

APAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement

**Issue No. 1**

**Issue Date 1 January 2019**

**Application Date 1 January 2019**

**AUTHORSHIP**

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1. SCOPE

This document describes the structure of the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated Mutual Recognition Arrangement (APAC MRA) and also specifies APAC Full Members’ obligations that form the basis of the APAC MRA.

1. REFERENCES

IAF PR 4 Structure of the IAF MLA and List of IAF Endorsed Normative Documents

ILAC-P5:02 ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Scope and Obligations

APAC GOV-001 APAC Constitution

APAC MRA-001 Procedures for Establishing and Maintaining Mutual Recognition amongst APAC Accreditation Bodies

APAC FMRA-001 List of APAC Endorsed Normative Documents

1. STRUCTURE OF THE APAC MRA

There are five levels in the APAC MRA structure:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Level 1 | ISO/IEC 17011 specifies the criteria for an accreditation body. |
| Level 2 | Conformity assessment activities of conformity assessment bodies (CAB) to which the AB grants accreditation according to the generic, normative documents listed in Level 3.   * Management systems certification * Product certification * Persons certification * Greenhouse gas verification and validation * Testing * Medical/Clinical testing * Calibration * Inspection * Proficiency testing * Reference material production |
| Level 3 | Generic accreditation normative document used by the AB to assess the CAB competence for each activity in level 2.   * For Management systems certification: ISO/IEC 17021-1 * For Product certification: ISO/IEC 17065 * For Persons certification: ISO/IEC 17024 * For Greenhouse gas verification and validation: ISO 14065 * For Testing: ISO/IEC 17025 * For Clinical/medical testing: ISO 15189 * For Calibration: ISO/IEC 17025 * For Inspection: ISO/IEC 17020 * For Proficiency testing: ISO/IEC 17043 * For Reference material production: ISO 17034 |
| Level 4 | Sector specific normative documents which specify internationally recognized application of the Level 3 documents. These application documents are used by the AB in combination with the generic normative documents listed in Level 3, to assess the CAB competence in the relevant sector.   * Normative documents to be used in combination with ISO/IEC 17021-1: * For certification of Quality management system (QMS) – ISO/IEC 17021-3 * For certification of Environmental management system (EMS) – ISO/IEC 17021-2 * For certification of Food safety management system (FSMS) – ISO/TS 22003 * For certification of Information security management system (ISMS) – ISO/IEC 27006 * For certification of Energy management system (EnMS) – ISO 50003 * Normative documents to be used in combination with ISO/IEC 17065: * GLOBAL G.A.P Integrated Farm Assurance General Regulations * Normative documents to be used in combination with ISO/IEC 17024: * None currently endorsed * Normative documents to be used in combination with ISO/IEC 14065: * None currently endorsed * Normative documents to be used in combination with ISO/IEC 17025: * For medical reference measurement laboratories – ISO 15195 * Normative documents to be used in combination with ISO 15189: * For Point-of-Care testing – ISO 22870 * Normative documents to be used in combination with ISO/IEC 17020: * None currently endorsed * Normative documents to be used in combination with ISO/IEC 17043: * None currently endorsed * Normative documents to be used in combination with ISO 17034: * None currently endorsed |
| Level 5 | Conformity assessment normative documents used by the CABs.   * For Management systems certification * ISO 9001 – Quality management systems – Requirements * ISO 14001 – Environmental management systems – Requirements * ISO 22000 - Food safety management systems – Requirements * ISO/IEC 27001 – Information security management systems – Requirements * ISO 50001 - Energy management systems – Requirements * ISO 13485 – Medical Devices quality management systems – Requirements * For Product certification * GLOBALG.A.P IFA Control Points and Compliance Criteria   For other activities of APAC MLA, this level includes the scope of accreditation of the CABs accredited by APAC MRA signatories. |

1. OBLIGATIONS OF APAC FULL MEMBERS
2. Abide by the APAC Constitution and rules and procedures developed by APAC, and maintain conformance with the list of normative documents contained in APAC FMRA-001;
3. Ensure that all conformity assessment bodies accredited by the Full Member conform to the relevant normative documents contained in APAC FMRA-001;
4. Promote the acceptance and equivalence of endorsed certificates or reports issued by accredited conformity assessment bodies within the scope of the APAC MRA;
5. Promote the world-wide acceptance and equivalence of accreditations granted by signatories to the IAF MLA and ILAC MRA;
6. Contribute actively to the work of the APAC MRA Council;
7. Co-operate with other accreditation bodies so that the APAC MRA may be extended as appropriate;
8. Respond positively to requests from the APAC MRA Management Committee (APAC MRA MC) for the provision of suitable peer evaluators for the peer evaluation of APAC Full Members and other applicant bodies;
9. Investigate all complaints about certificates/reports of conformity issued by its accredited conformity assessment bodies;
10. Notify the APAC Secretariat on behalf of the APAC MRA Council Chair as soon as possible of any significant changes that have occurred or will occur in its status, in the operational practices of its system or in its accreditation programs using form APAC FGOV-010;
11. Participate actively in the meetings of the APAC MRA Council and other APAC Committees;
12. Use all information gained in the APAC MRA Council and any peer evaluation in a confidential and professional manner;
13. Pay APAC membership fees and other expenses in a timely manner, including reimbursement of peer evaluation expenses incurred by peer evaluation team members.

1. APAC ENDORSED NORMATIVE DOCUMENTS

APAC FMRA-001 identifies the normative documents which shall be used in the peer evaluation of the accreditation body.

1. AMENDMENT TABLE

This table provides a summary of the changes to the document with this issue.

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| --- | --- |
| **Section(s)** | **Amendment(s)** |
| All | New issue on establishment of APAC. |
| End |  |