



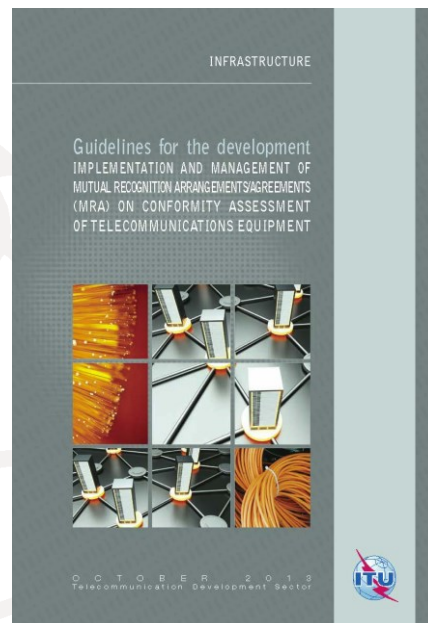
Workshop for SADC countries to promote the development and implementation of Conformity Assessment programmes

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ITU Guidelines for development and implementation of MRAs

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Guidelines for the development, implementation and management of Mutual Recognition Arrangements/Agreements (MRAs) on conformity assessment



Guidelines [here](#)

C&I Guidelines for MRAs



- These guidelines aim at promoting the understanding and establishment of MRA, known as efficient tools to promote regional integration
- Through the share and efficient use of Conformance and Interoperability (C&I) infrastructures – as laboratories, accreditation bodies and regulatory practices – technical requirements can be harmonized and the transit of ICT goods and services can be facilitated, increasing trade and regional development

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Guidelines for MRAs (cont.)



Topics covered by the Guidelines:

- **Benefits**
- **Types of MRA**
- **Attributes**
- **Development**
- **Implementation**
- **Management**
- **Consultation and Training**
- **Stakeholders**
- **Procedures for contesting the competence of conformity assessment bodies**
- **A typical MRA operation**
- **Recommendation**

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Guidelines for MRAs (cont.)

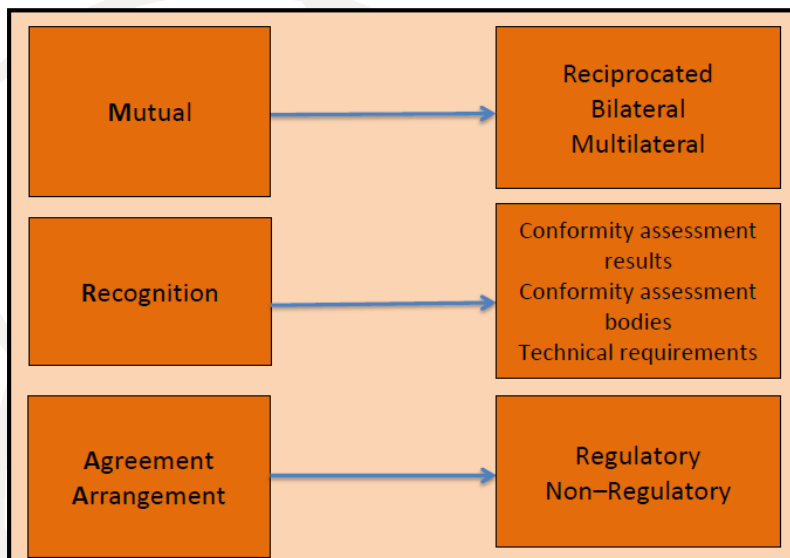


Agreement/Arrangement

- A **Mutual Recognition Agreement** is a formal legal commitment between parties for recognition of conformity assessment results for telecommunication equipment. It deals with regulatory requirements and it is referred to in the text as “regulatory MRA”. Often such agreements are made bilaterally, regionally or multilaterally between two or more governments.
- A **Mutual Recognition Arrangement** is a voluntary arrangement between parties for recognition of conformity assessment results for telecommunication equipment. It deals with nonregulatory requirements and it is referred to in the text as “non-regulatory MRA”. An example of a mutual recognition arrangement is amongst accreditation bodies to mutually recognize the conformity assessment results from accredited conformity assessment bodies.

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Guidelines for MRAs (cont.)



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MRA Benefits



For manufacturers:

- opportunity to test and certify products one time to the requirements of multiple markets and ship products without further conformity assessment
- increase certification efficiency for products exported to foreign markets, thus increasing export opportunities for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
- decreasing time-to-market for companies manufacturing telecommunication equipment with shorter and shorter product life cycles, thus maximizing export opportunities and allowing for rapid reinvestment in research and further development for new technologies

For conformity assessment bodies:

- Allowing conformity assessment bodies (CABs) to increase the value of their service by offering their clients testing and certifying products for multiple markets.

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MRA Benefits (Cont.)



For regulators:

- reduction of regulatory resources required to certify terminal attachment and radio equipment
- opportunity to reallocate a portion of these former certification costs to other areas
- further harmonizing of technical requirements and of regional and national conformity assessment systems
- access to a pool of knowledge about the latest global trends and experiences regarding conformity assessment and regulatory systems.

For consumers:

- increasing consumer access to the widest variety of available technology
- faster access to equipment at a lower cost
- speeding the development of telecommunication and Internet infrastructure.

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Guidelines Highlights



Attributes of an MRA

- Designation
- Accreditation
- Recognition
- Retaining designation or recognition
- Suspension or withdrawal of designation or recognition
- Dispute resolution

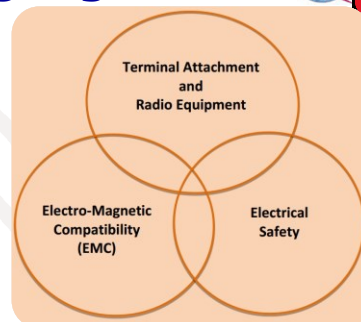
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Guidelines Highlights



Development of an MRA

- Framework for MRAs
- Coverage and Scope
- Identification of parties to the MRA
- Obligations under an MRA
- Duration and disestablishment of a MRA
- Examples of some MRAs on conformity assessment



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Guidelines Highlights

Implementation of an MRA



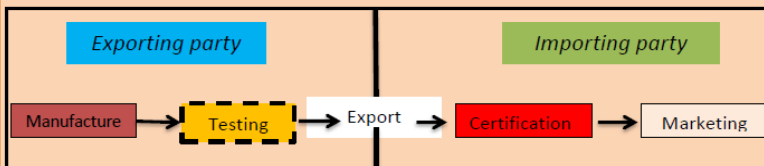
- **Conformity Assessment**
- **Pre-implementation preparation**
- **Confidence building and start-up**
- **Identification of scope – technical requirements and phases**
- **Identification of contacts**
- **Information exchange**
- **Nomination of designating authorities**
- **Identification of MRA host and repository of signatories**
- **Nomination of regulatory authorities**
- **Identification of accreditation bodies**
- **Notification of conformity assessment bodies**
- **Recognition of conformity assessment bodies**
- **Formation of a joint committee**
- **Monitor and surveillance programmes**
- **Experience from implementation of existing MRAs**

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Implementation of an MRA

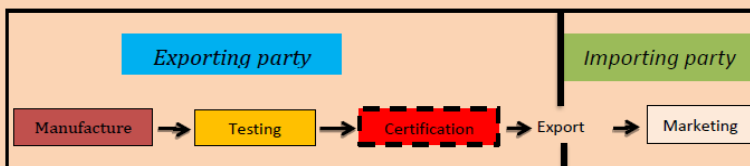


Figure 4: Phase 1 – Mutual acceptance of test reports



Source: Andrew Kwan

Figure 5: Phase 2 – Mutual acceptance of certification



Source: Andrew Kwan

Parties can choose to implement the phases of the MRA one at a time or both together. Typically the parties will implement Phase 1 and after gaining experience and confidence with the Phase 1 procedure, they will then proceed to implement the Phase 2 procedure.

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Guidelines Highlights



Management of an MRA

- **Joint committee**
- **Update and surveillance of accreditation bodies and conformance assessment bodies (CABs)**
- **Management of data**
- **Record of notifications and changes**
- **Termination and withdrawal from an MRA**

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Thank you



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