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**Scope of the EA MLA and
the application of an EA MLA
signatory to join the IAF MLA for
a specific main scope/sub-scope
and/or the ILAC MRA for a specific
activity**

PURPOSE

This document gives information on the process to be followed by an EA MLA signatory, when applying for ILAC/IAF MRA/MLA signatory status for a specific scope, sub-scope or activity.

Authorship

This document has been written by the EA Executive Committee.

Official language

The publication may be translated into other languages as required. The English language version remains the definitive version.

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1. GENERAL

The EA MLA refers to the level 2 and 3 areas only i.e.:

Testing laboratories including medical laboratories	ISO/IEC 17025, ISO 15189
Calibration laboratories	ISO/IEC 17025
Certification bodies for Products	ISO/IEC 17065
Certification bodies for Persons	ISO/IEC 17024
Certification bodies for Management systems	ISO/IEC 17021 - 1
Inspection bodies	ISO/IEC 17020
Validation and Verification bodies (GHG)	ISO 14065
Proficiency Testing Providers	ISO/IEC 17043
Reference Material Producers	ISO 17034

2. LEVELS 4 AND 5 COVERAGE OF THE EA MLA

Accreditation bodies are peer evaluated based on the statistical information provided including all accreditation activities. The peer evaluation program covers (in addition to the requirements from the levels 1 and 3 standards, the EA additional requirements documents, the relevant IAF/ILAC mandatory documents, Regulation 765/2008 EU, Regulation 600/2012 EU, all scheme requirements for the schemes covered by the NAB) all level 4 and 5 activities based on a statistical based sampling, hence all activities are covered by the peer evaluation and are included in the EA MLA. Furthermore, regulatory or international sector schemes have increased focus in the peer evaluation process.

An accreditation body can extend its level 4 and 5 activities following the extension procedure foreseen in ISO/IEC 17011 § 4.6, i.e. these areas are covered under the EA MLA immediately after completion of the corresponding process by the NAB – including an evaluation of the scheme according to EA 1/22 if applicable – and publication e.g. on its webpage. The extension process (including the demonstration of competence) will be checked at the next regular peer evaluation as part of the normal peer evaluation process as described above.

3. IAF MLA SCOPING

IAF differentiates between a framework MLA, just referring to level 3 standards – valid for certification of persons for the time being, and a MLA with sub-scopes – valid for management systems and product certification.

IAF accepts an accreditation body for the endorsed sub-scopes ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 or any other sub-scope to be accepted if that sub-scope has been covered by the peer evaluation in the way described by IAF only.

4. ILAC MRA SCOPING

The ILAC MRA covers the following activities: calibration (ISO/IEC 17025), testing (ISO/IEC 17025) and medical examinations (ISO 15189), and inspection (ISO/IEC 17020). ILAC accepts an accreditation body if it has been peer evaluated according to IAF/ILAC A2 for the specific activity.

5. APPLICATION TO THE IAF MLA OR THE ILAC MRA OF AN EA MLA SIGNATORY

As EA is an IAF and ILAC recognized region EA MLA signatories could be accepted into the respective IAF MLA or ILAC MRA, provided the EA peer evaluation covered the activity and/or sub-scope of the IAF MLA and/or ILAC MRA. It means that, if an EA MLA signatory has expanded its area of activity after the last EA peer evaluation based on a self-declaration that all requirements are fulfilled – could be ISO 15189 for ILAC or ISO 9001, ISO 14001 for IAF - an application to IAF and/or ILAC can only be submitted after the next peer evaluation.