



APAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement

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AUTHORSHIP

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CONTENTS

1. SCOPE	4
2. REFERENCES	4
3. STRUCTURE OF THE APAC MRA	4
4. OBLIGATIONS OF APAC FULL MEMBERS	5
5. APAC ENDORSED NORMATIVE DOCUMENTS	6
6. AMENDMENT TABLE	6

1. SCOPE

This document describes the structure of the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated Mutual Recognition Arrangement (APAC MRA) and also specifies APAC Full Members' obligations that form the basis of the APAC MRA.

2. REFERENCES

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| IAF PR 4 | Structure of the IAF MLA and List of IAF Endorsed Normative Documents |
| ILAC P5:02 | ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Scope and Obligations |
| APAC GOV-001 | APAC Constitution |
| APAC MRA-001 | Procedures for Establishing and Maintaining Mutual Recognition amongst APAC Accreditation Bodies |
| APAC FMRA-001 | List of APAC Endorsed Normative Documents |

3. STRUCTURE OF THE APAC MRA

There are five levels in the APAC MRA structure:

Level 1	ISO/IEC 17011 specifies the criteria for an accreditation body.
Level 2	Conformity assessment activities of conformity assessment bodies (CAB) to which the AB grants accreditation according to the generic, normative documents listed in Level 3. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biobanking• Calibration• Certification - Management Systems• Certification - Persons• Certification - Products, Processes and Services• Inspection• Medical Testing• Proficiency Testing Providers• Reference Material Producers• Testing• Validation and Verification
Level 3	Generic accreditation normative documents used by the AB to assess the CAB competence for each activity in level 2 as specified in APAC FMRA-001.
Level 4	Sector specific normative documents which specify internationally recognized application of the Level 3 documents. These application documents are used by the AB in combination with the generic normative documents listed in Level 3, to

	assess the CAB competence in the relevant sector. These sector specific normative documents are listed in APAC FMRA-001.
Level 5	Conformity assessment normative documents used by the CABs. These are listed in APAC FMRA-001. For other activities of APAC MLA, this level includes the scope of accreditation of the CABs accredited by APAC MRA signatories.

4. OBLIGATIONS OF APAC FULL MEMBERS

- (a) Abide by the APAC Constitution and rules and procedures developed by APAC, and maintain conformance with the list of normative documents contained in APAC FMRA-001;
- (b) Ensure that all conformity assessment bodies accredited by the Full Member conform to the relevant normative documents contained in APAC FMRA-001;
- (c) Promote the acceptance and equivalence of endorsed certificates or reports issued by accredited conformity assessment bodies within the scope of the APAC MRA;
- (d) Promote the world-wide acceptance and equivalence of accreditations granted by signatories to the IAF MLA and ILAC MRA;
- (e) Contribute actively to the work of the APAC MRA Council;
- (f) Co-operate with other accreditation bodies so that the APAC MRA may be extended as appropriate;
- (g) Respond positively to requests from the APAC MRA Management Committee (APAC MRA MC) for the provision of suitable peer evaluators for the peer evaluation of APAC Full Members and other applicant bodies;
- (h) Investigate all complaints about certificates/reports of conformity issued by its accredited conformity assessment bodies;
- (i) Notify the APAC Secretariat on behalf of the APAC MRA Council Chair as soon as possible of any significant changes that have occurred or will occur in its status, in the operational practices of its system or in its accreditation programs using form APAC FGOV-010;
- (j) Participate actively in the meetings of the APAC MRA Council and other APAC Committees;
- (k) Use all information gained in the APAC MRA Council and any peer evaluation in a confidential and professional manner;
- (l) Pay APAC membership fees and other expenses in a timely manner, including reimbursement of peer evaluation expenses incurred by peer evaluation team members.

5. APAC ENDORSED NORMATIVE DOCUMENTS

APAC FMRA-001 identifies the normative documents which shall be used in the peer evaluation of the accreditation body.

6. AMENDMENT TABLE

This table provides a summary of the changes to the document with this issue.

Date	Section(s)	Amendment(s)
17/11/2021	3	Minor editorial amendment to the name of the Level 2 scopes to align with latest IAF and ILAC Level 2 scope titles.
06/09/2021	3	Deleted greenhouse gases from the title of the Level 2 Validation and verification scope
24/12/2020	3	Added Biobanking under Level 2 list
08/02/2020	Level 3, 4 and 5 lists	Removed specific lists from the sections and replacing them with a reference to APAC FMRA-001 <i>List of APAC Endorsed Normative Documents</i> . This was an editorial correction to remove unnecessary duplication between APAC MRA-002 and APAC FMRA-001.
16/06/2019	Level 4 and 5 list	Minor changes to address IAF/ILAC Regional Evaluation findings
01/01/2019	All	New issue on establishment of APAC.