



ARAC MULTI-LATERAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENT (MLA)

CLASSIFICATION

This document is classified as an ARAC Mandatory Document.

AUTHORIZATION

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AVAILABILITY

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1 PREAMBLE

The Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC), is an organization created to establish cooperation among accreditation bodies in the Arab region which operate programs for accreditation of conformity assessment bodies.

This document describes the elements of a Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (hereinafter referred to as the MLA) The MLA is a means by which the signatories to the ARAC MLA can recognize one another's technical competence and confidence in the results of the accredited organizations. This MLA is a major co-operative effort to enhance the objective of free trade in the Arab region and building up confidence among the accreditation bodies of the Region.

The criteria for the operation of accredited conformity assessment bodies are currently specified in the Structure of the ARAC MLA defined in ARAC document PR 025. For the operation of the Accreditation Bodies the criteria are specified in ISO/IEC 17011, and in IAF and ILAC requirements, supplemented by ARAC application documents if necessary.

The principal elements for establishing confidence among the participating accreditation bodies in ARAC are listed below. These elements are designed to ensure conformity with the requirements in order to establish and maintain mutual confidence in the technical competence of ARAC MLA members and their accredited conformity assessment bodies. These elements are:

1. Exchange of information on the development and operation of accreditation schemes of ARAC members;
2. Participation in the work and decision making of the ARAC General Assembly, ARAC MLA Group, MLA Committee and other ARAC Committees where applicable;
3. Exchange of persons taking part in peer evaluations, re-evaluations or follow up visits to accreditation bodies;
4. Evaluation of applicants and re-evaluations of signatories to this MLA are conducted in accordance with the relevant ARAC and international documents;
5. Participation in the work of ARAC committees, subcommittees and working groups held to discuss problems related to accreditation of conformity assessment bodies in various technical fields;
6. Observations of applicant bodies and signatories assessments of conformity assessment bodies to determine if these meet the requirements of the

applicable standards.

7. Confidence in the metrology institutes in the country where the accreditation body is established and to which metrological traceability of measurement results is claimed by accredited laboratories and support for the measurement comparison activities of BIPM (Bureau International des Poids et Mesures) and/or regional metrology organizations.
8. Participation in ARAC and other international interlaboratory comparisons and proficiency testing programs, where applicable.

This MLA does not affect other recognition required by laws and regulations in the country of the signatory body.

2 ARAC MULTILATERAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENT (MLA)

1. This MLA is based on the results of the evaluations carried out in accordance with the relevant rules and procedures contained in the ARAC MD 002 MLA Policies and Procedures for a Multilateral Recognition Arrangement among Accreditation Bodies.
2. Each accreditation body signatory to this MLA will follow the applicable terms and conditions defined in MD 002, and
 - ⤴ Maintain conformance with ISO/IEC 17011 (and the documents that replace it), related IAF and/or ILAC requirements and relevant ARAC applicable documents.
 - ⤴ Ensure that all accredited conformity assessment bodies conform with, as applicable to its scope of accreditation, those documents that are specified in the Structure of the ARAC MLA defined in the ARAC document PR 025 and related IAF, ILAC, IAF/ILAC and ARAC applicable mandatory documents for the MLA.
3. Each signatory shall:
 - i. Recognize the operation of other relevant accreditation systems as equivalent to its own as specified in the scope of the respective MLA.
 - ii. Recommend and promote the acceptance by users in its economy of the certificates and reports issued by conformity assessment bodies accredited by the other signatories as being on an equal basis with those of its own accredited conformity assessment bodies.

- iii. Investigate all complaints initiated by a signatory resulting from certificates or reports issued by the conformity assessment bodies accredited within its accreditation schemes.
 - iv. Notify the MLA Group as soon as possible without delay of any significant changes (as described in ARAC MD 002) that have occurred or will occur in its status, in the operational practices of its system or in its accreditation programs.
 - v. Contribute to the work of the MLA Group, as appropriate.
 - vi. Vote on MLA Group decisions, as required.
 - vii. Participate in the meetings of the committees, subcommittees and/or working groups of ARAC, as appropriate.
 - viii. Provide evaluators for the peer evaluation and re-evaluation of accreditation bodies as appropriate to its size and to the need of the ARAC MLA Group.
 - ix. Co-operate with other accreditation bodies so that the MLA may be extended to include other accreditation bodies in the Region.
 - x. Use all information obtained from the peer evaluation process in a confidential and professional manner.
4. To join the ARAC MLA, an accreditation body will be evaluated in accordance with the relevant rules and procedures defined in document MD 002 and will sign the MLA Certificate included in this document.
 5. The scope of recognition of a signatory may be extended or reduced following evaluation in accordance with the relevant rules and procedures defined in MD 002.
 6. If a signatory wishes to withdraw from the MLA, that body shall notify the ARAC MLA Committee Chair and MLA Secretary in writing not later than three months in advance of withdrawing. The MLA Secretary will notify other signatory bodies. Upon withdrawal of a body, that body's MLA Certificate shall be withdrawn.
 7. In the event of the ARAC MLA Committee making an adverse decision or finding for an applicant or a signatory, the procedures defined in MD 002 apply.
 8. Any amendment of the text of this MLA shall be approved by the ARAC General Assembly.

9. It is recognized and accepted by each of the signatories that this MLA does not create any rights, liabilities or obligations that would have binding effect in national or international law.
10. This MLA consists of twelve (12) Clauses plus a MLA Certificate that each signatory signs, along with the scope of its accreditation programs.
11. This MLA will come into effect upon signature by the parties involved.
12. The scope of participation of a signatory to the ARAC MLA is defined in the PR 025 document.



ARAC Multi-Lateral Recognition Arrangement [MLA] Certificate

In accordance with ISO/IEC 17011 and the procedures of the Arab Accreditation Cooperation [ARAC], ARAC hereby confirms the following ARAC Member is a signatory to the ARAC MLA:

Accreditation Body Name (ACCRONYM)

Country

For the scopes and sub-scopes of:

		Approved by the ARAC MLA Group on:
Scope		
Scope		
Scope		
Sub- Scope		
Sub- Scope		

The Member on behalf of which this MLA Certificate is signed is committed to complying with the requirements and obligations of the ARAC MLA members

AB representative

AB name

Name

ARAC Chair

Name

ARAC MLA

Group Chair