

Multilateral Agreement (MLA) of EAL and EAC signed by the Deutscher Akkreditierungsrat (DAR)

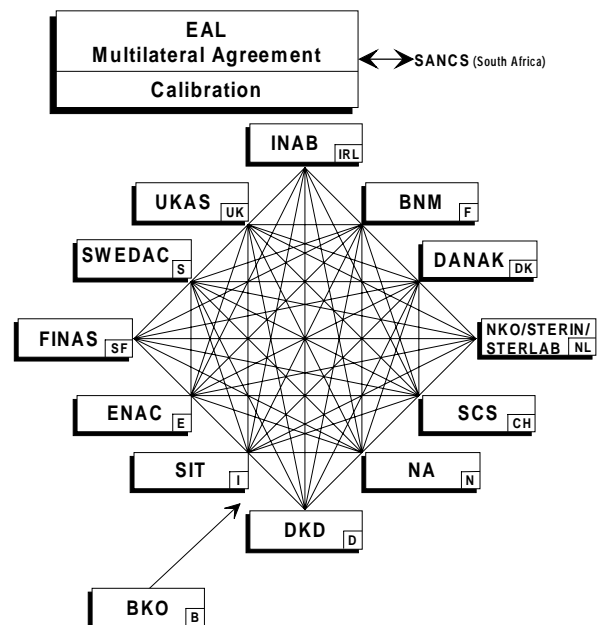
The organisation EAL (European Cooperation for Accreditation of Laboratories), merged from the former WECC and WELAC and described in "DAR-aktuell 2/94", has developed a procedure of mutual evaluation of their accreditation systems with the aim to reach equivalent accreditations by the Accreditation Bodies members of EAL. EAC (European Accreditation of Certification) is proceeding analogously.

In this way the accreditation systems of the EAL members have been evaluated one after another, i.e. they have been evaluated on the basis of an approved procedure by an evaluation team.

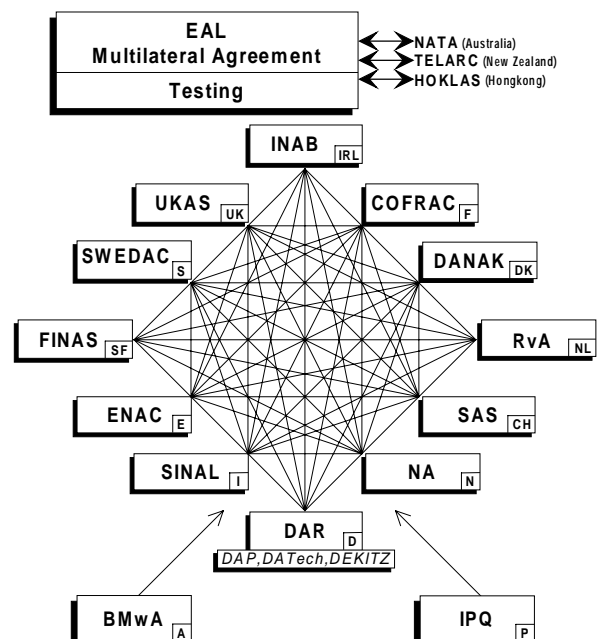
The evaluation procedure consists of the following steps:

1. After disposing of a complete structure and documentation according to EN 45 003, the accreditation body applies through the national accreditation system for membership in the Multilateral Agreement (MLA).
2. Conditions: It must have carried out at least a surveillance visit and it can name four laboratories for evaluation, the assessment of which may be witnessed by the evaluation team (a so-called witness audit).
3. The Quality Manual as well as practical preparations and performances of assessment visits are examined. The evaluation team gives a report to the responsible committee, which in turn gives a recommendation to the General Assembly.
4. Re-evaluations are planned to be carried out in predetermined intervals.

Due to historical reasons there are two EAL MLAs, one for the accreditation of testing laboratories and one for the accreditation of calibration laboratories. The first MLA for calibration was already signed years ago.



By decision of the EAL-General Assembly (in December 1994 and in May 1995) DAP, DATech and DEKITZ became signatories of the MLA for testing.



Content	Page
• MLA of EAL and EAC signed by the DAR	1
• What is IAF?	2
• About expert services	3
• Accreditation of quality system certification bodies in the mandatory and voluntary area	3
• Accreditation body KL-MESS	3
• Accreditation body DAU GmbH	3
• Accreditation body AKMP	3
• News from standardisation:	
Information on EN 45001/003/010/011/012	4
• Workshop in Athens	4

On 13th October, 1995 the EAL-MLA was signed by the Chairman of the German Accreditation Council, Prof. Dr. Mittmann, for the German accreditation bodies DAP, DATech and DEKITZ. For the time being a common text is elaborated so as to create equal conditions for the accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories and to regulate therewith the mutual recognition of accreditation systems outside Europe.

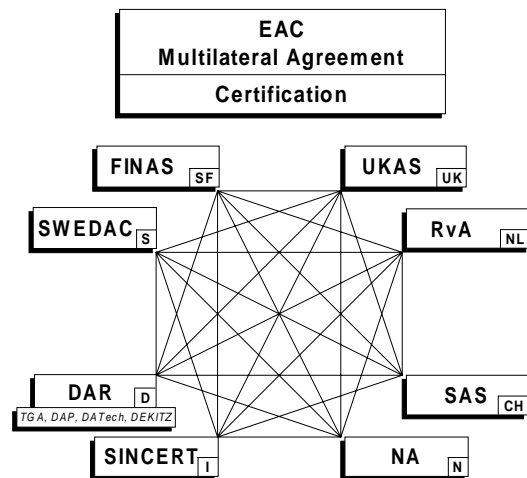
On 18th May, 1995 the EAC-MLA was signed by the Chairman of the German Accreditation Council, Prof. Dr. Mittmann, at first for the accreditation body TGA.

accreditation by a certain accreditation body. This could mean that a testing laboratory that offers testing services in various countries or tests products being exported by various countries, needs accreditations from various national accreditation bodies. Just this situation shall be prevented by the Global Approach of the Commission of the European Communities for the elimination of technical barriers to trade. Therefore the MLA enables the client to get a certification from the testing laboratory which confirms that its accreditation is comparable with another accreditation granted by another accreditation body being member of the MLA. Thus the acceptance of testing results is being improved in Europe.

However, the essential result of the Multilateral Agreement should be a harmonisation of the accreditations concerning their performance and their results as well as the comparability of test results and certificates.

From left to right (standing): Jaunin (CH), Ettarp (S), Hattula (SF), Hekscher (S), Gundlach (NL), Hammer (UK), Sæteren (N), *(sitting):* Martinotti (I), Mittmann (D)

What does the signing of such a Multilateral Agreement mean for the accredited testing laboratories and certification bodies? Here we exclusively speak about the voluntary area, where the client of a testing laboratory decides, whether or not he accepts the accreditation of this specific testing laboratory by a certain accreditation body. He can demand for an



News from international organisations

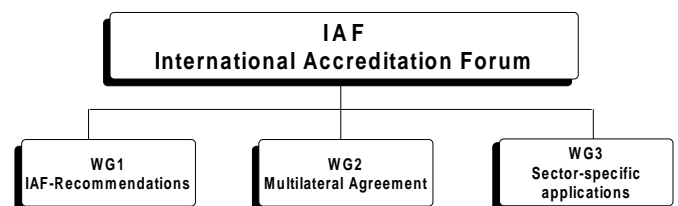
What is IAF?

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) unifies accreditation systems for certification bodies from 19 countries of all continents as well as representatives from European and international organisations that show an interest in the accreditation of certification bodies for quality systems, products and personnel.

The IAF Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on the June Meeting in 1995 after round two years of discussion and preliminary work. The Chairman of DAR, Prof. Dr. Mittmann, has signed the MoU as representative of the German accreditation bodies. The aim of IAF is to reach the international acceptance of certificates via the mutual recognition of accreditations. To harmonise the accreditation criteria, an intensive exchange of experience is therefore needed. At present a Multilateral Recognition Agreement (MRA) is being prepared, the objective of which is to reach a world-wide recognition of accreditations on the basis of recognition agreements

of regional groups (as e.g. the EAC-MLA). The advantage of accreditation bodies that are members of the EAC-MLA (as e.g. also German bodies) is that no re-evaluation by an international team will be needed. Merely a repeated evaluation by another team is carried out.

For the time being Working Groups are preparing the Multilateral Agreement on the basis of the experience of EAC. They are intensively discussing the different accreditation criteria or requirements in the various sectors.



Further information: Subdepartmental Section S.42

News from the DAR

New DAR logo

On the last DAR meeting on 12th September, 1995 a new DAR logo was endorsed, which may be used by the accredited bodies for advertisement purposes (see figure).



About expert services

Difficulties in expert services exist concerning the European recognition of nationally appointed experts. Therefore the 17th DAR-meeting on 10th May, 1995 dealt with this topic - starting from the enquiries of technical experts working individually or in firms of engineers.

The discussion within the DAR gave the following results:

- **Laboratories** that perform **testing activity** may be furthermore **accredited according to EN 45 001**.
- **Individual persons** who offer the services of **experts** may be certified by a certification body **for personnel according to EN 45 013**.

Agreement could be reached on the fact that the **personnel of accredited laboratories do not need to be certified separately, as the qualification of the personnel is being already confirmed by the accreditation**.

The EUROLAB group "Assessment of Expert Services" has adopted recommendations that are valid for different cases. These recommendations have been discussed within the DAR. For the preparation of a draft for a resolution an Adhoc-Group has been set up. This group will present its results on the next DAR-meeting.

Accreditation of quality system certification bodies in the mandatory and voluntary area

There are two new agreements on cooperation in the field of accreditation of quality system certification bodies, namely between TGA (Association for Accreditation) and BAPT (German Federal Office of Posts and Telecommunications) and between TGA and KBA (German Federal Authority of Road Transport). According to these agreements it is planned to treat accreditation procedures in common and to deal with them in joint accreditation committees.

The contracts are available in the DAR Secretariat.

Accreditation body KL-MESS

Since September 1995 the recently founded accreditation body KL-MESS (Coordination Body of the Federal States "Measuring Instruments" of the Metrology and Verification Authorities of the Federal States) is a member of the DAR. KL-MESS has its seat at the Landesamt für Meß- und Eichwesen in Thuringia. KL-MESS performs accreditations in the field of metrology in the mandatory area, namely for the testing of gas, water, electricity and heat meters. This body was set up to coordinate and to concentrate the work of the various metrology and verification authorities "Eichdirektionen". Within the DAR KL-MESS takes on the seat and the vote of the authorities "Eichämter". In future all accreditations based on the activities of the various metrology and verification authorities "Eichämter" will be granted by KL-MESS.

Accreditation body DAU GmbH

The state of the implementation of the "Environmental Management and Audit Scheme Regulation" (EMAS) has been presented within the DAR-Committee "Cooperation between mandatory and voluntary area" as well as the Approval, Supervising and Registration System for the Implementation of EMAS founded at the DAU GmbH (German Association for Accreditation and Approval of Environmental Auditors). This system has been set up by consensus between the Government (BMU - German Federal Ministry for Environmental Affairs), the German industry (BDI - Federation of German Industry) and the IHK (Chamber of Commerce). DAU GmbH is a limited company the shareholders of which are among others: BDI, several member associations of the BDI, DIHT, Central Association of the German Trade. The DAU GmbH shall be responsible for the approval of the environmental auditors mentioned in the EMAS. The Federal law for the implementation of EMAS has not yet been put into force. Therefore temporary solutions are applied. It is planned that the Land Environment Agencies carry out their approvals on the basis of the tests performed by the DAU GmbH. It is expected to pass a respective Federal law in autumn 1995 that will comprise the final regulation of this procedure.

Accreditation body of the States for testing laboratories that execute the hazardous substances law (AKMP)

The accreditation body of the states for testing laboratories that execute the hazardous substances law (AKMP) has been set up in July 1994. Its basis is the "Agreement on the Central Body of the States for Safe Technology and the Accreditation Body of the States for Testing Laboratories that Execute the Hazardous Substances Law" of 16/17 December 1993. The task of AKMP is to accredit testing laboratories which - on behalf of employers - undertake investigations, tests and assessments of airborne concentrations of hazardous substances at work places. Since August 1995 AKMP is operating in the DAR-Committee AZ

News from standardisation

The **EN 45 003** standard "Accreditation Systems for Calibration and Testing Laboratories, General Requirements for Operation and Recognition" (identical in wording with the ISO/IEC Guide 58:1993) has been reviewed in rotation and adopted in May 1995. Concerning the assessment of laboratories, it comprises all requirements that were laid down in the EN 45 002 until now.

The **EN 45 002** standard "General Criteria for the Assessment of Testing Laboratories" is still valid and may be applied, e.g. by certification bodies or other bodies that subcontract testing tasks and for this purpose have to perform an assessment.

The **EN 45 010** standard "General Criteria for the Assessment and Accreditation of Certification/ Registration Bodies" (identical in wording with ISO/CASCO 226/ Rev. 2 and the future ISO/IEC-

Guide 61) and the reviewed **EN 45 012** standard "General Criteria for Bodies Assessing and Certifying Quality Systems" (identical in wording with ISO/CASCO 227/ Rev. 2 and the future ISO/IEC-Guide 62) will be adopted soon.

The **EN 45 011** standard "General Criteria for Bodies Certifying Products" (identical in wording with ISO/CASCO 228/ Rev. 2) is being reviewed and is now in the process to be adopted.

The **EN 45 001** standard is being reviewed and afterwards shall be identical in wording with ISO/IEC Guide 25 which is being reviewed, too. In June 1996 the first draft of the new ISO Guide 25 shall be submitted to ISO/CASCO.

Further information: Subdepartmental Section S. 42

Workshop on accreditation questions, organised by the EU Commission, held in Athens, on 18./19.09.95

This Workshop has been organised by the Commission of the EU DG III with the aim to introduce several accreditation systems and to give support to the Greece Government in establishing an accreditation system. From the point of view of the European Commission Mr. McMillan presented general principles for national accreditation systems:

- The accreditation is the independent, technical, non-profit making "Civil Arm" of the government.
- Accreditation is a service offered to the industry.
- According to the Commission of the EU one accreditation system per member state should exist. It shall make its work transparent.
- The national accreditation systems shall cooperate in EAL and EAC.
- On the basis of evaluation procedures (mutual surveillance visits) Multilateral Agreements should be concluded between the accreditation systems in order to harmonise the accreditations in the member states and to promote the mutual recognition of test results and certificates.

The presentation of the various accreditation bodies showed the following tendency:

- The structures of the accreditation systems reflect the national requirements and conditions.
- In several countries the accreditation activities are being concentrated by merging the already existing accreditation bodies:
 - United Kingdom: NAMAS + NACCB ⇒ UKAS
 - The Netherlands: NKO/STERIN/STERLAB + RvC ⇒ RvA
 - France: COFRAC unites under a recently founded accreditation body several sectors for the accreditation of laboratories, inspection bodies, certification bodies and Environmental Management Audit Schemes.
- All accreditation systems get financial support from their governments, associations of industry a.o.
- There are as well private, non-profit making accreditation bodies as purely governmental bodies (mostly departments of the ministries for industry).
- Most of the accreditation bodies do not only carry out accreditations of testing and calibration laboratories and of certification bodies, but also GLP recognition and the tasks connected with the Environmental Management Audit Scheme Regulation.

During the discussion Mr. McMillan as a representative of the European Commission as well as the majority of the accreditation bodies emphasised that only those accreditation bodies which are ready to open their way of working and to be evaluated on the basis of a commonly accepted evaluation procedure, establish confidence in their work towards the other national accreditation bodies and therewith create a basis for a mutual recognition.

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