



AGREEMENT FOR CLOSER COOPERATION

BETWEEN

THE INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION COOPERATION (ILAC) AND THE INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION FORUM (IAF)

1. General Considerations

- 1.1 The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (hereinafter referred to as IAF) have been co-operating to achieve improved alignment of their work programmes where this has potential to contribute to the effectiveness and efficiency of both organisations and delivery of value to their stakeholders. To ensure uniform understanding of the aims and scope of the co-operative work programme the Joint Committee for Closer Co-operation between IAF and ILAC (JCCC) recommended at their June 2004 meeting, production of an overview document restating the agreed basis for those joint activities and to confirm their continuing commitment to work together
- 1.2 Considering ILAC and IAF as specialized bodies for matters of accreditation, have as their objective to assist in the removal of technical barriers to trade by putting in place a network for mutual recognition of laboratory, inspection body and certification body accreditors that recognise laboratory, inspection and certification body competence in testing, calibration, inspection or certification throughout the world, and which operate transparently according to international standards,
- 1.3 The Chair of ILAC and the Chair of IAF have, in accordance with their constitutions and relevant by-laws, agreed upon the need for close cooperation between ILAC and IAF and the co-ordination of activities in areas where their functions and activities are complementary and mutually supportive. The JCCC is the oversight body of all the activities of all Joint ILAC and IAF Committees as per the terms of reference in Annex A.

2 Purpose of the Agreement for Cooperation

- 2.1 The purpose of this Agreement for Cooperation is to record the basis for the relationship of ILAC and IAF working together.
- 2.2 With a view to facilitating the effective attainment of the objectives set forth in their respective constituencies, ILAC and IAF agree to act in close co-operation with each other and to consult each other as appropriate in regard to matters of common interest.
- 2.3 Appropriate arrangements may be made by agreement from time to time between the Chairs of ILAC and IAF for the reciprocal representation of ILAC and IAF as observers at meetings convened under their respective auspices which consider matters in which the other has an interest.

3 Areas of cooperation and responsibility

- 3.1 The Parties agree to cooperate, in the context of their respective mandates, policies and resources, for the purposes of capacity-building, training and research in specific programmes and projects identified by and agreed between the Parties from time to time, including the organisation of seminars and workshops at the national, regional and sub-regional levels, on accreditation related issues.
- 3.2 Areas of current joint activity may include but shall not be restricted to:
- Joint Development Support Committee
 - Joint Working Group on maintenance of the A Series
 - Joint Working Group on guidance to ISO/IEC 17011
 - Joint Working Group on Training
 - Joint Working Group on Inspection
- 3.3 Liaison with other organisations, including ISO and UNIDO (existing tripartite MoU partners).

4 Exchange of Information and Publications


- 4.1 ILAC and IAF shall keep each other informed about work of mutual interest carried out by each organisation in particular on their trade-related technical assistance programmes to developing countries.
- 4.2 ILAC and IAF shall provide each other, free of charge, with copies of any of its publications which may be of interest to the other.

5 Administrative and Financial Modalities

- 5.1 The implementation of the activities envisaged in this Agreement for Cooperation shall depend on the availability of the necessary financial resources, according to the regulations and procedures in force in the two organisations.
- 5.2 In the execution of the agreed activities, ILAC and IAF shall provide each other with logistic and administrative support as agreed by the JCCC.

6. Final Clauses

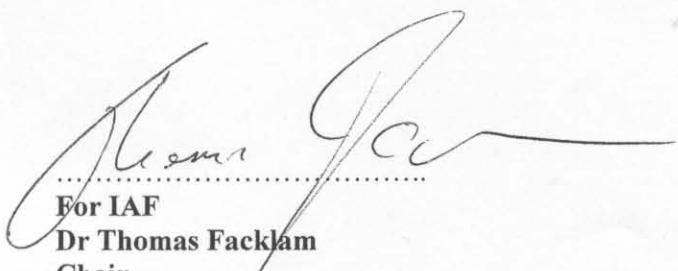
- 6.1 This Agreement for Cooperation may be amended by mutual written agreement of the Parties and will be reviewed for continuing relevance of content and effectiveness of implementation at least every 2 years.
- 6.2 Each party may terminate this Agreement by giving the other party at least six months written notice of such intention.
- 6.3 Existing projects which are due to be completed within one calendar year from the date of notice of termination shall not be affected by such termination unless otherwise provided for.
- 6.4 This Agreement for Cooperation shall enter into force upon signature by the Chairs of both ILAC and IAF.



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For ILAC
Mr Daniel Pierre
Chair

Date: 17 September 2005

Place: Auckland, New Zealand



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For IAF
Dr Thomas Facklam
Chair

Date: 17 September 2005

Place: Auckland, New Zealand

Joint Committee on Closer Co-operation of ILAC and IAF (JCCC)

Terms of Reference

Co-Chairmen – the Chairmen of IAF and ILAC (or their nominees)

Members – three members nominated by the ILAC Executive Committee and three members nominated by the IAF Board.

The JCCC shall be the steward for co-operation between IAF and ILAC.

Terms of Reference –

The JCCC is responsible to the ILAC Executive Committee and the IAF Executive Committee. The JCCC shall, after each of its meetings, submit a report in writing to each of the ILAC Executive Committee and the IAF Board. The report shall include summaries of all activities and recommendations for action by ILAC and IAF. The report shall include summaries of all activities for action or agreement by ILAC and IAF and where necessary through joint meetings of the ILAC and IAF Executives.

- draft policy proposals for joint activities for endorsement by the Joint Executives or by the General Assemblies where appropriate;
- evaluate and refine proposals for joint activities and for closer cooperation between the two organisations and make recommendations;
- monitor and review all joint and common activities against agreed strategic objectives to ensure effective co-operation;
- recommend the work programs for all other Joint ILAC and IAF Committees;
- oversight of the activities of all other Joint ILAC and IAF Committees, and report on their activities to the ILAC Executive Committee and the IAF Board.