



ITU Forum on Conformity and Interoperability for the Americas region Rio de Janeiro

**The International Laboratory Accreditation
Cooperation (ILAC)
The International Accreditation Forum (IAF)**

**Sandra M. Saraiva – Advisor for Cgcre’s General
Accreditation Coordinator (smsaraiva@inmetro.gov.br)**



Accreditation in TBT Agreement

“6.1.1 adequate and enduring technical competence of the relevant conformity assessment bodies in the exporting Member, so that confidence in the continued reliability of their conformity assessment results can exist; in this regard, verified compliance, for instance through *accreditation*, with relevant guides or recommendations issued by international standardizing bodies shall be taken into account as an indication of adequate technical competence;”



What is accreditation?

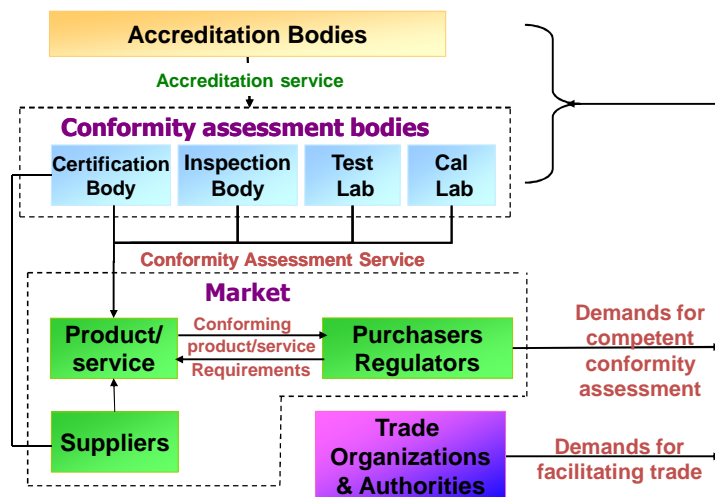
‘Independent evaluation of conformity assessment bodies against recognized standards to ensure their impartiality and competence to carry out specific activities, such as tests, calibrations, inspections and certifications.’



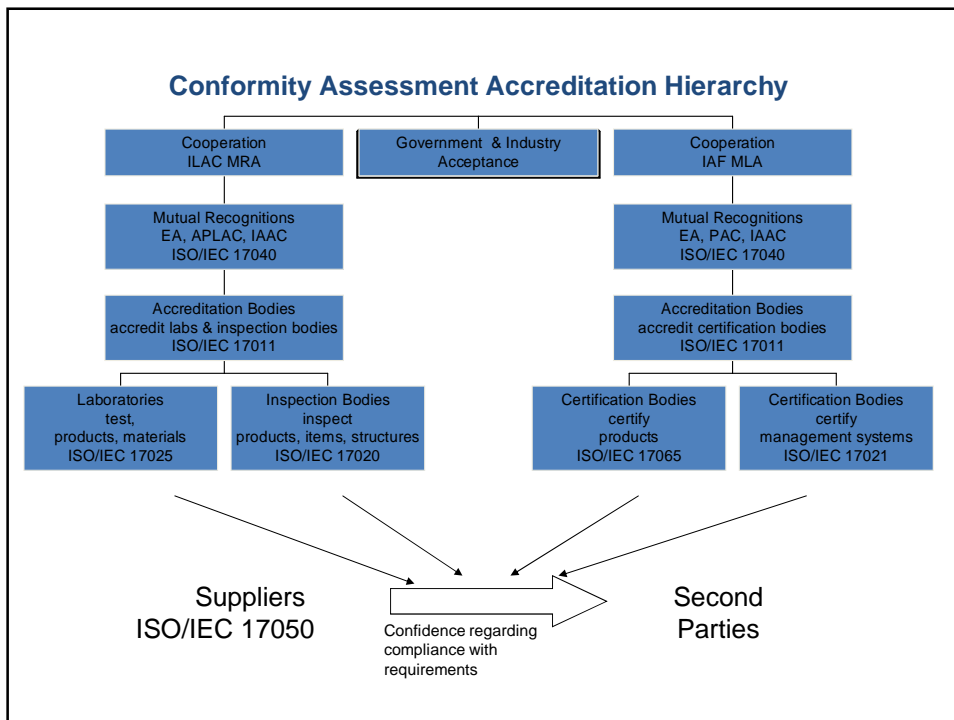
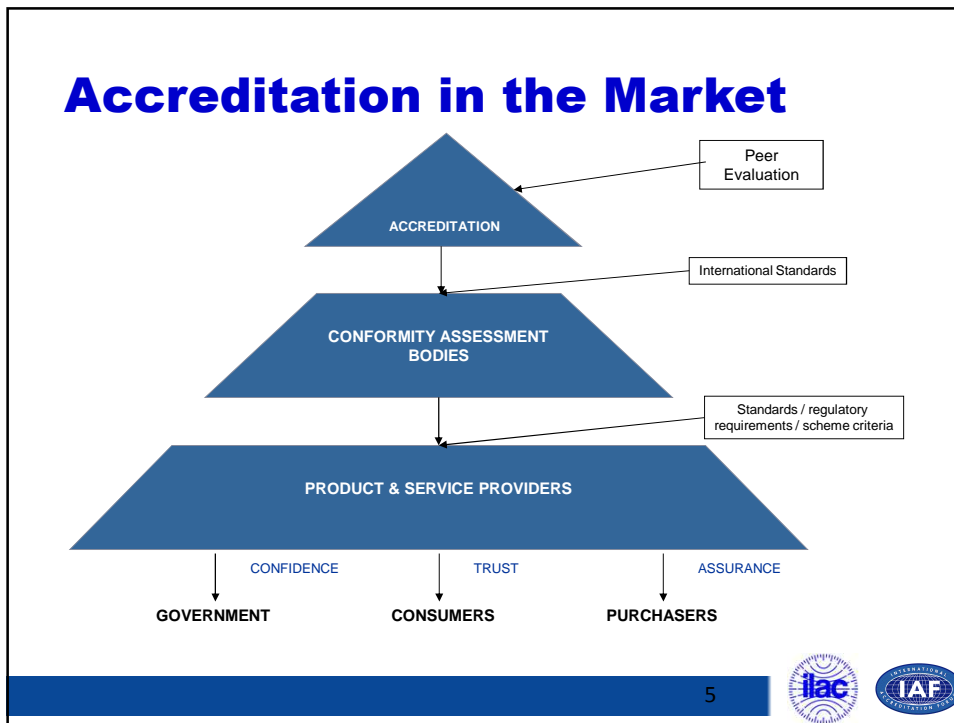
3



Accreditation in the Market



4



IAF and ILAC – an Introduction

ILAC and IAF are global networks of accreditation bodies and organizations involved in conformity assessment

- Recognition of competent and equally reliable conformity assessment activities through Global Arrangements
- Development/harmonization of accreditation practices
- Promotion of accreditation as an effective mechanism for providing confidence in goods and services



7

IAF and ILAC Objectives

- Maintain multi-lateral mutual recognition Arrangements
 - Expand coverage into all economies of the world
 - Provide support to new accreditation systems
- Harmonize accreditation best practice
 - Cooperate with all relevant stakeholders



8

Global Vision

- Ensuring that accredited services are reliable
- Reliance on the Arrangements to further develop or enhance trade agreements
- *'Tested, inspected or certified once and accepted everywhere'*
- *"Accredited once accepted everywhere"*



9

ILAC – The Membership

ILAC is the oversight body for laboratory and inspection body accreditation



10

IAF– The Membership

IAF is the oversight body for certification of management systems, personnel and products



11

Regional Cooperation Bodies

The IAF and ILAC Arrangements are structured to build on existing and developing regional MLAs/MRAs established around the world

- The IAF MLA recognizes EA, PAC, IAAC
- The ILAC MRA recognizes EA, APLAC, IAAC



European
Cooperation
for
Accreditation
(EA)



Pacific
Accreditation
Cooperation
(PAC)



Inter-American
Accreditation
Cooperation
(IAAC)



Asia Pacific
Laboratory
Accreditation
Cooperation
(APLAC)



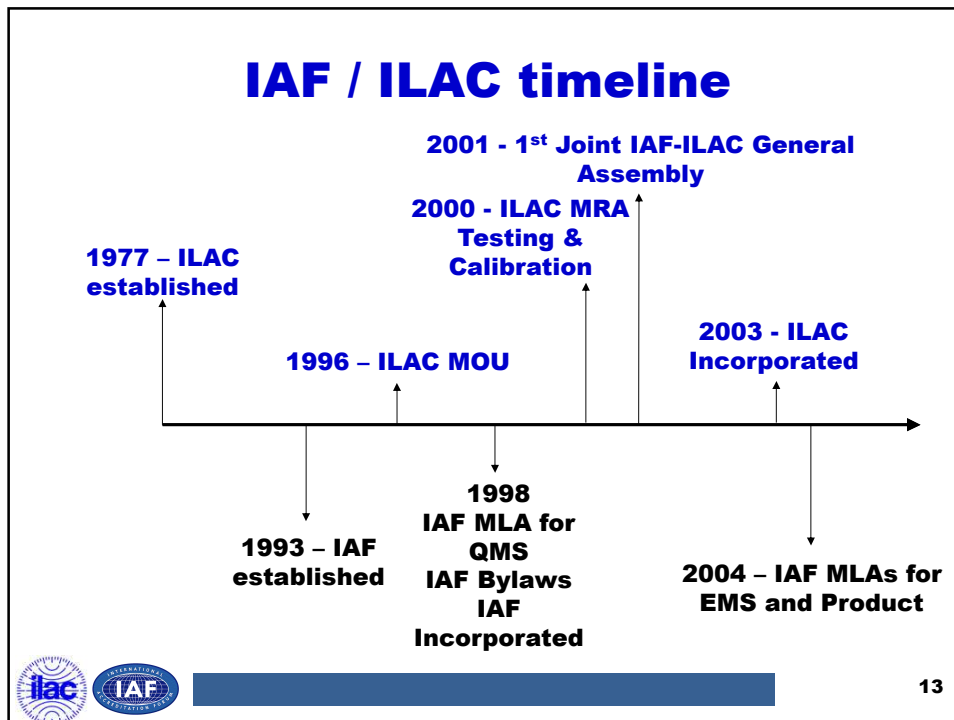
Southern African
Development
Community
Accreditation
(SADCA)



African
Accreditation
Cooperation
(AFRAC)



12



The ILAC and IAF Arrangements

- Accreditation body members deemed competent through a peer evaluation process:
 - ISO/IEC 17011
 - IAF-ILAC A series documents
 - IAF & ILAC application documents
- Signatories recognize certificates, reports, and results issued by organizations accredited by other Signatories



IAF/ILAC A2: Evaluation of an AB

Two main sections; two main purposes:

- Criteria (Section 2): Requirements on an AB Signatory
- Procedures (Section 3): How to conduct an evaluation for IAF/ILAC



15

IAF/ILAC A2: Evaluation of an AB Section 2.2 Supplementary Requirements

- Demonstrated competence and experience
- Acceptable routes for measurement traceability
- Proficiency testing requirements
- Arrangement obligations
- Promotion of the Arrangements
- Contribute to peer evaluations
- Cross-frontier policy



16

IAF/ILAC A2: Evaluation of an AB Qualifications of Evaluators

- Team members:
 - At least 3 years experience as staff member or assessor in a member accreditation body
 - Evaluator training course completed
 - English understood

- Team Leaders
 - Senior AB staff
 - Experience as a team member



17

IAF/ILAC A2: Evaluation of an AB Full Evaluation

- Four to six days duration
- Three to seven team members
- Several assessments witnessed
- Summary report of findings at end of visit



18

IAF/ILAC A2: Evaluation of an AB Full Evaluation Report Process

- Summary report with Findings:
- Draft full report
- Formal response by AB to findings
- Formal reaction of the evaluation team
- Often more than one iteration
- Follow-up visit possible
- Final report to the Arrangement group
- Decision by the Arrangement group



19

IAF/ILAC A2: Evaluation of an AB Nonconformity

Finding where the AB does not meet a requirement of:

- **the applicable standard (ISO/IEC 17011)**
- **its own management system**
- **the Arrangement requirements**

The evaluated AB is expected to respond to each non-conformity by taking appropriate corrective action and providing the evaluation team with evidence of effective implementation



20

IAF/ILAC A2: Evaluation of an AB Concern

**Finding where the AB's practice may develop into a
nonconformity**

*The evaluated AB is expected to respond to each concern by
providing the evaluation team with an appropriate action plan
and time schedule for implementation*



21

IAF/ILAC A2: Evaluation of an AB Comment

**Finding about documents or the AB's practices with a
potential for improvement but still fulfilling requirements**

The evaluated AB is encouraged to respond to comments



22

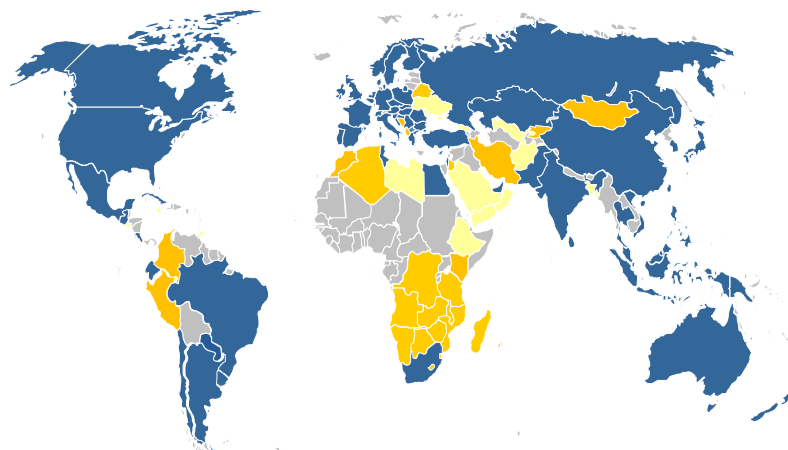
Status of the ILAC MRA (Mar 2012)

- The ILAC network of members includes 144 bodies from 109 different economies
- 75 ILAC MRA Signatories representing 63 economies
- ILAC MRA covers testing and calibration
- Signatories represent about 95% of Global GDP
- More than 43,000 accredited laboratories
- About 7,300 accredited inspection bodies



23

Coverage of the ILAC MRA (May 2012)



- ILAC MRA Signatories
- ILAC Associate Members
- ILAC Affiliate Members



Status of the IAF MLA (Mar 2012)

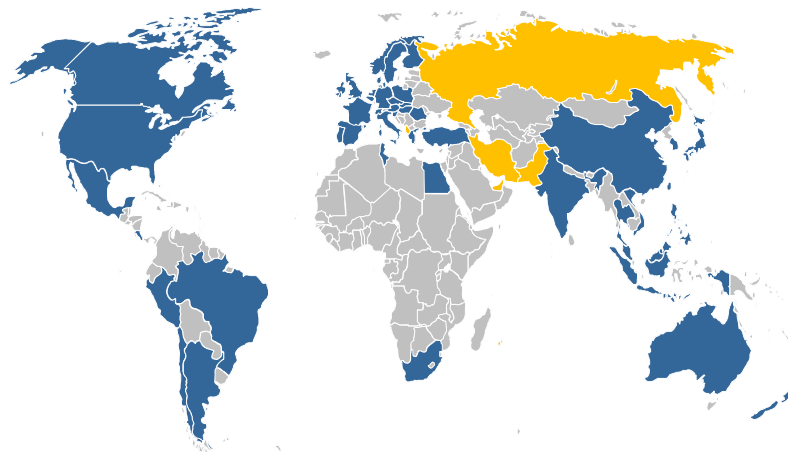
There are 49 IAF MLA Signatories, representing 47 economies

- Management Systems: 47 Accreditation Bodies and EA, PAC & IAAC
 - ISO 9001 QMS: 47 Accreditation Bodies and EA, PAC & IAAC
 - ISO 14001 EMS: 41 Accreditation Bodies and EA, PAC & IAAC
 - ISO 22000 FSMS: in development
 - ISO 27001 ISMS: in development
- Product: 38 Accreditation Bodies EA, PAC & IAAC
- Persons: In development



25

Coverage of the IAF MLA (Mar 2012)



- IAF MLA Signatories
- IAF Members not yet Signatories



USA Specifiers of the ILAC MRA

- **Consumer Product Safety Commission**
- **Federal Highway Administration**
- **Coast Guard**
- **Department of Defense**
- **Nuclear Regulatory Commission**
- **Food and Drug Administration**
- **Environmental Protection Agency**



Benefits

- **Increased confidence in conformity assessment results**
- **Eliminating redundant conformity assessment activities**
- **Improving efficiency of assessment process**
- **Continual monitoring and enforcement**



Contact Details

For more information contact:

The IAF Secretariat

Elva Nilsen
28 Chemin Old Chelsea
Box 1811
Chelsea, Quebec
Canada J9B 1A0

Phone: +1 (613) 454 8159
Email: iaf@iaf.nu

www.iaf.nu

For more information contact:

The ILAC Secretariat

PO Box 7507
Silverwater
NSW 2128
Australia

Phone: +612 9736 8222
Fax: +612 9743 5311
Email: ilac@nata.com.au

www.ilac.org

