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CAB/489A/DV

2004-09

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT BOARD (CAB)

Meeting 16, Seoul, 2004-10-19

SUBJECT

Agenda Item 9.3.4

Revised Memorandum of Understanding between IEC and ILAC

BACKGROUND

The text of the draft MoU was circulated to CAB members in document CAB/489/DV. That draft (identified as August 2004) included some amendments to the original text provided by ILAC, as a result of initial consultations with the Joint Policy Panel members and the Scheme secretariats. From the comments received on CAB/489/DV, it is clear that the draft is generally acceptable to CAB members. However as a result of those comments a number of changes, essentially editorial, have been made to the text resulting in a revised draft (identified as 2004-09-19).

The revised MoU was resubmitted to the CAB members of the Joint CAB/ILAC Policy Panel, who approved the revised text for forwarding to ILAC, as "text approved in principle by the CAB". The MoU will be considered by ILAC at its meeting in Cape Town prior to the CAB meeting and the results of its deliberations will be available to the CAB for the meeting in Seoul.

Two of the changes suggested by CAB members in response to CAB/489/DV were not considered to be appropriate and were not incorporated in the revision:

- that the term of the MoU be three years in lieu of five years
- that the additional signatories to the MoU be all of the Scheme members and not just the three Schemes.

It is proposed that these suggested amendments be further considered by the CAB in Seoul.

A copy of the revised MoU (2004-09-19) is attached.

ACTION

The CAB is invited to approve the text of the proposed ILAC/IEC MoU, as revised, at the meeting to be held in Seoul on 2004-10-19.

A copy of the revised MoU (2004-09-19) is attached.

DRAFT 2004-09-19

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
between
(Members of) the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)
and
The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and the IEC
Conformity Assessment Schemes

1 Background

Members of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation and the IEC Conformity Assessment Schemes have been cooperating on a number of technical and administrative issues to maximise the efficiencies of member bodies when dealing with common laboratory clients. This cooperation has included conduct of a series of joint ILAC/IECEE laboratory assessments; recognition of laboratory accreditation by IECEx; the establishment of a Joint ILAC/IEC-CAB Technical Panel; and a Joint Policy Panel to explore possibilities for recognition of the respective organisation's assessments and related activities. Such recognition should facilitate the future conduct of relevant laboratory assessments, reduce duplication of activities and maximise the harmony in technical evaluations conducted by both ILAC and IEC.

As a result of confidence established between the IEC-CAB and Members of ILAC, the Parties have agreed to formalise their future cooperation and the recognitions that each Party may acknowledge of the other Parties' relevant activities. Those Members of ILAC and Representatives of the IEC-CAB Schemes which accept the provisions of this MOU are shown as signatories in the Annex to this MOU.

2 Understanding

It is agreed between the ILAC Members and the IEC-Conformity Assessment Schemes signing this MOU that the Parties will cooperate by:

- (a) Maintaining a Joint ILAC-IEC/CAB Technical Panel to facilitate common approaches in interpretation and application of ISO/IEC 17025 and relevant technical standards, to cooperate in relevant proficiency testing schemes, and to harmonise assessment procedures to the maximum extent possible for common ~~client laboratories~~ **testing laboratory clients**.

In maintaining this Panel, both Parties recognise that specific technical issues may be referred to either (or both) of the ILAC Technical Accreditation Issues Committee (TAIC) and the relevant

laboratory technical committees of the IEC-CAB schemes (CTL, ExTAG etc); and where appropriate, to the relevant IEC technical committee.

To consider issues of common application of ISO/IEC 17025 for the relevant laboratories, the Parties may establish a Joint Interpretation Panel, comprising appropriate members of the relevant IEC committees and the ILAC Technical Accreditation Issues Committee. Such interpretations will be published and made available to all Members of ILAC and the IEC.

- (b) Wherever possible and reasonable, and with the agreement of the affected laboratories, conducting joint assessments of common ~~client laboratories;~~ testing laboratory clients.
- (c) Developing a basis for recognition of the roles of each Parties' technical and lead assessors in the conduct of joint assessments, where applicable;
- (d) Sharing interpretations of common technical issues of relevance to common, client laboratories; and
- (e) Where practicable, conducting joint work on development of technical guides, standards, procedures and policies relevant to the affected laboratories.

3 Recognition

It is agreed between ILAC and the IEC, that the signatories to this MOU may on a case by case basis use or accept the results of each other's assessments, joint or otherwise, in the conduct of their assessment or peer review activities. Acceptance of assessment results is aimed at efficient use of resources and avoidance of duplication. The scope of cooperation may vary depending on the policies of individual ILAC Member bodies and of the IEC Schemes, but may include inputs to surveillance of laboratories, inputs to acceptance decisions and recognition of assessors provided by each Party.

4 Duration

Initially, this MOU is established for a period of five (5) years from the (*date of signing*). The effectiveness of the MOU and its content will be reviewed throughout the period of its implementation. The focal point for such review will be the Joint ILAC/IEC-CAB Policy Panel, advised where necessary, by the Joint ILAC/IEC-CAB Technical Panel.

The MOU may be renewed with the agreement of both Parties.

5 Termination

The MOU may be terminated by either Party, subject to six (6) months' written notice.

6 Commencement

This Memorandum of Understanding is effective from *(date of signing)*.

Additional Signatories accepting this MOU are shown in the Annex to this MOU.

Signed:

**Chair of ILAC
on behalf of ILAC Members**

General Secretary of IEC

