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» Additional Information

The ILAC website (<http://ilac.org/>) provides information on the ILAC MRA (<http://ilac.org/ilac-mra-and-signatories/>) and also includes brochures (<http://ilac.org/publications-and-resources/ilac-documents/promotional-brochures/>) and information on World Accreditation Day (<http://ilac.org/media-centre/world-accreditation-day/>) celebrated on the 9 June each year.

» Introduction

ILAC and its accreditation body members invest significant effort and resource to maintain the integrity and consistency of the MRA through a peer evaluation process. This report sets out the detailed activity that is carried out as part of the peer evaluation process, to ensure that regulators, specifiers, and businesses can have confidence in the Arrangement.

» About ILAC

ILAC is the international authority on laboratory and inspection body accreditation, with a membership consisting of accreditation bodies and stakeholder organisations throughout the world.

ILAC provides the infrastructure that supports the world-wide demonstration of competence and equivalence of testing (including medical) and calibration laboratories, inspection bodies and other types of bodies such as reference material producers and proficiency testing providers that support laboratories and inspection bodies through accreditation.

Accreditation of laboratories and inspection bodies supports activities within and between economies including trade, protection of health, safety and the environment for the public benefit. Its essential purpose is to provide confidence in the competence of bodies performing and supporting these activities.

The ILAC Arrangement is an international, multilateral mutual recognition arrangement for accreditation bodies. Participating accreditation bodies agree to promote acceptance of the equivalence of calibration, test and inspection reports produced by accredited facilities. Each accreditation body undergoes peer evaluation according to the International standards and ILAC rules and procedures prior to becoming a signatory to the ILAC Arrangement.

ILAC, the recognised regional cooperation bodies of ILAC and the accreditation body signatories all commit significant time and resources through the peer evaluation process to maintain and improve the integrity, consistency and recognition of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA). This annual report provides information on the activities carried out as part of the peer evaluation process to ensure that regulators and consumers of laboratory and inspection data are able to maintain confidence in the results produced under the ILAC MRA.



» The ILAC MRA

The ILAC MRA is an agreement signed by the signatory accreditation bodies to recognise the equivalence of the accreditation programs operated within the scope of their signatory status.

The aim of the ILAC MRA is provide recipients of laboratory and inspection body reports confidence that the results have been generated by a technically competent facility through accreditation by an accreditation body that is a signatory to the ILAC MRA.

The ILAC MRA provides assurance that laboratories and inspection bodies in different economies are operating to the same international standards. The accreditation programs of the accreditation bodies that are signatories to the ILAC MRA are all evaluated on an on-going basis to confirm equivalence.

The details of the ILAC MRA are included in ILAC P5 *ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Scope and Obligations* available from:

<http://ilac.org/publications-and-resources/ilac-documents/procedural-series/>

» Scope of the ILAC MRA

The scope of the ILAC MRA covers the following accreditation programs:

- Calibration laboratories using ISO/IEC 17025;
- Testing laboratories using ISO/IEC 17025;
- Medical testing laboratories using ISO 15189; and
- Inspection bodies using ISO/IEC 17020.

» Signatories to the ILAC MRA

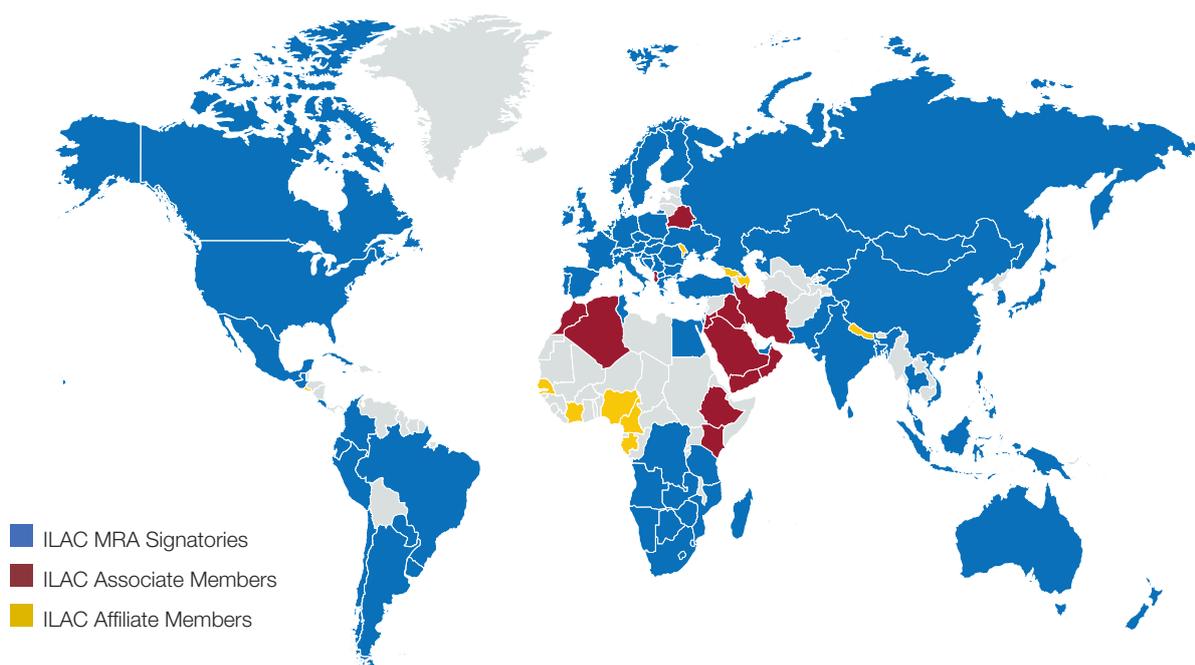
The ILAC MRA is based on the established and peer evaluated multi-lateral arrangements (MRA/MLAs) of the recognised regional cooperation bodies.

Accreditation bodies that are Associate members of ILAC and a signatory to a recognised regional MRA/MLA are automatically accepted as signatories to the ILAC MRA.

Where there is no recognised regional cooperation body available for an accreditation body to be a member, ILAC provides the opportunity for these accreditation bodies to be peer evaluated as an unaffiliated accreditation body.

As of December 2015 there were:

- 3 regional cooperation bodies recognised under the ILAC MRA – Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (APLAC), European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) and Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC);
- 84 accreditation body signatories via the MRA/MLAs of these recognised regions from 69 economies; and
- 6 unaffiliated accreditation bodies – SADCAS (Secretariat– Botswana and also covering Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe), EGAC (Egypt), NCA (Kazakhstan), KCA (The Kyrgyz Republic), SANAS (South Africa) and DAC (United Arab Emirates).
- **Resulting in a total of 90 signatories to the ILAC MRA from 87 economies.**





» Signatories to the ILAC MRA *continued*

Significant changes to the list of signatories to the ILAC MRA in 2015 included:

- the suspension of the signatory status of The Kyrgyz Center of Accreditation (KCA), The Kyrgyz Republic on the 4th November 2015; and
- the termination of the signatory status of the Hungarian Accreditation Board (NAT), Hungary as of the 31 December 2015.
- As well as the inclusion of the following additional signatories (new and extensions) for the accreditation scopes listed below:
 - Bangladesh Accreditation Board (BAB), Bangladesh, for calibration and testing (ISO/IEC 17025);
 - Southern African Development Community Accreditation Service (SADCAS), Botswana, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, for calibration and testing (ISO/IEC 17025);
 - Organismo Salvadoreño de Acreditación (OSA), El Salvador, for testing (ISO/IEC 17025);
 - Jamaica National Agency for Accreditation (JANAAC), Jamaica, extension for medical testing (ISO 15189);
 - Department of Standards Malaysia (Standards Malaysia), Malaysia, extension for inspection (ISO/IEC 17020);
 - National Accreditation Office (ONA), Nicaragua, for testing (ISO/IEC 17025);
 - The Accreditation Institute of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (IARM), The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, extension for medical testing (ISO 15189);
 - National Accreditation Agency of Ukraine (NAAU), Ukraine, extension for calibration (ISO/IEC 17025); and
 - Organismo Uruguayo de Acreditación (OUA), Uruguay, extension for calibration (ISO/IEC 17025).

The current version of the list of signatories is available from <http://ilac.org/ilac-mra-and-signatories/>.

The ILAC website includes a dedicated signatory search function available from <http://ilac.org/signatory-search/>. This database of the signatories to the ILAC MRA is searchable by accreditation body name and acronym, economy and scope of signatory status to the ILAC MRA. In addition, this search facility can be hosted directly on your website (via the code provided at the above link) to ensure your customers have access to the latest information on the signatories to the ILAC MRA.

» ILAC MRA SIGNATORY SEARCH

Paste this code to your website to host the ILAC MRA Search facility

SEARCH SIGNATORIES

Accreditation Body: [dropdown] Acronym: [dropdown] Economy: [dropdown] Scope: [dropdown] Find

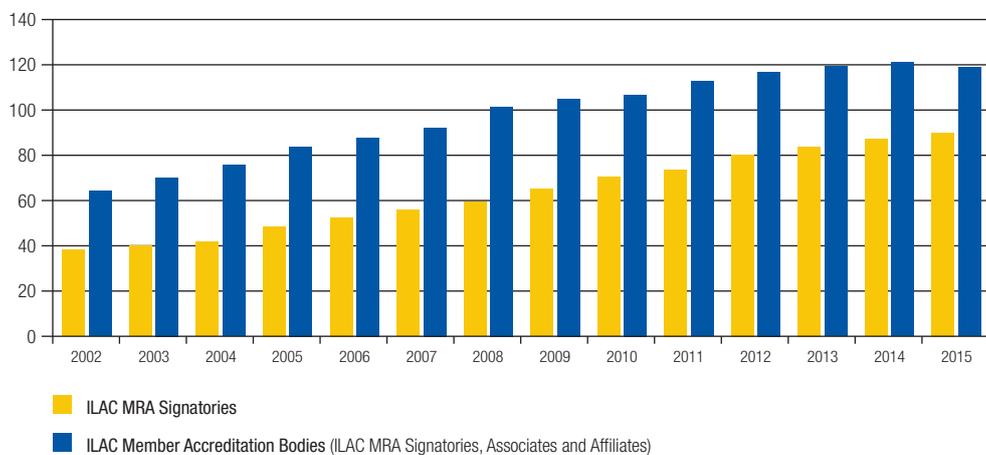
ACCREDITATION BODY:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

» Global Growth

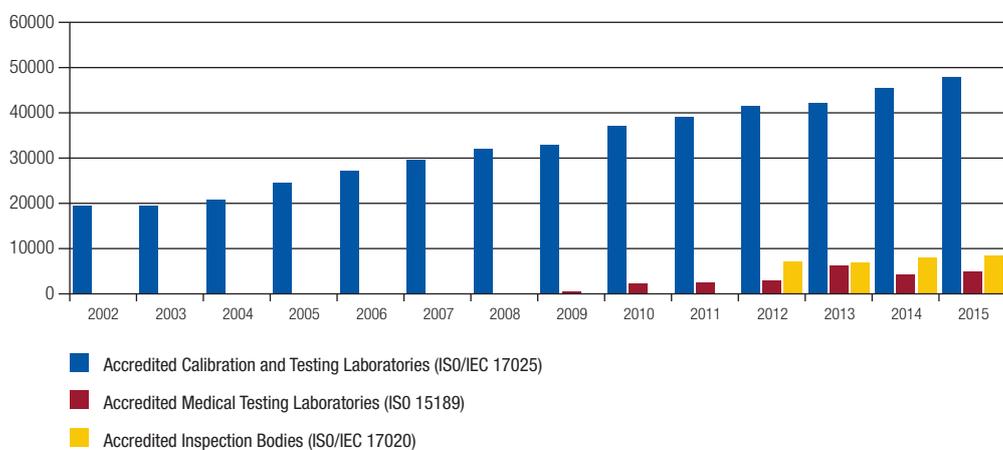
In recent years, there has been a steady geographic expansion of the membership of ILAC through the number of accreditation bodies that have become members of ILAC.

Total Number of Accreditation Bodies



There has also been a corresponding growth in the number of laboratories and inspection bodies that are accredited by ILAC MRA signatories.

Total Number of Accreditation Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs)





» The ILAC MRA Mark

The signatories to the ILAC MRA and their accredited calibration and testing laboratories and inspection bodies are able to use the LAC MRA Mark via licensing agreements and in accordance with ILAC R7 *Rules for the Use of the ILAC MRA Mark*. These rules were revised and extended in 2015 to allow accredited inspection bodies to use the ILAC MRA Mark.

The Mark demonstrates that the calibration, testing or inspection has been carried out by an organisation that is accredited by an ILAC MRA signatory, providing assurance and confidence in the results.

As at December 2015, 57 signatories to the ILAC MRA had signed licensing agreements to use the ILAC MRA Mark.



» Evaluations

Accreditation bodies are admitted to the ILAC MRA following a stringent evaluation of their operations by a peer evaluation team which is tasked with ensuring the accreditation body fully complies with both international standards and ILAC requirements. The evaluation process results in three types of findings that require addressing as described below:

- **Non-conformity** – a finding where the accreditation body does not meet a requirement in the International standards, the ILAC or regional requirements or the requirements of its own system. Evidence of the implementation of the changes required by the accreditation body to address these findings must be provided prior to the results of the evaluation proceeding to the decision making process.
- **Concern** – a finding that may lead to a non-conformity. A plan for addressing these findings must be provided and agreed by the evaluation team.
- **Comment** – a finding that may result in an improvement to the accreditation programs offered by the accreditation body.

ILAC, and its accreditation body members, invest significant time and resource to operate a robust peer evaluation process. It is an on-going process, with full re-evaluations carried out every four years, covering all economies and all activities covered by the ILAC MRA.

During 2015, the evaluation activities for the scheduled re-evaluation of one of the recognised regional cooperation bodies were completed. Two re-evaluations and one initial evaluation of unaffiliated accreditation bodies were finalised. Also the evaluation activities for a further initial evaluation and another re-evaluation of unaffiliated accreditation bodies were also carried out in 2015.

In addition to these evaluations carried out directly by ILAC, the recognised regional cooperation bodies carried out the following peer evaluation visits:

- APLAC – 4;
- EA – 10; and
- IAAC – 9.

» Evaluator Resources

Nine evaluators were involved in the evaluation visits directly carried out by ILAC and finalised in 2015 to cover the ILAC scopes. In addition two of these visits included a trainee evaluator funded by ILAC.



» Decisions by the ILAC Arrangement Council

The ILAC Arrangement Council consists of representatives from the accreditation bodies that are signatories to the ILAC MRA as well as Associate members of ILAC, the regional cooperation bodies and a stakeholder member. It is responsible for the decisions relating to the signatory status of both regional cooperation bodies and unaffiliated accreditation bodies to the ILAC MRA.

On completion of a peer evaluation, the final report prepared by the evaluation team and including information on the close out of any findings is forwarded to the members of the ILAC Arrangement Management Committee (AMC). This committee is responsible for the day to day management of the ILAC MRA. The report is thoroughly reviewed by this committee including where necessary seeking additional information from the evaluation team to clarify any issues. On completion of the review process the AMC prepares a recommendation for consideration by the Arrangement Council.

The ILAC Arrangement Council considered 3 evaluation reports based on the recommendation of the ILAC AMC in 2015.

These reports included the following findings:

- Non-conformities: 17
- Concerns: 9
- Comments: 12

The non-conformities related primarily to compliance with system procedures such as the completion of forms and document control, the use of the Marks, structure of technical committees, supervision of technical experts, proficiency testing, traceability and calibration issues.

One of these decisions resulted in the suspension of the signatory status of the accreditation body to the ILAC MRA for the accreditation of testing laboratories using ISO/IEC 17025.

» On-going development of the ILAC MRA

ILAC is committed to extending the ILAC MRA in terms of geographic coverage and technical scope. The following developments took place in 2015:

- ILAC membership currently includes 3 regional cooperation bodies, African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC), Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC) and Southern African Development Community in Accreditation (SADCA) that are working towards peer evaluation of their MRA/MLAs to become recognised regional cooperation bodies to the ILAC MRA. Two of these regional bodies applied for evaluation in 2015.
- A resolution was adopted at the ILAC General Assembly in October 2014 to allow the implementation of the extension of the ILAC MRA to include accreditation programs covering Proficiency Testing Providers (ISO/IEC 17043). The updating of the ILAC requirements documentation and procedures was completed in 2015 to allow the acceptance of applications for the evaluation of proficiency testing provider accreditation programs.
- The resolution in October 2014 to allow the commencement of the extension of the ILAC MRA to include accreditation programs covering Reference Material Producers (ISO Guide 34) was not adopted. The additional work identified to address the concerns relating to the implementation of this program was completed in 2015.





» International standards

ILAC representatives actively participated through out 2015, in the ISO-CASCO Working Groups that are reviewing ISO/IEC 17011, ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO Guide 34 that are key standards used in the ILAC evaluation and accreditation processes.



» New and revised Publications

ILAC regularly publishes requirements and information to support accreditation and conformity assessment processes. During 2015, ILAC released the following publications:

- **IAF/ILAC A6:02/2015** *Approval Process for IAF/ILAC A-Series Documents* – This document describes the procedures to be followed in the development, approval and maintenance of IAF/ILAC A-Series documents that cover the evaluation requirements and processes.
- **ILAC R3:12/2014** *ILAC Strategic Plan 2015-2020 and Supplement 1 to ILAC R3:12/2014* – These documents present the ILAC Strategic Plan for the period 2015 – 2020 inclusive.
- **ILAC R4:05/2015** *Use of the ILAC Logo and Tagline*
- **ILAC R7:05/2015** *Rules for the Use of the ILAC MRA Mark and ILAC R7-F1 Agreement for the Use of the ILAC MRA Mark*
- **IAF/ILAC B7:2/2015** *Accreditation: Supporting the Delivery of Health and Social Care*
- **ILAC B13:09/2015** *Why become an Accredited Reference Materials Producer*



» On-going promotion of the ILAC MRA

Case studies from economies all around the world continue to be added to the publicsectorassurance.org website that was launched in 2014 to illustrate the value of accreditation in key policy areas as a tool to help government officials and regulators deliver results.

The site, which has been put together by [IAF](#), [ILAC](#), [ISO](#), [IIOC](#) and [IEC](#), also contains links to independent research and supporting information to provide additional supporting evidence.

By showcasing the policy areas where accreditation of conformity assessment is, and can be used, such as [economic development](#), [healthcare](#), [environmental protection](#), [energy](#), [food safety](#), [construction](#), [crime and security](#), the site continues to provide inspiration for central government, local government and regulators to deliver positive benefit by the use of more conformity assessment tools.

Supporting the needs of government, regulators and the public sector remains a core objective of the conformity assessment community.

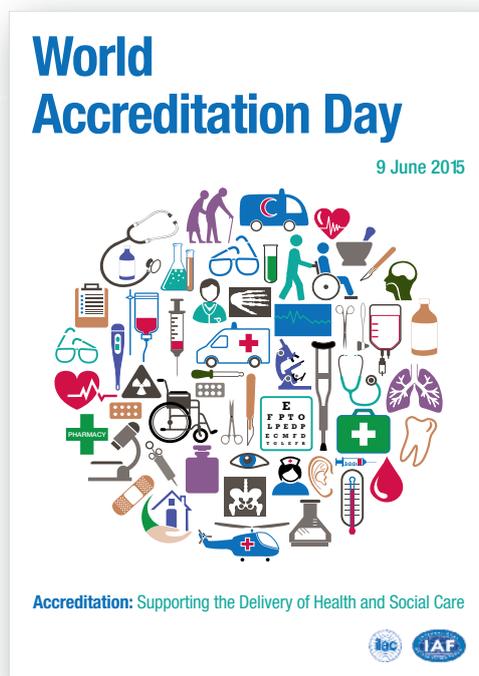


» World Accreditation Day 2015

The global accreditation community celebrates each year with the World Accreditation Day on 9 June to raise awareness of the value that accreditation plays in facilitating global trade or in checking that products are fit and safe for consumption against a standard, a code or practice or regulatory requirements.

The theme for World Accreditation Day in 2015 was **“Accreditation: Supporting the Delivery of Health and Social Care”**.

Accreditation provides a key tool for health and social care providers in this delivery as the successful provision of health and social care is one of the greatest challenges today and will only grow in its magnitude and complexity. The need to provide reassuring, consistent, cost-effective health and social care grows every day and accreditation supports these outcomes.





The ILAC Secretariat

PO Box 7507
Silverwater NSW 2128
Australia

Phone: +61 2 9736 8374

Email: ilac@nata.com.au

Website: www.ilac.org



@ILAC_Official



<https://www.youtube.com/user/IAFandILAC>



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Testing – Calibration – Inspection