect. The joint ILAC/OIML Working Program is available on the OIML website under the headings “MAA” and “Documentation”.

In addition, ILAC and the OIML agreed on revising the MoU in order to clarify what is meant, from the OIML side, by having legal metrology in the scope of an accreditation.

Finally, we would like to inform you that the results of the two surveys will be also published in the July OIML Bulletin.

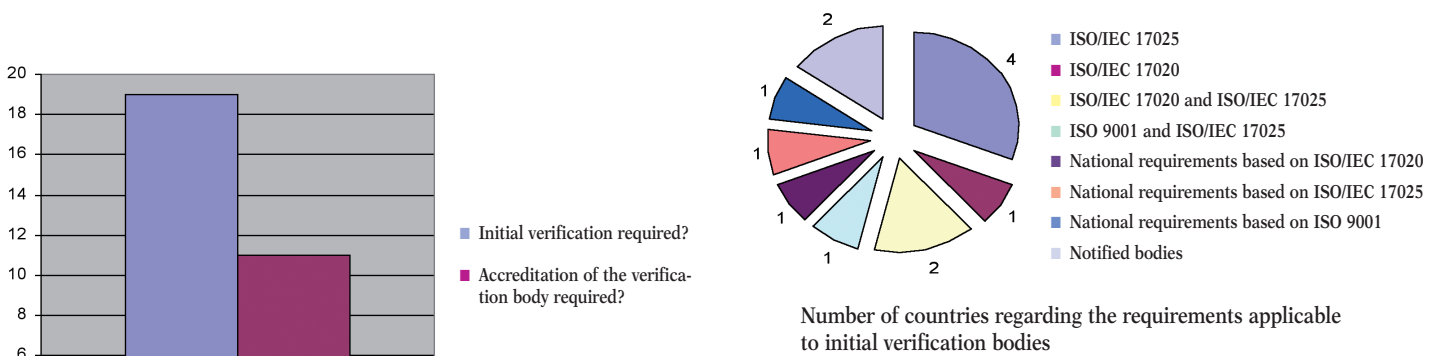
Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any additional information.

Yours faithfully,

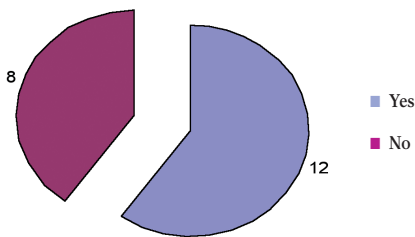
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Gaucher', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mrs. Régine Gaucher
OIML Liaison Officer with ILAC

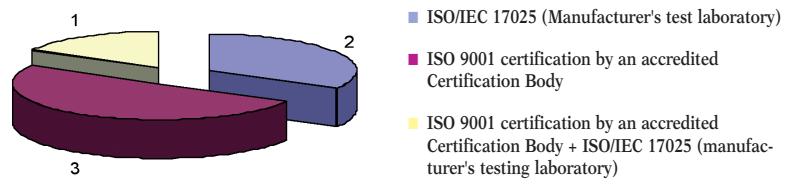
Synthesis of the survey conducted by the OIML (Cont'd)



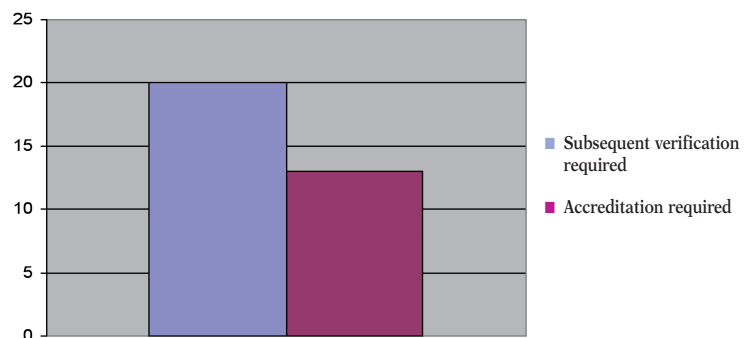
Number of countries which request initial verification of certain categories of measuring instruments and where accreditation is required



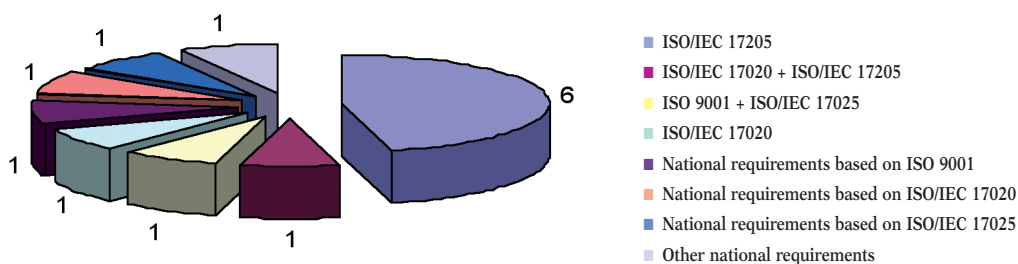
Initial verification by the manufacturer



Reference requirements applicable to the manufacturer in the event that accreditation is required



Number of countries which request subsequent verification and which request accreditation of subsequent verification bodies



Number of countries regarding the requirements applicable to subsequent verification bodies when accreditation is required