



MEMORANDUM of UNDERSTANDING

Between

Members of

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)
and

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF)
and

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the IEC Conformity Assessment
Systems

1 Background

Members of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the International Accreditation Forum and the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems have been cooperating on a number of technical and administrative issues to maximize the efficiencies of the parties when dealing with common certification body and testing laboratory clients.

This cooperation has included: a pilot programme of joint ILAC, IAF/IECEE and IECEx testing laboratory and certification body re-assessments; recognition of ILAC testing laboratory and IAF certification body accreditations by the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems; agreement by ILAC and IAF to utilise the pool of technical experts registered by the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems for assessments where possible and the establishment of a Joint IAF/IEC Technical Panel to explore possibilities for recognition of the respective organization's assessments and related activities.

The recognition between the parties facilitates the future conduct of relevant certification body and testing laboratory assessments, reduces duplication of activities and maximizes the harmony in technical evaluations conducted by ILAC, IAF and IEC Conformity Assessment Systems.

As a result of confidence established between the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems and Members of ILAC and IAF, the Parties have agreed to formalise their present and future cooperation into a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen and reach the next level of their collaboration.



2 Understanding

It is agreed between the ILAC and IAF Members and the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems that by signing this MoU the Parties will cooperate by:

- (a) Maintaining a high level Steering Committee whose terms of reference are:
- to develop cooperation strategy
 - to establish working parties to deal with specific issues
 - to approve changes to the agreed projects and its supporting documentation
 - to monitor and review agreed projects
 - to provide assistance to the projects when required
 - to resolve project conflicts
 - to make decisions on formal acceptance of project deliverables

- (b) Facilitating coordinated application of standards and guidance documents for the purpose of assessment of product and management system certification bodies and testing laboratories operating in the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems, including development and sharing of common understanding of the technical issues and duly harmonizing the respective assessment procedures.

Note: Common application and guidance will be published and made available to all members of ILAC, IAF and the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems.

- (c) Wherever possible and reasonable, and with the agreement of the concerned certification bodies and testing laboratories, conducting common unified re-assessments.
- (d) Developing joint training and workshops for the best accomplishment of on site unified re-assessments.
- (e) Where practicable, conducting joint work on development of harmonised procedures and policies.

This MoU supersedes and replaces the prior MoU between ILAC and IEC and the prior MoU between IAF and IEC.

3 Recognition

It is the goal of ILAC, IAF and the IEC as signatories to this MoU that ILAC and IAF AB members and the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems may, on a case by case basis, consider using the results of each other's assessments, common or otherwise, in the conduct of their assessment or peer review activities. This can be accomplished through the implementation of this MoU and further confidence building. Use of assessment results is aimed at efficient use of resources and avoidance of duplication. The scope of cooperation may vary depending on the policies of individual ILAC and IAF Member ABs and of the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems, but may include inputs to surveillance or other assessments of certification bodies and testing laboratories, inputs to acceptance decisions and recognition of assessors provided by each Party.



4 Duration

Initially, this MoU is established for a period of three (3) years from the date of signing. The effectiveness of the MoU and its content will be reviewed throughout the period of its implementation. The focal point for such review will be the IEC-ILAC-IAF Steering Committee.

The MoU may be renewed with the agreement of the three Parties.

5 Termination

The MoU may be terminated by either Party, subject to six (6) months written notice.

6 Commencement

This Memorandum of Understanding is effective from the date of signing.

Signed:	Signature & Date of Signing
Mr. Aharon AMIT General Secretary and CEO International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)	2010-10-13 
Mr. Daniel PIERRE Chairman International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)	
Mr. Randy DOUGHERTY Chairman International Accreditation Forum (IAF)	

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