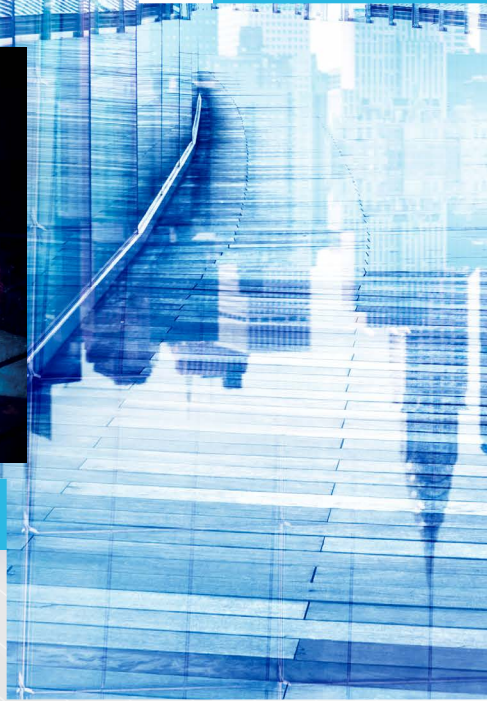




Accredited Once, Accepted Everywhere



**International
Accreditation Forum
Multilateral Recognition
Arrangement (MLA)**

www.iaf.nu

**MLA
Annual Report
2020**

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IAF MLA Annual Report 2020

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The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and its Accreditation Body (AB) members invest significant effort and resources to maintain the integrity and consistency of the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) through a peer evaluation process. This report sets out the detailed activities that are carried out as part of the peer evaluation process, to ensure that regulators, specifiers, and businesses can have confidence in the MLA.



The IAF MLA

The purpose of the IAF MLA is to provide users in economies with Accreditation Bodies that are IAF MLA signatories with the assurance that equivalent Certification and Validation/Verification Bodies in other economies operate to the same standards as those in their own economies for certificates and statements in the fields of:



Management Systems Certification



Product Certification
(including processes and services)



Personnel Certification



Validation and Verification

Accreditations granted by IAF MLA AB signatories are recognised worldwide based on their equivalent accreditation programmes, therefore reducing costs and adding value to industry and consumers.

The MLA contributes to the facilitation of world trade by eliminating technical barriers. IAF works to find the most effective way of achieving a single system to meet the objective of “Accredited once, accepted everywhere”.



The IAF MLA Mark



**Accreditation
Body Logo**

The IAF MLA Mark can be used by ABs to demonstrate their status as a signatory to the IAF MLA. If approved by the AB, accredited Certification Bodies (CBs) and Validation/Verification Bodies (VVBs) can also use the IAF Mark in combination with the accreditation symbol on their certificates, provided that the certificates are issued under a granted IAF MLA scope.

The IAF MLA Mark demonstrates that the certificate has been issued by a CB or VVB that is accredited by an IAF MLA signatory and is thus traceable to the highest authority. It is an assurance that the certificate and the issuing body are of a high standard of competence and may be trusted, as they are recognised as complying with the same set of standards at the global level.

Scope of the IAF MLA

The IAF MLA is composed of IAF MLA main scopes and corresponding IAF MLA sub-scopes.

Certificates issued on the basis of an IAF MLA main scope are considered "equally reliable" because the conformity assessment bodies conform to the same standards.

Certificates issued on the basis of an IAF MLA sub-scope are considered 'equivalent' as they are based on the same IAF endorsed standards or sector schemes. Sub-scopes are divided into two categories (Level 4 and Level 5). Level 4 sub-scopes are IAF endorsed normative documents used by ABs in conjunction with main scope documents to assess a CB's competence in a specific sector. Level 5 sub-scopes are IAF endorsed normative documents used by CBs.

The IAF MLA currently consists of the following scopes:

(31 March 2021)

Level 1	ISO/IEC 17011 V2017, V2004												
Level 2	Product Certification	Management Systems Certification										Person Certification	Validation and Verification
Level 3	ISO/IEC 17065: 2012	ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015									ISO/IEC 17024: 2012	ISO/IEC 14065: 2013	ISO/IEC 17029: 2019
Level 4	GLOBAL G.A.P IFA General Regulations V4	ISO/TS 22003:2013	ISO/TS 22003:2013 FAMI-Qs Rules for certification Bodies Version 8	ISO/IEC 17021-3 :2017	ISO/IEC 17021-2 :2016	ISO/IEC 27006 :2015	ISO 50003: 2014	ISO/IEC TS 17021-10: 2018	ISO/TS 22003:2013 FSSC 22000 V5 Scheme Part 3 – Requirements for the Certification Process FSSC 22000 V5 Scheme Part 4 – Requirements for Certification Bodies	ICAO CORSIA ETM-Volume IV V1, ISO 14064-3:2006; ISO 14066:2011			
Level 5	GLOBAL G.A.P IFA Control Points and Compliance Criteria V4	ISO 22000: 2018, 2005 (FSMS)	FAMI-Qs Certification Scheme Code Version 6	ISO 9001: 2015 (QMS)	ISO 14001: 2015 (EMS)	ISO/IEC 27001: 2013 (ISMS)	ISO 13485: 2016, (MDMS)	ISO 50001: 2018, 2011 (EnMs)	ISO 45001: 2018 (OH&SMS)	FSSC 22000 V5 Scheme Part 2 – Requirements for organizations to be audited	IPC-PL-11-006	ICAO CORSIA SARPs - Annex 16 Volume IV v1	

- Level 1 is the endorsed normative document for Accreditation Bodies
- Level 2 and 3 are the main-scopes consisting of accreditation programs and endorsed normative documents
- Level 4 and 5 are the sub-scopes consisting of applicable documents and endorsed normative documents

As a supplement, IAF has developed a fast-track sub-scope evaluation process based on the evaluation of the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) benchmarking process of GFSI sector schemes. A corresponding Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between IAF and GFSI was signed to facilitate the acceptance of GFSI benchmarked schemes as IAF MLA sub-scopes.

Signatories to the IAF MLA

The IAF MLA has been structured to build on existing and developing regional MLAs established around the world. Therefore, IAF has formally recognised the MLA programs of five Regional Accreditation Groups (RAGs):



ABs recognized under these Regional MLAs may apply to IAF for recognition under the IAF MLA on the basis of the acceptance of the mutual recognition arrangements established within these organisations.

Membership of the IAF MLA is facilitated by membership in the recognised RAGs' MLAs (AFRAC, APAC, ARAC, EA or IAAC) for recognised programs. IAF members who are also signatories of these regional MLAs can be accepted into the IAF MLA for recognised programs.

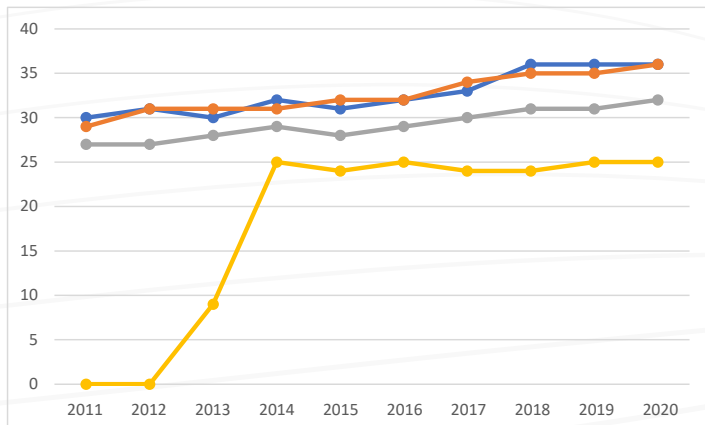
Originally, unaffiliated ABs applied directly to IAF to become an IAF MLA signatory. Since the end of 2018, there have been no unaffiliated IAF Member accreditation bodies as all IAF AB members are now also members of a RAG.



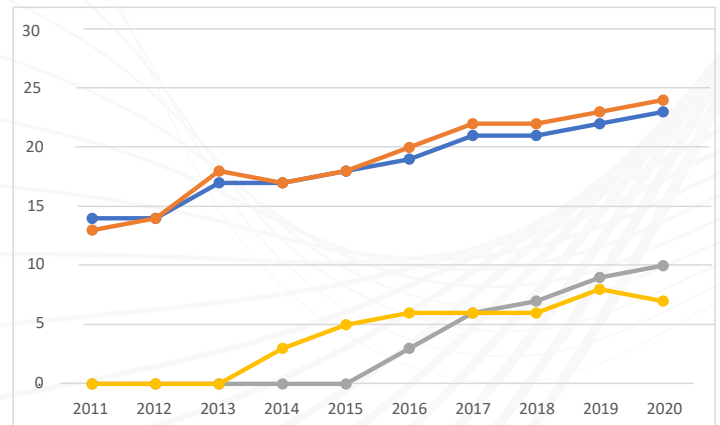
Another RAG has been working on establishing their MLA. In recognition of this, the Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) has been included in the statistics that follow.

The number of signatories to the IAF MLA has grown in recent years, providing confidence to businesses and regulators in a greater number of economies. A full list of IAF MLA signatories is available in IAF MLA MC 17 and new IAF MLA signatories and scope extensions, as noted during the 2020 IAF General Assembly, are referenced in Annex 1 of this report. The graphs below show the evolution of the number of signatories at the regional level for different MLA scopes.

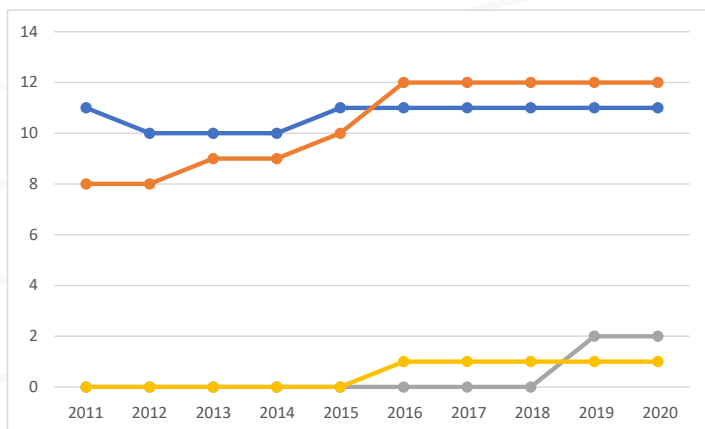
- Number of signatories for Certification of Management Systems
- Number of signatories for Certification of Products, Processes and Services
- Number of signatories for Certification of Persons
- Number of signatories for Validation/Verification



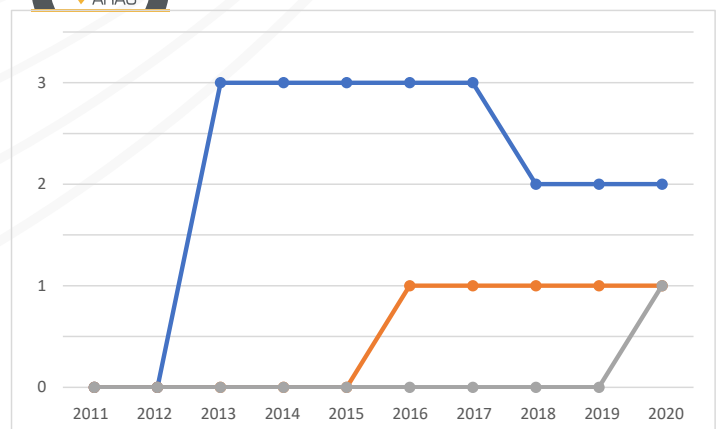
European co-operation for Accreditation



Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation



Inter American Accreditation Cooperation



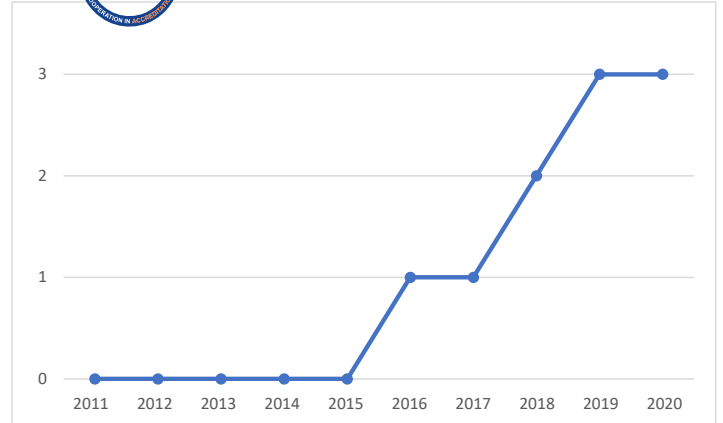
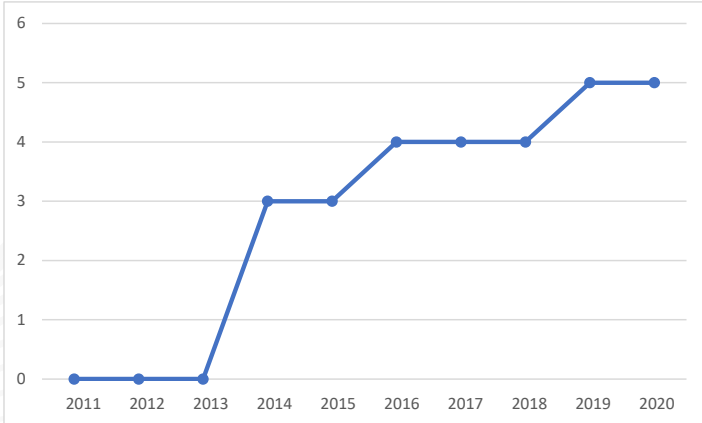
Arab Accreditation Cooperation

● Number of signatories for Certification of Management Systems

● Number of signatories for Certification of Persons

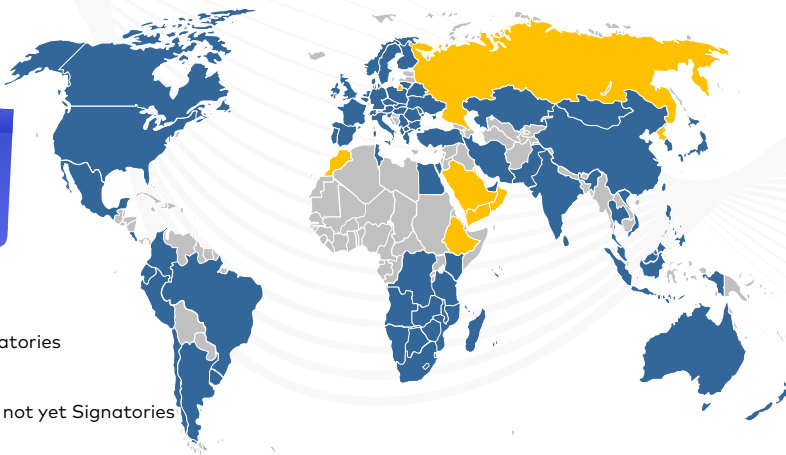
● Number of signatories for Certification of Products, Processes and Services

● Number of signatories for Validation/Verification



African Accreditation Cooperation

Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation



- IAF MLA Signatories
- IAF Members not yet Signatories

Not all signatories to Regional MLAs have applied to become a signatory of the IAF MLA.

In 2020, the IAF MLA comprised five recognized RAGs and **74** ABs, representing a total of **82** economies.

New Applicants

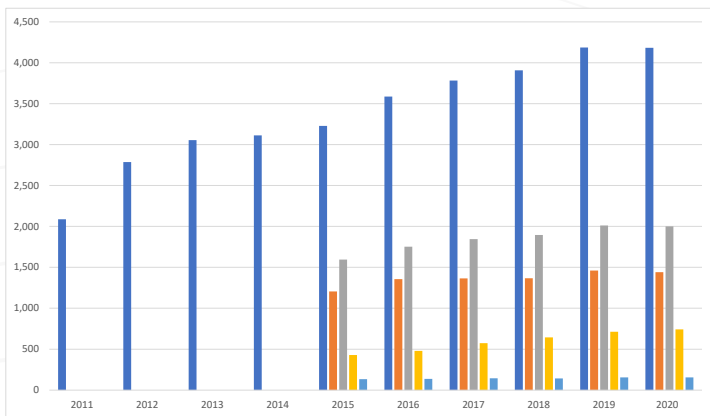
Further growth in the number of IAF MLA signatories is expected in the future as 6 applications from ABs were received in 2020:



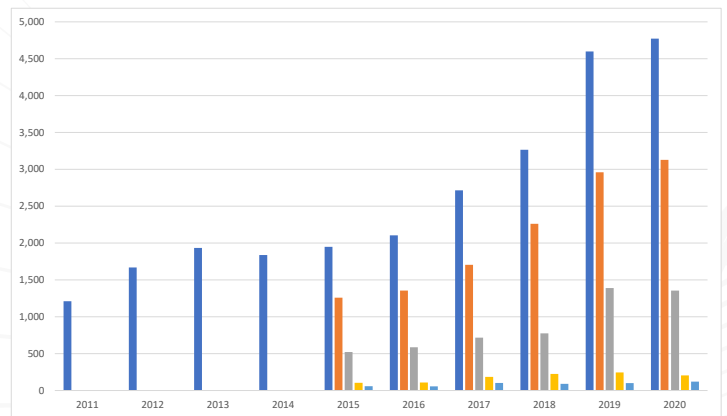
Global Growth

In addition to the growth in signatories to the IAF MLA, there has been a corresponding growth in the number of accredited CBs.

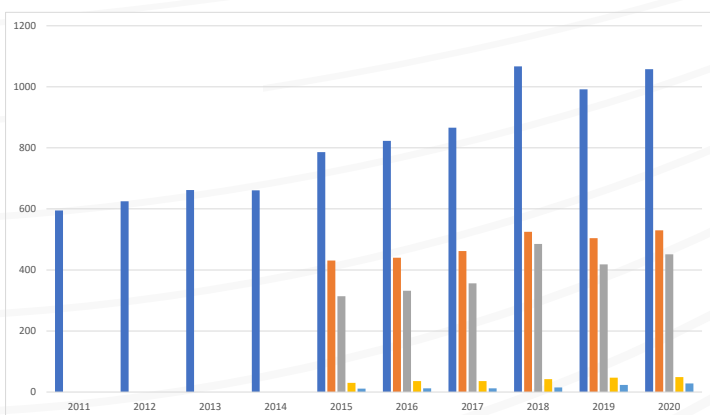
- Number of accredited CBs
- Number of Person CBs
- Number of Management System CBs
- Number of accredited Validation/Verification Bodies
- Number of Product CBs



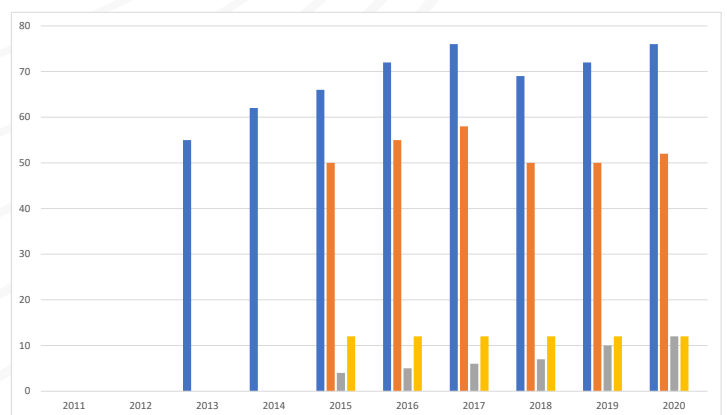
European co-operation for Accreditation



Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation



Inter American Accreditation Cooperation



Arab Accreditation Cooperation

Global Growth

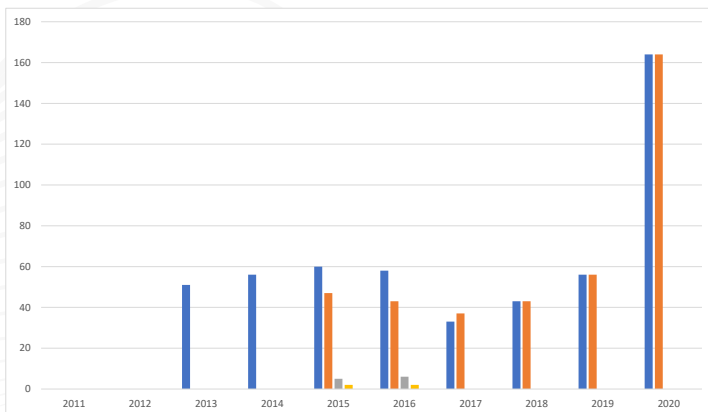
Number of accredited CBs

Number of Person CBs

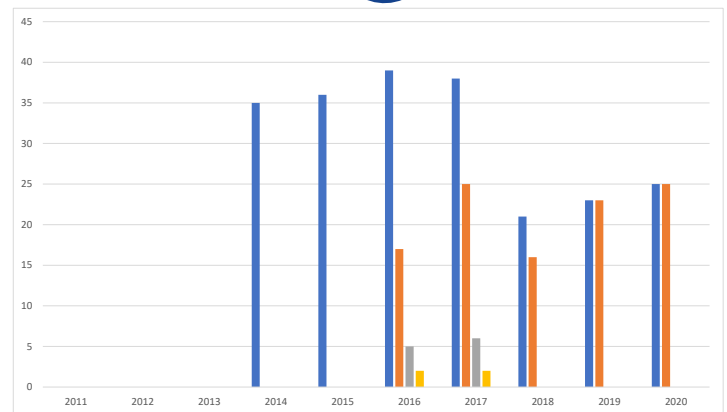
Number of Management System CBs

Number of accredited Validation/Verification Bodies

Number of Product CBs



African Accreditation Cooperation



Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation

A total of **10,400** CBs and V&Vs are currently accredited, an increase of **2%** since 2019.



These numbers reflect the total number of sub-scopes covered by accredited CABs in the RAGs, including where a CAB is accredited for more than one sub-scope.

Peer Evaluation Process

ABs are admitted to the IAF MLA only after a stringent evaluation of their operations by a peer evaluation team that is charged to ensure that the applicant complies fully with both the international standards and IAF requirements. IAF, and its AB members, invest significant costs and

resources to ensure and maintain the integrity of the MLA through robust peer evaluations. The MLA and its signatories are under constant review. The peer evaluation process is ongoing and extensive, covering all economies in a regular programme.

The following table provides an overview of the evaluations conducted in 2020:

	IAF	EA	APAC	IAAC	ARAC	AFRAC	SADCA
Decisions on Evaluations	1	31★	9	7★★	1	0	3
Extraordinary Evaluations	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Total Person-Days of Evaluation Effort	45	353	614	235	10	0	7

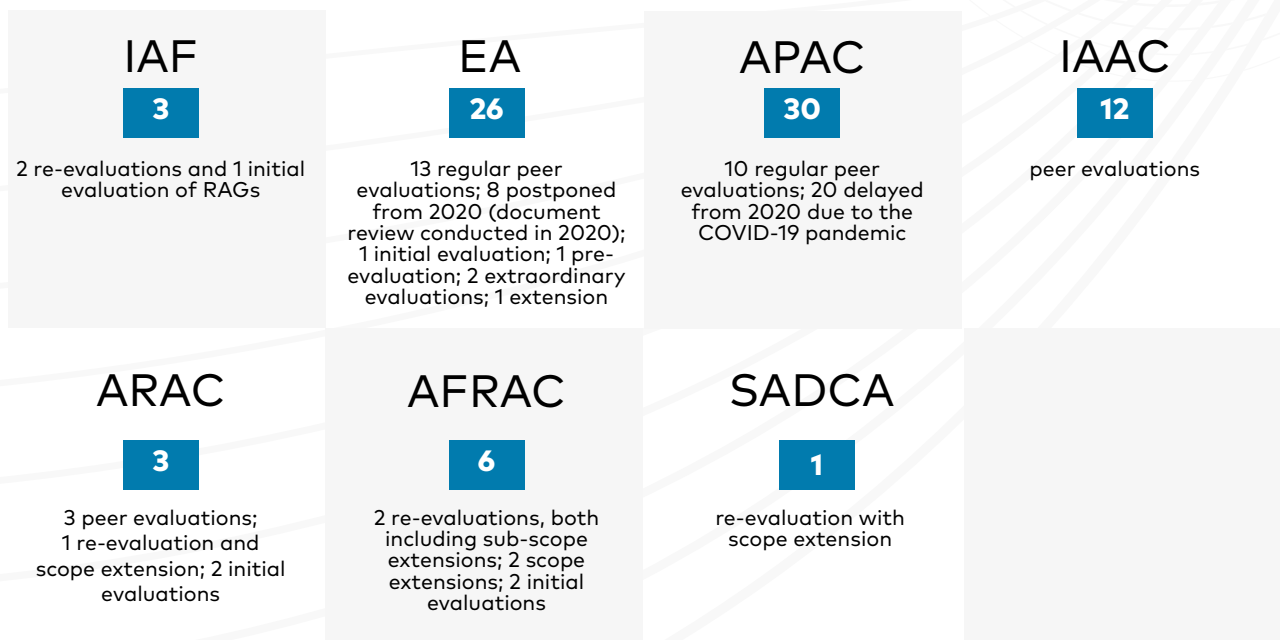


8 of the 31 reports related to transition to ISO/IEC 17011:2017



4 of the 7 reports related to transition to ISO/IEC 17011:2017

In addition, the following number of peer evaluations are in progress or planned for 2021:



Expanding the Scope of the IAF MLA

The IAF MLA is under constant review to better serve the needs of stakeholders. IAF conducted a number of evaluations of private sector schemes to eventually become IAF MLA sub-scopes.



The RAGs extended their scopes to broaden the reach and value of the IAF MLA. Regional developments that took place in 2020 include:



EA was recognised for the IAF MLA scope extension to ISO/IEC TS 17021-10 and ISO 45001, which sets out the requirements with guidance for use for occupational health and safety (OH&S) management systems, on 05 February 2020. The next re-evaluation of EA by IAF/ILAC is scheduled to begin no later than July 2022.



APAC Members agreed to expand the APAC MRA to include the following new sub-scopes: Business Continuity Management Systems (BCMS) certification and ICAO-CORSIA validation and verification. APAC joined the IAF MLA for the management system certification sub-scopes of Quality and Safety System for Specialty Feed Ingredients (FAMI-QS) and Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OHSMS), and for the person certification sub-scope of IPC Management System Auditors. The next re-evaluation of APAC by IAF/ILAC is scheduled to begin no later than June 2021.



IAAC was recognised for the IAF MLA scope extension to ISO/IEC TS 17021-10 and ISO 45001, setting out the requirements with guidance for use for occupational health and safety (OH&S) management systems, as of 27 February 2020. The next re-evaluation of IAAC by IAF/ILAC is scheduled to begin no later than September 2021.



ARAC currently operates in the MLA scopes: Quality Management Systems (QMS), Environmental Management Systems (EMS), Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS), and Product and Personnel Certification.



The AFRAC MRA was extended to include the Management System Certification sub-scope ISO/IEC 17021-10 OH&SMS (ISO 45001) following the approval of 3 AFRAC signatories in this sub-scope.

AFRAC's recognition for Level 4 Sub-Scope extensions: ISO 50003 and ISO/IEC TS 17021-10; and Level 5 Sub-Scope extensions: ISO 50001 (EnMS) and ISO 45001 (OH&SMS) was approved by IAF.

AFRAC has applied to IAF for scope extension for Product Certification and Certification of Persons.



The SADCA MRA was extended to include Certification to ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 and ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 in the sub-scope of QMS (ISO 9001:2015), following the approval of SADCA's 3 signatory members to this sub-scope.

SADCA has applied to IAF for recognition as a Regional Accreditation Group. The initial evaluation of SADCA by IAF/ILAC will be conducted in 2021.

MLA Monitoring and Improvement Activities

IAF is committed to monitoring and reviewing the MLA to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of stakeholders. In addition to consulting widely with stakeholders, IAF carries out a number of programmes and activities to continuously improve the value and effectiveness of the MLA.



Complaints provide a valuable mechanism for receiving feedback relating to the effectiveness of the MLA. This often confirms that the MLA is working effectively and that the process in place is suitably robust. It can also provide information that can be used to improve areas of the MLA.

The following numbers of complaints were raised during this period:

IAF

- 2** new direct complaints received and remained open on 31 December 2020
- 2** referred to RAGs which remained open on 31 December 2020; 2 from previous years closed in 2020
- 6** referred to ABs and scheme owners

EA

- 3** new complaints received, 3 complaints (including cases opened before 2020) processed and 3 complaints (including cases opened before 2020) closed in 2020 ; 1 complaint remained open on 31 December 2020
- 8** new expressions of dissatisfaction received, 8 (including cases opened before 2020) processed and 7 (including cases opened before 2020) closed during 2020 ; 1 expression of dissatisfaction remained open on 31 December 2020
- 1** new appeal received in 2020, processed and remained open on 31 December 2020

APAC

- 3** complaints received and remained open on 31 December 2020

IAAC

- 1** appeal was received and closed in 2020 ; 2 complaints were received and closed in 2020

ARAC

- 1** complaint received and closed in 2020

AFRAC & SADCA

0



Following the declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic and the imposition of social distancing and travel restrictions, IAF immediately began developing resources in response, working closely with stakeholders to address their needs. In collaboration with ILAC and the Regional Accreditation Groups, a framework of measures was developed to allow assessments and peer evaluations to be performed remotely, guaranteeing the maintenance of a high level of competence and harmonization.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Resources published in 2020 include:

- an [IAF Statement on COVID-19](#), which highlights relevant IAF documents on extraordinary events and the use of information and communications technology in audits and assessments;
- a series of [COVID-19 FAQs](#) endorsed at the 2020 IAF General Assembly, which helps certification-based stakeholders (certified clients, certification bodies, accreditation bodies, scheme owners and regulators) maintain a harmonized approach; and
- an [IAF-ILAC Statement re Delayed Evaluations - March 2020](#), which provides guidelines that ensured the consistent transition of all IAF MLA and ILAC MRA signatories to the latest version of ISO/IEC 17011.

A [COVID-19 hub](#) on the IAF website contains links to all current resources.

The IAF MLA Management Committee and ILAC Arrangement Management Committee continued meeting remotely following the imposition of travel restrictions. Additionally, IAF collaborated with a number of other international organizations to share experiences with working remotely and highlight the role of conformity assessment in supporting health and safety during the pandemic, including UNIDO, OECD, ISO/CASCO and GFSI.



Improvement Activities

IAF consults widely with stakeholders in developing accreditation programs, and it works to deliver the best standard of conformity assessment in order to provide stakeholders with a value added outcome.

The following activities were carried out to improve the MLA in 2020:



Collaboration with ILAC is continually improving to a point where only IAF/ILAC Joint Management Committee meetings are held and there are no separate meetings of the IAF MLA Management Committee and the ILAC AMC. This provides a better understanding of the few different requirements and the many commonalities in the MLA area between the two organisations. Changes to the IAF membership on the Joint Management Committee were implemented on 01 January 2021 to achieve more balanced representation from both organisations.



- The EA peer evaluation process is under continuous review. Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 reinforces the role of EA and its peer evaluation role in both voluntary and regulated sectors. EA supports and harmonizes the implementation of stringent rules to achieve consistency throughout Europe, as well as greater transparency and acceptability to all, including national authorities. The peer evaluation process is also further strengthened to accommodate the specific needs in regulatory fields in order to reassure regulators and stakeholders that ABs' technical competence is thoroughly assessed.
- The Multilateral Agreement Council (MAC) project to re-engineer the peer evaluation system, one of the key actions of the EA Strategy 2025, continued to progress in 2020 and is nearing its goal.
- In the beginning of 2020, the EA MAC Management Group (MG) consolidated the following papers, based on the comments received from MAC members:
 - ◇ MAC Secretariat needed competences for undertaking further activities under its umbrella;
 - ◇ Principles related to witnessing carried out in advance of the head office evaluation;
 - ◇ Role of Task Force Group (TFG) vs Secretariat in the report review; and
 - ◇ Criteria to be fulfilled by the MAC members.

The principles contained in those papers were endorsed by the MAC, which agreed to include them in the next revision of EA-2/02: EA Procedure for the Evaluation of a National Accreditation Body (NAB).

- The MAC MG also prepared a paper, commented on by MAC members, on a fast-track consulting mechanism with the technical infrastructure (i.e. technical committees) needed in certain technically challenging circumstances.

- An EA MAC MG TFG concluded a draft document to support the use of a risk-based approach when designing peer evaluations. Following the EA MAC MG's consideration of important areas to test the provisions set out in the document, 4 Team Leaders were invited to perform a validation exercise for recent cases where the standard document review has already been performed and the team and their specific mandates were established. The outcome of the validation exercise will be reviewed by the MAC MG in 2021.
- Further discussions will be held on the few topics not yet considered.

APAC

- In 2020, APAC approved APAC MRA-009 Performing Remote Evaluations – Requirements and Guidance, which is being implemented to enable APAC evaluations to continue despite the inability to travel due to the COVID-19 travel restrictions.

IAAC

- The IAAC approved its five-year strategic plan, which includes actions to promote the IAAC MLA, IAF MLA and ILAC MRA among members and relevant stakeholders in the region. The IAAC MLA procedures and documents were reviewed and changed to allow IAAC to carry out remote peer evaluations during the COVID-19 pandemic.



- An accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies and ARAC Stakeholders Community Awareness Workshop was conducted on 26 February 2020 in Amman, Jordan, with the participation of the Jordanian Ministry of Industry and Trade and more than 70 participants from the CBs and regulatory authorities in Jordan. During this workshop, the participants stressed the role that ARAC plays in the development of the accreditation and conformity assessment infrastructure in Jordan. The objective of the workshop was to provide stakeholders in Jordan with a better understanding of the value of accreditation and accredited services, and in particular, to encourage regulators to recognize and accept accredited conformity assessment results covered under the IAF MLA.
- Within the framework of the cooperation between ARAC and Arab Food Safety Initiative for Trade Facilitation [SAFE], and on the occasion of World Food Safety Day on 07 June 2020 under the theme "Food safety, everyone's business" and World Accreditation Day on 09 June 2020 focusing on how accreditation supports food safety, ARAC and SAFE organized the Arab Accreditation and Food Safety Week [AAFSW] during the period 06-10 June 2020 under the theme "Together towards enhancing the accreditation and food safety infrastructure to protect the consumer in the Arab region". Several online activities held during the AAFSW highlighted ways to further develop the infrastructure for accreditation and food safety in the Arab region and its pivotal role in protecting the Arab consumer. In addition, capacity-building activities were implemented to strengthen the ARAC and SAFE members' competencies.

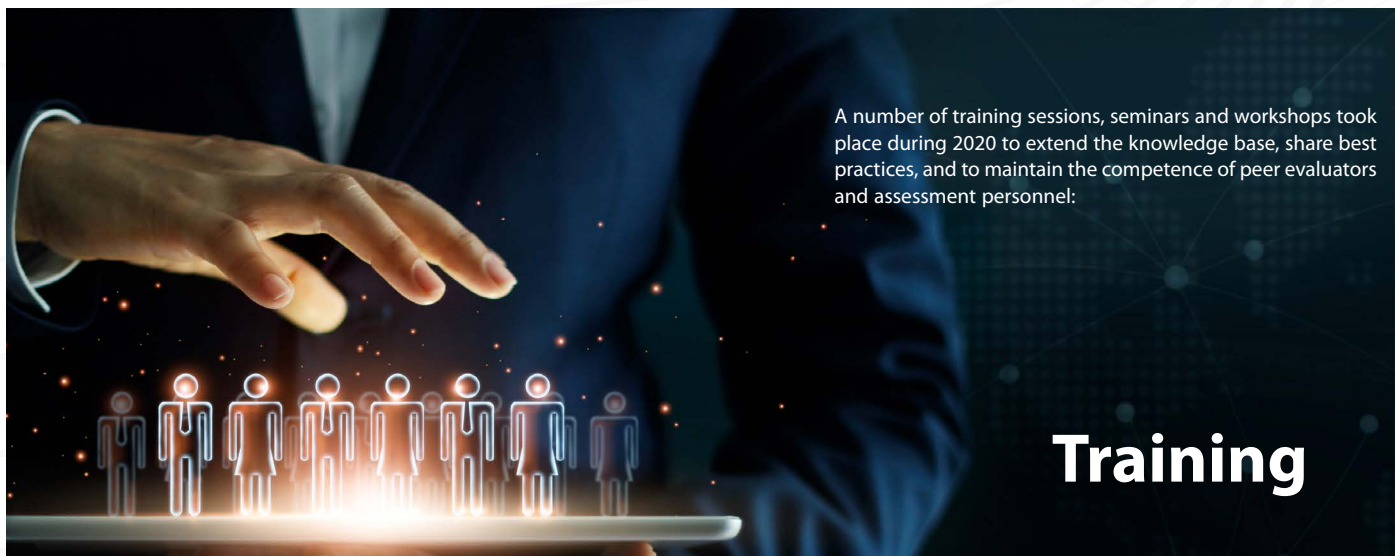


- Due to the pandemic, AFRAC successfully held its mid-term and General Assembly meetings via videoconference in June and September 2020, respectively
- AFRAC's AB members shared experiences in coping with COVID-19 during the General Assembly meeting in September 2020, which was very informative and fed into the development of the AFRAC document

- on remote assessments, to allow evaluations to continue during the COVID-19 pandemic
- The new and improved AFRAC website was successfully launched in November 2020. It includes various on-line capabilities such as voting, meeting registrations, a complaints/feedback/appeals mechanism, and committee members' secure access to meeting documents, minutes, resolutions, documents posted for comment periods, etc.
- AFRAC continues to promote IAF and the acceptance of the MLA through influencing the relevant Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) requirements and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) requirements. As such, AFRAC continues to participate in the finalisation of the African Quality Policy as well as the formulation of the African SPS policy. These policies recognise the role of accredited CBs in support of regional trade



- Due to the pandemic, SADCA successfully held its Mid-Term and General Assembly meetings via videoconference in August and September 2020, respectively
- SADCA applied to IAF for recognition as a RAG. This international recognition will be a key milestone in enabling full integration of the South African Development Community (SADC) region into the world trading system as it will enhance regional and global market access, hence enabling the acceleration of economic growth within the SADC region
- SADCA continues to promote the acceptance of accredited conformity assessment results to underpin the SADC regulatory requirements. As part of the SADC Standardisation, Quality assurance, Accreditation and Metrology (SQAM), SADCA provided input to the standards, metrology and the SADC regulatory forum on matters of accreditation and the mutual recognition of conformity assessment results



EA

- In 2020, two refresher peer evaluator training sessions were organized remotely:
 - ◇ The first session held on 17-18 November 2020 was dedicated to testing and calibration. The trainers were Tuija Sinervo (FINAS) for the testing group, Ilan Landesman (ISRAC) for the calibration group and Daniela Ionescu, EA MAC Secretary, for the general aspects related to the peer-evaluation process. Nearly 30 participants from EA NABs discussed harmonisation issues for clauses of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 and ISO/IEC 17025:2017 before gathering into two specific workshops for testing or calibration
 - ◇ The second refresher training session, held on 15-16 December 2020, focused on inspection and certification of products. The trainers were Ian Ronsley (UKAS) for the product certification group, Gokhan Birbil (TURKAK) for the inspection group and Daniela Ionescu for the aspects related to the peer-evaluation process. 26 participants from EA NABs discussed harmonisation issues for clauses of the ISO/IEC 17011:2017 before being split into two specific workshops for inspection or certification of

products

- A newcomer training session scheduled on 09-11 December 2020 was cancelled because it was agreed that it is inappropriate to train and approve new evaluators remotely. This session is postponed until 21-23 June 2021, provided that it can be held as a face-to-face training session.
- Other training sessions:
 - ◇ Before the COVID-19 outbreak, the second session (first session in December 2019) of a train-the-trainer workshop on ISO/IEC 17029: Conformity Assessment -- General requirements for bodies performing validation and verification activities was hosted on 29 January 2020, near Paris by the EA Secretariat. 13 representatives from EA NABs participated in this additional workshop. The trainers were Nathalie Savéant (COFRAC, France) and Stefanie Vehring (VdTÜV, Germany).
 - ◇ A train-the-trainer workshop jointly organised on 07 October 2020 by the EA Harmonisation (HHC) and Certification (CC) Committees was dedicated to the evaluation of schemes. A morning session focused on revised EA-1/22: Procedure and Criteria for the Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes by EA Accreditation Body Members, whereas an afternoon session considered a document developed by the EA CC on selection of standards between ISO/IEC 17021-1 and ISO/IEC 17065. Each half-day session included a plenary introduction and a breakout session, followed by feedback from the groups and a final conclusion. Some 80 persons from EA NABs' staff in charge of sector schemes and representatives from EA Recognised Stakeholders, such as Bioenergy Europe, the Independent International Organisation for Certification (IIOC), the International Certification Network IQNet and NB-Rail, took part in this remote training. The trainers were Gabriel Zrenner (HHC Chair), Sjaak Hendriks (HHC Vice-Chair), Kevin Belson (CC Chair) and Casper van Erp (RVA, CC WG Environment convener).
 - ◇ Another online training session on the revised EA-2/17: EA Document on Accreditation for Notification Purposes was organised by the HHC on 03 December 2020. This training session enabled nearly 80 participants from EA NABs and TIC Council, the Association of the global independent Testing, Inspection and Certification (TIC) industry, to gain familiarity with the content of the new version of EA-2/17, including the concept of the preferred standard and its usage, as well as to be able to introduce the new document in their respective NAB including informing their colleagues and assessors. The trainers were Gabriel Zrenner, Leopoldo Cortez (IPAC, Portugal), Sjaak Hendriks (RvA, Netherlands), Yannick Le Tallec (Group of Notified Bodies regarding the Construction Products Regulation), Maria Papatzikou (ESYD, Greece) and Hélène Tagzout (COFRAC, France), who led several plenary introductions, including a presentation of the Accreditation for Notification (AfN) project, and concrete group exercises in breakout sessions.
 - ◇ An EA Workshop on the Accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) in the Regulated Railway Sector was also provided on 08 December 2020 to EA members and stakeholders of the EA Certification and Inspection Committees. Several speakers from the European Commission, ERA (EU Agency for Railways), NB-Rail and EA made presentations about assessment of CABs in the railway sector, accreditation of Notified Bodies regarding the Interoperability Directive (IOD), and accreditation of CSM (Regulation on the common safety method for risk evaluation and assessment) assessment bodies, accreditation and recognition of ECM (Regulation on a system of certification of entities in charge of maintenance for freight wagons) certification bodies under Regulation EU 779/2019. The EA Executive Secretary introduced and concluded the workshop, which gathered 47 participants from EA NABs and Recognised Stakeholders such as CEN/CENELEC, IIOC, IQNet and TIC Council.
 - ◇ EA organised the first Virtual Conference on Accreditation in light of Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence and Digitalisation on 26 November 2020. Nearly 300 participants could listen to four high-profile speakers from the European Union Agency for Cybersecurity (ENISA), the European Commission DG CONNECT, DNV GL Business Assurance and UKAS, the UK NAB, sharing the state of play and the latest developments in the areas of cybersecurity and artificial intelligence, as well as the impact of digitalisation on conformity assessment and accreditation.

APAC

- During 2020, APAC delivered five peer evaluator training activities, including three on remote evaluation and one on evaluation for the scope of product certification. In addition, APAC undertook four online training courses on assessment for person certification (ISO/IEC 17024), calibration laboratories and measurement uncertainty (ISO/IEC 17025), energy management system (EnMS) certification and food safety management system (FSMS) certification.

IAAC

- IAAC launched its first IAAC Peer Evaluators Virtual Forum on 16 July 2020. 118 IAAC Peer Evaluators participated in the virtual meeting, which included an explanation of the proposed changes to the IAAC peer evaluation procedure, performing remote peer evaluations and accreditation of flexible scopes. A new Guide for Remote Peer Evaluations was reviewed. The Virtual Forum is a new way for IAAC to hold regular meetings with peer evaluators with the aim of harmonizing practices and keeping them updated on document changes and MLA developments.
- IAAC held its second Peer Evaluators Virtual Forum on 05 October 2020. 116 IAAC peer evaluators participated in the training session which addressed the Frequently Asked Questions on the implementation of ISO/IEC 17011 published by the IAF/ILAC Joint Working Group A-Series, a review of the approved MLA procedure to carry out remote peer evaluations, and a discussion on the guidance document to conduct remote peer evaluations. These virtual sessions allow peer evaluators to provide feedback and ask questions on the new procedures that are being implemented by IAAC.

ARAC

- Online Regional Workshop on how to get ready for ARAC peer evaluation and filling the new version of the self-assessment report IAF/ILAC A3-03/2020:
 - ◇ Within the framework of the implementation of the ARAC Capacity Building program and in order to support non-ARAC MLA signatory members to start their peer evaluation process, an online regional workshop was held on 21 and 22 July 2020 for the ARAC AB member representatives, including their quality managers, on how to get ready for an ARAC peer evaluation and filling out the new version of the self-assessment report IAF/ILAC A3-03/2020 "Template report for the peer evaluation of an Accreditation Body based on ISO/IEC 17011:2017".
 - ◇ The main objectives of this regional workshop were to:
 - » Provide updated information on the joint IAF/ILAC documents used for evaluations
 - » Provide an overview on the conditions and the needed documents to be prepared to apply to join the ARAC MLA
 - » Learn the essentials on the main sections of the latest version of IAF/ILAC A3 used for the application and peer evaluation process
 - » Provide participants with knowledge and skills to complete the template report on the performance of the accreditation body as part of the application documents for evaluation by ARAC
 - » Exchange experiences and knowledge through group discussions on useful lessons from previous practice.
- Establishment of ARAC E-learning platform:
 - ◇ Taking into consideration the COVID-19 outbreak, which reveals the benefits and need for the e-trainings, ARAC established its first e-learning platform by completing the materials of the first ARAC E-learning training course on new accreditation scheme development and risk based assessment approach for the Accreditation Bodies
 - ◇ The main objectives of this regional workshop were to:
 - » Review key aspects of risk management
 - » Recognize the risk based thinking in ISO/IEC 17011:2017 and the different accreditation standards
 - » Reach a common understanding of the expected outcome of the risk management process
 - » Review the possible tools to confirm the compliance of the Accreditation Body's ability to address risks and opportunities in its operation
 - » Describe the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 with the viewpoint of what has to be demonstrated as fulfilment of the Requirements by an Accreditation Body related to the establishment of new accreditation schemes
- Launch of ARAC new Brochure "Benefits of Joining the ARAC Multi-Lateral Recognition Arrangement ARAC MLA" and ARAC new website and IT platforms
 - ◇ ARAC Brochure on Benefits of Joining the ARAC MLA will contribute to promote the added value of signatory status of the ARAC MLA to ARAC members in comparison to other regional MLAs in order to continually review ARAC's level of leadership in accreditation globally to ensure it is commensurate with the importance of the region
- ARAC Peer Evaluators and MLA Group members' online workshop:
 - ◇ ARAC conducted its ARAC Peer Evaluators and MLA Group members workshop on 06 November 2020, which covered the following topics:
 - » Improvement area for the ARAC Peer Evaluation process: boost the experience of the peer evaluators with peer evaluation issues
 - » How to ensure a strong and also flexible peer-evaluation system to face the challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic
 - » The implementation of the new definition of the findings (NC, Comment) as stated by IAF/ILAC A3 and IAF/ILAC A1, especially how peer evaluators can evaluate the risk associated for each finding

AFRAC

AFRAC presented the following training courses in 2020:

- AFRAC Peer Evaluation training course in South Africa in February 2020, which included specific training on the requirements for Product Certification and Certification of Persons.
- Training on the revised AFRAC Peer Evaluators Guide and IAF/ILAC A3 via videoconference in August 2020.
- Marketing and Communication Basics of Social Media Workshop conducted on behalf of the AFRAC Marketing and Communication Committee in September 2020.

SADCA

SADCA evaluators and trainee evaluators participated in the following training courses presented by AFRAC:

- AFRAC Peer Evaluation training course in South Africa in February 2020, which included specific training on the requirements for Product Certification and Certification of Persons.
- Training on the revised AFRAC Peer Evaluators Guide and IAF/ILAC A3 via videoconference in August 2020.

Annex 1– New IAF MLA Signatories and Scope Extensions

IAF Resolution 2020-20 – Regional Accreditation Group IAF MLA Scope Extensions

The General Assembly noted the MLA scope extensions, since the 2019 General Assembly, of the following IAF Regional Accreditation Group members:



Sub-Scopes: Level 4: ISO 50003, ISO/IEC TS 17021-10;
Sub-Scopes: Level 5: ISO 50001, ISO 45001



Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/IEC TS 17021-10; Sub-Scope: Level 5: ISO 45001



Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/IEC TS 17021-10; Sub-Scopes: Level 5: FAMI-QS Certification Scheme, IPC-PL-11-006, ISO 45001



Sub-Scopes: Level 4: ISO 50003, ISO/IEC TS 17021-10; Sub-Scopes: Level 5: ISO 50001, ISO 45001

IAF Resolution 2020-21 – New AB IAF MLA Signatories

The General Assembly noted the admissions to the IAF MLA, since the 2019 General Assembly, of the following IAF Accreditation Body Members:

SADCAS Southern Africa (AFRAC)



Main Scope: Management Systems Certification – ISO/IEC 17021-1; Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/IEC 17021-3; Sub-Scope: Level 5: ISO 9001

IAF Resolution 2020-22 – AB IAF MLA Scope Extensions

The General Assembly noted the MLA scope extensions, since the 2019 General Assembly, of the following IAF Accreditation Body Members:

- EGAC Egypt, SANAS South Africa (AFRAC); TURKAK Turkey (EA); ONAC Colombia (IAAC) – Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO 50003, Sub-Scope: Level 5: ISO 50001
- AA Austria, ACCREDIA Italy, ATS Serbia, BSCA Belarus, CAI Czech Republic, DAkkS Germany, DANAK Denmark, DPA Albania, EA-BAS Bulgaria, ENAC Spain, ESYD Greece, FINAS Finland, IARNM Republic of North Macedonia, INAB Ireland, IPAC Portugal, LA Lithuania, NA Norway, NAAU Ukraine, NAH Hungary, PCA Poland, RENAR Romania, RvA Netherlands, SA Slovenia, SNAS Slovakia, SWEDAC Sweden, TUNAC Tunisia, TURKAK Turkey, UKAS United Kingdom (EA); ANAB United States of America, DSM Malaysia, EMA Mexico, HKAS Hong Kong, China, JAS-ANZ Australia & New Zealand, IAS United States of America, KAB Korea, NABCB India, NACI Iran, SAC Singapore, SCC Canada, TAF Chinese Taipei (APAC), EGAC Egypt, SADCAS Southern Africa, SANAS South Africa (AFRAC); ONAC Colombia, OUA Uruguay (IAAC) – Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/IEC TS 17021-10; Sub-Scope: Level 5: ISO 45001
- JAS-ANZ Australia & New Zealand, NABCB India (APAC) – Sub-Scope: Level 5: ISO 13485
- COFRAC France (EA), JAS-ANZ Australia & New Zealand (APAC) – Sub-Scope: Level 5: FAMI-QS Certification Scheme
- ECA Costa Rica (IAAC), MAURITAS Mauritius, SANAS South Africa (AFRAC) – Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/TS 22003; Sub-Scope: Level 5: ISO 22000
- IAS United States of America (APAC) – Sub-Scope: Level 5: IPC-PL-11-006

- SADCAS Southern Africa (AFRAC) – Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/IEC 17021-2, Sub-Scope: Level 5: ISO 14001
- EIAC United Arab Emirates (APAC) – Main Scope: Certification of Persons – ISO/IEC 17024
- TUNAC Tunisia (EA) – Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/IEC 27006, Sub-Scope: Level 5: ISO/IEC 27001
- CNAS China (APAC) – Main Scope: Validation and Verification – ISO 14065

IAF Secretariat

*Elva Nilsen
Box 1811
Chelsea, Quebec
CANADA - J9B 1A0*

*Phone: +1 (613) 454 8159
E-Mail : iaf@iaf.nu*



www.iaf.nu

