

International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)

Key features

Type of organisation: Trans-governmental network

Charter/Constitution: Articles of Association,
<http://ilac.org/publications-and-resources/ilac-rules-series/>

Membership:

- Nature: Laboratory and inspection accreditation bodies and stakeholder
- Number: 92 full members (ILAC MRA signatories), 6 regional cooperation bodies, 16 associate members, 12 affiliate members, and 26 stakeholders

Year of establishment: 1977

Headquarters: (Registered office) Utrecht (Netherlands)

Country offices: (Secretariat) Rhodes, NSW (Australia)

Secretariat staff: 6 (5.1 Full Time Equivalent) (2017)

Total budget: EUR 600 000 (2017)

Type of activity: Accreditation forum

Sectors of activity: Calibration, testing, medical testing, inspection, reference material producers and proficiency testing providers accreditation

Website: <http://ilac.org>

Members

Full Members are accreditation bodies that meet the requirements for Associates and have also been accepted as signatories to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA). Each accreditation body that is a signatory to the Arrangement undergoes a peer-review and agrees to abide by the MRA terms and conditions and by the ILAC evaluation procedures. This includes conformance with ISO/IEC 17011 and related ILAC guidance documents. ILAC currently has 92 Full Members (MRA Signatories) from 95 economies: Albania, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China (People's Republic of), Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Egypt, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyz Republic, Lesotho, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Chinese Taipei, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Ukraine, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Regional Cooperation Bodies consist of formally nominated representatives of the accreditation interests from at least four economies. Recognised Regional Cooperation Bodies are those whose regional Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA/MLA) have been successfully peer-evaluated by ILAC. ILAC currently has 6 Regional Cooperation Body members, and 3 of which are recognised Regional Cooperation Bodies.

Associates are accreditation bodies that have not been peer reviewed and are not yet signatories to the ILAC Arrangement. ILAC currently has 16 associates. Affiliates are accreditation bodies that are operating, being developed or intending to be developed. ILAC currently has 12 affiliates.

Stakeholders are representative of international, regional and national organisations having an interest in the work of ILAC and include bodies such as associations of laboratories, associations of laboratory practitioners, inspection body associations, purchasing organisations, regulatory authorities, consumer associations and trade organisations. ILAC currently has 26 stakeholders.

Relationship with non-members

ILAC does not have a formal program or relationship with non-members. However, ILAC assists accreditation bodies that are not yet members through several activities (e.g. publication of documents, brochures, etc.) in order to help them during the process to become an ILAC Full Member or signatory to the ILAC MRA.

Mandate

The primary purpose of ILAC is to establish an international arrangement between member accreditation bodies based on peer evaluation and mutual acceptance. ILAC is the principal international co-operation for: a) developing and harmonising laboratory and inspection body accreditation practices; b) recognising accredited calibration laboratories, testing laboratories, medical testing laboratories and inspection bodies internationally under the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA); c) promoting laboratory and inspection body accreditation to industry, governments, regulators and consumers; d) assisting and supporting developing accreditation systems.

IRC processes taking place within the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation



Categories of legal and policy instruments

| | Is it taking place within the IO? | Approximate number |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Treaties for ratification by States (excluding the funding one) | | |
| Legally binding decisions | √ | 1 |
| Recommendations | | |
| Political declarations | | |
| Model treaties or law | | |
| Production of technical standards | | |
| Non-binding guidance/best practices document | √ | 22 |
| Other (Memoranda of Understandings) | √ | 9 |

Interactions with other international organisations active in the field

| Mechanisms of interaction | Approximate number of IOs involved | Examples |
|---|---|--|
| Develop joint instruments | √ | ILAC liaises and co-operates with many international bodies to achieve shared objectives. These partnerships act as a means of advancing common interests and strengthening the international accreditation network. ILAC has signed MoUs with several IOs in order to forge stronger links and strategic partnerships with key organisations operating in ILAC's sphere of work. Examples of the IOs ILAC co-operates are: IAF, BIPM (Bureau International des Poids et Mesures), OIML, APEC, EU, WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency), ISO, IEC, ITU, IFCC (International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine), UNIDO, WTO, WHO, OECD. |
| MoU or other agreements | √ 9 | |
| Participate in co-ordinating institution | √ 1 (a liaison member of ISO) | |
| Joint meetings that provide forum for co-ordination | √ 1 (up to 10 others attend at various times) | |
| Observe relevant actions of other bodies | √ 12 (approximately) | |
| Exchange information | √ 9 routinely, several others periodically | |

ILAC history

ILAC first started as a conference in 1977 with the aim of developing international co-operation for facilitating trade by promotion of the acceptance of accredited test and calibration results. In 1996, ILAC became a formal co-operation with a charter to establish a network of mutual recognition agreements among accreditation bodies. In 2000, the 36 ILAC's Full Members consisting of laboratory accreditation bodies from 28 economies worldwide, signed the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA) in Washington DC, to promote the acceptance of technical test and calibration data for exported goods. ILAC was incorporated in 2003. The ILAC MRA was then extended in October 2012 to include the accreditation of inspection bodies.

Source: Updated from OECD (2016), *International Regulatory Co-operation: The Role of International Organisations in Fostering Better Rules of Globalisation*, OECD Publishing, Paris. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264244047-en>