



**European
co-operation for
Accreditation**

The European Cooperation for Accreditation

- **What is EA**
- **Organization, structure and mission**
- **The EA membership**
- **The European Accreditation model**

The European co-operation for Accreditation : **short history**

- **WECC** (Western European Cooperation for Accreditation of Calibration Laboratories)
- **WELAC** (Western European Laboratories Accreditation Cooperation)
- **WECC + WELAC -> EAL** (European Cooperation for Accreditation of Laboratories)
- **EAC** (European Cooperation for Accreditation of Certification Bodies)
- **2000: EAL + EAC -> EA : not-for-profit association** registered in the Netherlands in June 2000
- **2009: EC recognition of EA**

Purpose of EA ⁽¹⁾

- The European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) is the **Association of the national accreditation bodies** that provide accreditation for bodies performing different types of conformity assessment activities such as:
 - **Calibration;**
 - **Testing (including medical testing);**
 - **Inspection;**
 - **Certification of quality, environmental management systems;**
 - **Certification of products/services;**
 - **Certification of persons;**
 - **Verification (EMAS, EU/ETS, ETV).**

Purpose of EA ⁽²⁾

- Provide Europe with an **effective, reliable accreditation** infrastructure;
- **Develop accreditation criteria and guidelines** supporting harmonisation of practices;
- Operate a **sound, robust, reliable peer evaluation** process to routinely evaluate members;
- Ensure **equivalence of accreditation** and **equal reliability of accredited results**;
- **Cooperate with the European Commission** and other European and international stakeholders.

The European co-operation for Accreditation : membership ⁽¹⁾

- **Full Members** : an EU/EFTA member State or a candidate country - may become signatories to the EA MLA
- **Associate Members**: accreditation bodies located in countries listed as potential candidate members or covered by the EU Neighbourhood policy (ENP) - may enter into a bilateral agreement with EA
- **Recognized Stakeholders.**

The European co-operation for Accreditation : membership ⁽²⁾

- **35 Full Members** representing 35 European economies – **33** are signatories to the EA MLA
- **13 Associate Members:** Albania, Algeria, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Kosovo under the UN SC resolution 1244/1999, Morocco, Moldova, Tunisia, Ukraine

Out of these members, **4** have turned into a **bilateral agreement** with EA : Bosnia & Herzegovina, israel, tunisia, Ukraine

EA organizational structure (2)

- **General Assembly**: highest level of decision – full and associate members and observers – only full members have voting right
- **EAAB**: advisory role - representatives of accredited bodies, national regulatory authorities, industry
- **Executive Committee**: daily management of EA – Chair + Vice-Chair + Committees Chairs + 4 supplementary members
- **MLA Council**: management of peer evaluations - decision capacity on MLA signatoryship – full and associate members and observers – only full members have voting right

EA organizational structure ⁽³⁾

- **Technical Committees :**

advisory role – preparation of EA documents and guidelines – all full and associate members + representatives of stakeholders

- **A permanent secretariat** of 5 persons:

- Martine Blum, Bénédicte Ziemann, Frédérique Laudinet, Julia Ledwon, EA Secretariat (Paris)
- Marga Zaffe, Secretary of the MLA Council (Utrecht)

The European co-operation for Accreditation at worldwide level

- EA is an **active member** of **ILAC** (International laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) and **IAF** (International Accreditation Forum) as a recognised regional cooperation.

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Legal basis for accreditation in the EU

**REGULATION (EC) No 765/2008 OF THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**

of 9 July 2008

**setting out the requirements for accreditation and market
surveillance relating to the marketing of
products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 339/93**

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Regulation 765/2008 EU excerpt related to accreditation and EA

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 2

Definitions

10. ‘accreditation’ shall mean an attestation by a national accreditation body that a conformity assessment body meets the requirements set by harmonised standards and, where applicable, any additional requirements including those set out in relevant sectoral schemes, to carry out a specific conformity assessment activity;

The European Accreditation model ⁽³⁾

12. 'conformity assessment' shall mean the process demonstrating whether specified requirements relating to a product, process, service, system, person or body have been fulfilled;
16. 'peer evaluation' shall mean a process for the assessment of a national accreditation body by other national accreditation bodies, carried out in accordance with the requirements of this Regulation, and, where applicable, additional sectoral technical specifications;

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CHAPTER II

ACCREDITATION

Article 3

Scope

This Chapter shall apply to accreditation, used on a compulsory or voluntary basis, relating to conformity assessment, whether that assessment is compulsory or not, and irrespective of the legal status of the body performing the accreditation.

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Article 10

Peer evaluation

1. National accreditation bodies shall subject themselves to peer evaluation organised by the body recognised under Article 14.

Article 14

European accreditation infrastructure

6. The first body recognised under this Regulation shall be the European cooperation for accreditation, provided that it has concluded an agreement as specified in paragraph 2.

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- A service of **general interest**;
- **Public authority status**;
- **Not-for-profit organisations** or directly incorporated in the **government**;
- **Mandate of the national government** (stipulated in reg. No (EC) 765/2008);
- Last level of control of **Conformity Assessment Services**;
- Active in **voluntary** and **mandatory fields**;
- **Compliance** with current applicable **rules** and **procedures**;
- **Accountability to stakeholders**;
- **No predominance** of any single **interest group**;
- **Non-competition** policy.