



European
co-operation for
Accreditation

The EA Multilateral and Bilateral Agreements

- **Role of the Agreements**
- **Management of the Agreements**
- **The Peer Evaluation system**

The role of the EA MLA and BLA's

- Create **confidence and acceptance** of accredited certifications, inspections and test / calibration reports;
- By **EA MLA / BLA Signatories status**, accreditations granted by signatories are internationally recognized also through the ILAC and IAF Multilateral agreements. (eliminating the need for suppliers to be certified in each country where they sell / deliver their products or services);
- EA plays an **important role in the effective operation of the Single Market** (recognized by Regulation No (EC) 765/2008 and the **Guidelines for cooperation and Framework Partnership agreement** signed with the European Commission and EFTA).

The management of the agreements

Each signatory is subject to **periodic rigorous evaluations by peer evaluation teams** in order to verify continuing compliance with

- the Regulation **No (EC) 765/2008** and
- the international standard for accreditation bodies (such as **ISO/IEC 17011** and guidelines specific for any field of accreditation).

EA MLA Signatories: rights & obligations

- **Operate** according to the criteria specified in regulation EC 765/2008 and the the relevant European Standards, published in the EN 45000 and ISO/IEC 17000 series of standards, or other internationally recognised normative documents, supplemented by EA application documents, if necessary;
- **Accept** the other schemes operated by the other signatories as equivalent to their own;
- **Recognise** on an equal basis with their own the certificates and/or reports from the organisations accredited by the signatories under their scheme(s);
- **Recommend & promote** the acceptance of certificates and/or reports from the organisations accredited by the signatories under their scheme(s) by all users in countries of the signatories;
- **Investigate** all complaints initiated by a signatory resulting from certificates and/or reports issued by an accredited organisation of their own scheme(s);
- **Notify** all other signatories as soon as possible of any significant change that has occurred or will occur in their status or in the operational practices of their scheme(s).

EA MLA /BLA Signatory member bodies from... (4)

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Hungary
- Greece
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- FYRO Macedonia
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Serbia
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Switzerland
- Turkey
- United Kingdom
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (BLA)
- Israel (BLA)
- Tunisia (BLA)
- Ukraine (BLA)
- **33 Full Member** accreditation bodies have signed the EA MLA, out of which **26** have signed for all accreditation activities covered by the EA MLA.
- **4 Associate Member** accreditation bodies have signed the EA MLA

The peer evaluation process: Requirements for the AB's

The criteria for the evaluation

ISO/IEC, EC, EA / ILAC / IAF

At the AB level:

- Regulation EC 765/2008
- ISO/IEC 17011 + ILAC/IAF A5
- EA / ILAC / IAF documents
- MLA requirements (EA-2/02 and IAF/ILAC A2)

At the CAB level:

- ISO/IEC 17000 series and others
- EA / ILAC / IAF documents

Regulation EC 765/2008: requirements for the AB

- **Independence and impartiality**
 - ✓ single national accreditation body
 - ✓ operate on a not-for profit basis
 - ✓ no concurrence with the CAB's neither between AB's
 - strict regulation of cross frontier activities
- **Competence**

operation in compliance with the relevant harmonised standards (ISO/IEC 17000 series and related standards)
- **Obligation to be member of EA and to maintain signatory status for the EA MLA**

Regulation EC 765/2008: implementation in EA evaluation (1)

EA-1/17-S1

Membership specific criteria	Applicable to		To be checked at	
	Full members	Assoc. members	Membership application	Peer evaluation
1. Appointed by the Member State as the single national AB	YES	YES	YES, by documental evidence	YES
2. Operate accreditation as a public authority activity with formal recognition by the Member State	YES	YES	YES, by documental evidence	YES
3. Have clearly distinguished tasks and responsibilities from the other national authorities	YES	YES	YES, by declaration	YES
4. Operate on a not-for-profit basis	YES	YES	YES, by declaration	YES
5. Not own shares in or otherwise have a financial or managerial interest in a conformity assessment body	YES	YES	YES, by declaration	YES

Regulation EC 765/2008: implementation in EA evaluation (2)

EA-1/17-S1

Membership specific criteria	Applicable to		To be checked at	
	Full members	Assoc. members	Membership application	Peer evaluation
6. Not competing with other national AB's in accordance with the applicable legal, EA, ILAC and IAF rules	YES	YES	YES, by declaration	YES
7. Only operate across national borders, within the territory of another Member State, when the circumstances set out in the applicable legal, EA, IAF and ILAC documents are met.	YES	YES	YES, by declaration	YES
8. When operating cross-border, under the exceptions foreseen, it shall inform the national AB of that Member State and offer him to participate as observer	YES	YES	YES, by declaration	YES
9. Publish audited annual accounts prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles	YES	YES	NO	YES
10. Make publicly available information on the outcome of the peer-evaluations	YES	YES	NO	YES when applicable

ISO/IEC 17011

- **Main document for the evaluations and is applicable to all AB's**
- **Referred to in Regulation EC 765/2008**
- **Complemented by ILAC/IAF A5: mandatory document for the interpretation of some clauses of ISO/IEC 17011**
- **Basis for the presentation of the self-assessment report by the AB's under evaluation**

EA documents: list and classification (EA-INF-01)

- **4 types:** mandatory, guidance, informative, technical / advisory
- **6 categories :**
 - ✓ Secretariat Management System and related documents
 - ✓ Information and promotional documents
 - ✓ EA Governance and Policy documents
 - ✓ Peer evaluation process
 - ✓ Members' procedural documents
 - ✓ Application documents and technical / advisory for CAB's

ILAC and IAF documents applicable to EA and EA MLA signatories

- **EA-1/14:2011**: « EA shall adopt international documents containing requirements, which EA, EA members or accredited CAB's must comply with, as EA documents and make these documents available from the EA website ».
- Doc **EA/INF-01** includes the list of international documents (ILAC, IAF) approved by EA as applicable EA documents.
- Issues where a “European” approach has to be considered ???

MLA requirements

EA-1/06, EA-2/02, (ILAC/IAF A2)

- **Supplementary requirements with respect to the accreditation practice:**
 - ✓ Be fully operational
 - ✓ Have demonstrated experience and have carried out at least one accreditation in each scope of application
 - ✓ Implement or fulfil the other requirements of EA as described in the documents listed in EA-INF/01
 - ✓ PT/ILC's and measurement traceability policies in place
 - ✓ Rules for subcontracting
- **Obligations as MLA signatory :**
 - ✓ Promotion of the agreement
 - ✓ Contribute to peer evaluations

The peer evaluation process: the practice

Thank you very much for your attention

Questions?