



IAF MLA Document



General Principles on the Use of the IAF MLA Mark

Issue 4

(IAF ML 2:2023)

The International Accreditation Forum, Inc. (IAF) facilitates trade and supports regulators by operating a worldwide mutual recognition arrangement among Accreditation Bodies (ABs) in order that the results issued by Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) accredited by IAF Accreditation Body members are accepted globally.

Accreditation reduces risk for business and its customers by assuring that accredited CABs are competent to carry out the work they undertake within their scope of accreditation. ABs that are members of IAF and the CABs they accredit are required to comply with appropriate international standards and the applicable IAF application documents for the consistent application of those standards.

ABs that are signatories to the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) are evaluated regularly by an appointed team of peers to provide confidence in the operation of their accreditation schemes. The structure of the IAF MLA is detailed in IAF PL 3 - Policies and Procedures on the IAF MLA Structure and for Expansion of the Scope of the IAF MLA. The scope of the IAF MLA is detailed in the IAF MLA Status document.

The IAF MLA is structured in five levels: Level 1 specifies mandatory criteria that apply to all ABs, ISO/IEC 17011. The combination of a Level 2 activity(ies) and the corresponding Level 3 normative document(s) is called the main scope of the MLA, and the combination of Level 4 (if applicable) and Level 5 relevant normative documents is called a sub-scope of the MLA.

- The main scope of the MLA includes activities e.g. product certification and associated mandatory documents e.g. ISO/IEC 17065. The attestations made by CABs at the main scope level are considered to be equally reliable.
- The sub scope of the MLA includes conformity assessment requirements e.g. ISO 9001 and scheme specific requirements, where applicable, e.g. ISO 22003-1. The attestations made by CABs at the sub scope level are considered to be equivalent.

The IAF MLA delivers the confidence needed for market acceptance of conformity assessment outcomes. An attestation issued, within the scope of the IAF MLA, by a body that is accredited by an IAF MLA signatory AB can be recognized worldwide, thereby facilitating international trade.

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GENERAL PRINCIPLES ON THE USE OF THE IAF MLA MARK

1. SCOPE

1.1 This document describes principles on the use of the IAF MLA Mark by signatories of the IAF MLA and by CABs accredited by IAF MLA accreditation body signatories.

1.2 This procedure is applicable to all IAF members.

2. REFERENCES

2.1 ISO/IEC 17011 *Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*

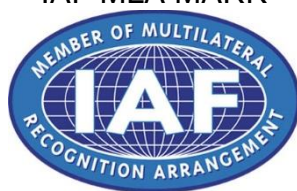
2.2 IAF MLA Status document

2.3 IAF PL3 *Policies and Procedures on the IAF MLA Structure and for Expansion of the Scope of the IAF MLA*

3. COPYRIGHT AND COMBINED MARK

3.1 The ownership of the IAF MLA Mark belongs to the International Accreditation Forum, Inc. (IAF), and IAF is responsible for the worldwide protection of the IAF MLA Mark.

IAF MLA MARK



- 3.2 The “Combined Mark” is the combination of the IAF MLA Mark and the IAF MLA signatory’s own logo or symbol. Examples:



OR



LOGO

SYMBOL

Note 1: These examples of the "combined mark" are not intended to limit how they are to be presented. The intent is that the IAF MLA Mark is to be presented "in conjunction" with the Licensee’s own logo or symbol and may be positioned under or in close proximity to the Licensee’s logo or symbol to suit the Licensee.

4. CONDITIONS OF USE OF THE IAF MLA MARK

4.1 General

4.1.1 The rights derived to use the IAF MLA Mark are non-transferrable under any circumstance, except where permission is granted by the IAF MLA signatory to its accredited CABs to use the Accredited CAB Combined IAF MLA Mark.

4.1.2 IAF will license the right to use the IAF MLA Mark to IAF MLA signatories. The scope of the license will be restricted to the scope of the MLA to which the IAF member is a signatory of the IAF MLA. A copy of the License Agreement can be found at Annex 1. Refer to 4.2 for use of the MLA Mark.

4.1.3 Accreditation Body Licensees (hereafter referred to as Licensee(s)) may sublicense the right to use the IAF MLA Mark to those CABs that are accredited by the Licensee. The coverage of the sublicense will be restricted to the scope of the MLA for which the Licensee is a signatory of the IAF MLA, and also restricted to the CAB’s scope of accreditation”. A copy of the sublicense can be located at Annex 2. Refer to 4.3 for use of the IAF MLA Mark.

4.1.4 In the event that the Licensee is, by legislation in its jurisdiction, prohibited from entering into contractual agreements such as the sublicense in Annex 2, it may enter into another equivalent legally enforceable agreement for the right to use the

IAF MLA Mark with those CABs that are accredited by the Licensee instead of signing the IAF ML2 Annex 2.

The content of the legally enforceable agreement should include, as a minimum, the requirements of the sublicense in Annex 2.

4.2 Use of the IAF MLA Mark by the Licensee

4.2.1 Licensees cannot use the IAF MLA Mark in isolation from its own logo.

4.2.2 Licensees can only use the IAF MLA Mark in combination with the Licensee's logo as a combined mark. The combined mark can only be used in association with the IAF MLA main scopes and/or sub scopes for which the Licensee is a signatory to the IAF MLA.

4.2.3 The combined mark may be used on accreditation certificates, letterheads, quotations for work, advertisements, or websites.

4.3 Use of the Combined Mark by the Accreditation Body Licensee's accredited CABs

4.3.1 CABs cannot use the IAF MLA Mark in isolation from the accreditation symbol.

4.3.2 CABs can only use the IAF MLA Mark in combination with the Licensee's accreditation symbol as a combined mark. The combined mark can only be used in association with activities for which the CAB is accredited by the Licensee and are within the Licensee's IAF MLA main scopes.

4.3.3 The combined mark may only be used by CABs on accredited certificates or validation/verification statements where the scope of the certificate or statement includes an IAF MLA sub-scope.

4.3.4 The combined mark may be used by CABs in letterheads, quotations for work, advertisements, or websites where the CAB is accredited within the Licensee's IAF MLA main scope or main scope and sub-scope.

4.3.5 The CAB shall not allow its customers to use the combined mark.

4.3.6 In their agreement with an accredited CAB the Licensee may add any conditions that they deem necessary to protect the IAF MLA Mark.

End of IAF Document on General Principles on the Use of the IAF MLA Mark

ANNEX 1**AGREEMENT FOR USE OF THE
IAF MLA MARK****BETWEEN****IAF INC.****AND AN****IAF MULTILATERAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENT (MLA) SIGNATORY**

1. The International Accreditation Forum Inc. (“IAF”) is the owner of the trademark known as the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement Mark or IAF MLA Mark.
2. *(The IAF MLA Signatory’s i.e. the “Applicant’s” full company name)*, the proposed licensee (hereafter referred to as the “Licensee”), the full post office address of whose principal office or place of business is *(full business address)*, applies for a license to use the IAF MLA Mark, subject to the maintenance of IAF MLA signatory status and IAF membership and observance of the conditions and restrictions set out below.

Note: The IAF Logo is not to be used by any IAF Member or accredited CAB on any documentation under any circumstances without permission. The IAF Logo is for use only by the IAF Board and Secretary to denote official IAF documents.

3. IAF grants to the Applicant a license to use the IAF MLA Mark from the date of this Agreement, subject to the conditions and restrictions as follows:
 - (a) The Licensee shall only use the IAF MLA Mark in the manner set out in the current version of IAF ML 2 General Principles on the Use of the IAF MLA Mark and in accordance with the scope of the IAF MLA of which the Licensee is a Signatory;
 - (b) The IAF MLA Mark shall be reproduced using an authorized copy from IAF and shall be reprinted according to the following specifications:
 - i) in black and white or in the colours Pantone 2747 (dark blue) and Pantone 299 (light blue),
 - ii) on a clearly contrasting background,
 - iii) in a size which makes all the words of the IAF MLA Mark clearly distinguishable, with the width of the IAF MLA Mark no less than 20 millimetres for printed media and 75 pixels for digital media.

- (c)** The proposed permitted use is non-exclusive;
- (d)** The right of the Licensee to use the said IAF MLA Mark is non-transferable subject to the provisions relating to the use of the IAF MLA Mark permitted by this Licensing Agreement;
- (e)** The Licensee may use the IAF MLA Mark on its certificates and pre-printed letterhead paper;

Note: The depictions of the "combined mark" given in IAF ML 2 showing the IAF MLA Mark and logo or symbol next to each other are only examples and are not intended to specify how they are to appear on the certificate. The intent is that the IAF MLA Mark is to be used "in conjunction" with the Licensee's own logo or symbol and may be positioned under or in close proximity to the Licensee's logo on the certificate to suit the Licensee.

- (f)** The Licensee shall not use the IAF MLA Mark on any other documentation unless:
 - i)** the Licensee's name or logo is included on the same sheet of paper and both are of approximately the same size,
 - ii)** it is clearly indicated that the Licensee is the IAF MLA Member and,
 - iii)** the documentation relates entirely to the accreditation activities of the Licensee;

Note: The documentation can be in any form or type of medium.

- (g)** The Licensee undertakes to use the IAF MLA Mark in strict accordance with the instructions, conditions, standards of quality and IAF MLA Mark specifications supplied by the IAF at anytime and from time to time;
- (h)** The Licensee shall supply to IAF specimens of its usage of the IAF MLA Mark; the Licensee shall supply these specimens during the IAF's peer re-evaluation of the Licensee or at another time, if requested by IAF;
- (i)** The Licensees may authorize, in writing, an accredited Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) to use the IAF MLA Mark only in conjunction with the Licensee's accreditation symbol upon entering into a written agreement with the Licensee in accordance with this Agreement and to those conditions established in writing by the Licensee for use of its symbol;
- (j)** The Licensee agrees to monitor and take suitable action to control the use of the IAF MLA Mark, including withdrawal of authorization to use the IAF MLA Mark in case of misuse, in compliance with the terms of this Agreement

and to prevent any incorrect references or misleading use, by itself and its accredited CABs;

(k) IAF reserves the right to object to and withdraw the use of the IAF MLA Mark by a licensed IAF MLA Signatory and/or an accredited CAB;

(l) The Licensee acknowledges and agrees that it has no proprietary right, title or interest in the IAF MLA Mark;

(m) The Licensee agrees to co-operate fully and in good faith with IAF for the purpose of securing or protecting IAF's right in the IAF MLA Mark;

(n) The Licensee further agrees not to challenge directly or indirectly IAF's right, title or interest in the IAF MLA Mark.

4. The IAF Agreement to use the IAF MLA Mark may be terminated as follows:

(a) at any time by agreement of the parties;

(b) at any time by IAF in the event that the conditions in this Agreement are not satisfied;

(c) by IAF in the event the Licensee ceases to be an IAF MLA Signatory;

(d) by IAF by duly advising the Licensee; or

(e) by the Licensee duly advising the IAF.

5. The Licensee shall indemnify and save IAF, its directors, officers, employees and authorized representatives from and against any and all claims, liabilities, demands, proceedings, causes of action, costs and expenses (including legal fees as incurred) arising from the breach or default of the Licensee under this IAF Agreement.

End of Agreement for Use of the IAF MLA Mark between IAF Inc. and an IAF MLA Signatory

Signed on behalf of

(NAME OF LICENSEE)

.....
(Signature)

(Name of signatory)

(Title/position)

Date

.....
(Signature)

Chairman of IAF

Date

IAF MLA Mark License

Licensed to use the IAF MLA Mark for IAF recognized main scopes and sub-scopes as individually listed and updated on the IAF Members and Signatories page of the IAF website, www.iaf.nu.

ANNEX 2**AGREEMENT FOR USE OF THE
IAF MLA MARK****BETWEEN A****LICENSED IAF MLA SIGNATORY****AND AN****ACCREDITED CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT BODY (CAB)**

1. The International Accreditation Forum Inc. (“IAF”) is the owner of the trademark known as the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement Mark or IAF MLA Mark.
2. (*Licensed IAF MLA Signatory’s full company name*), the full post office address of whose principal office or place of business is (*full business address*), has a non-exclusive and non-transferable license to use the IAF MLA Mark, subject to its maintenance of its IAF MLA Signatory status and IAF Accreditation Body (AB) membership and observance of their obligations in relation to these.

Note: The IAF Logo is not to be used by any IAF Member or accredited CAB on any documentation under any circumstances without permission. The IAF Logo is for use only by the IAF Board and Secretary to denote official IAF documents.

3. (*Accredited CAB’s full company name*), the full post office address of whose principal office or place of business is (*full business address*), applies for permission to use the IAF MLA Mark, only in conjunction with the licensed IAF MLA Signatory’s accreditation symbol, subject to the terms and conditions set out below.
4. (*Licensed IAF MLA Signatory*) grants to (*accredited Conformity Assessment Body the “CAB”*) permission to use the IAF MLA Mark for *main scopes and sub scopes* of the IAF MLA for which the CAB has been accredited by the (*Licensed IAF MLA Signatory*), from the date of this Agreement, subject to the conditions and restrictions as follows:
 - (a) The accredited CAB shall only use the IAF MLA Mark together with their accreditation body symbol in the manner set out in IAF ML 2 General Principles on the Use of the IAF MLA Mark and in accordance with the main scopes and sub scopes of the IAF MLA of which the licensed IAF MLA Member is a Signatory, and for which the CAB has been accredited;

(b) The IAF MLA Mark shall be reproduced using an authorized copy obtained from the licensed IAF MLA Signatory and shall be reprinted according to the following specifications:

- i)** in black and white or in the colours Pantone 2747 (dark blue) and Pantone 299 (light blue),
- ii)** on a clearly contrasting background,
- iii)** in a size which makes all the words of the IAF MLA Mark clearly distinguishable, with the width of the IAF MLA Mark no less than 20 millimetres for printed media and 75 pixels for digital media.

(c) The proposed permitted use is non-exclusive;

(d) The permission granted to the accredited CAB to use the said IAF MLA Mark is non-transferable;

(e) The accredited CAB shall not use the IAF MLA Mark on any documentation unless the licensed IAF MLA Signatory's accreditation symbol and the accredited CAB's name or logo are included on the same displayed page and all are of approximately the same size;

Note: The documentation can be in any form or type of medium.

(f) The accredited CAB shall use the IAF MLA Mark in strict accordance with the instructions, conditions, standards of quality and IAF MLA Mark specifications supplied by the licensed IAF MLA Signatory or the IAF at anytime and from time to time;

(g) The accredited CAB shall supply specimens of its usage of the IAF MLA Mark to the licensed IAF MLA Signatory or IAF, if requested by the licensed IAF MLA Signatory or IAF;

(h) The accredited CAB shall not allow its clients to use the IAF MLA Mark;

(i) The accredited CAB shall monitor and take suitable action to control its use of the IAF MLA Mark and to prevent any incorrect references or misleading use by itself or its clients;

(j) The accredited CAB acknowledges and agrees that it has no proprietary right, title or interest in the IAF MLA Mark;

(k) The accredited CAB agrees to co-operate fully and in good faith with the licensed IAF MLA Signatory and/or IAF for the purpose of securing or protecting IAF's right in the IAF MLA Mark;

(l) The accredited CAB further agrees not to challenge directly or indirectly IAF's right, title or interest in the IAF MLA Mark.

5. The Agreement to use the IAF MLA Mark may be terminated as follows:

- (a)** at any time by agreement of the parties;
- (b)** at any time by the licensed IAF MLA Signatory in the event that the conditions in this Agreement are not satisfied;
- (c)** immediately in the event accreditation is withdrawn from the accredited CAB by the licensed IAF MLA Signatory;
- (d)** immediately in the event of the termination of the licensed IAF MLA Signatory's signatory status of the IAF MLA or IAF membership;
- (e)** immediately in the event of the termination of the Agreement for the use of the IAF MLA Mark between IAF and the Licensed IAF MLA Signatory;
- (f)** by the licensed IAF MLA Signatory duly advising the accredited CAB; or
- (g)** by the IAF duly advising the accredited CAB.

6. The accredited CAB shall indemnify and save IAF, its directors, officers, employees and authorized representatives, including the licensed IAF MLA Signatory, from and against any and all claims, liabilities, demands, proceedings, causes of action, costs and expenses (including legal fees as incurred) arising from the breach or default of the accredited CAB under this agreement.

End of Agreement for Use of the IAF MLA Mark between a Licensed IAF MLA Signatory and an Accredited Conformity Assessment Body

Signed on behalf of

(NAME OF ACCREDITED CAB)

.....
(Signature)

(Name of signatory)

(Title/position)

Date

.....
Signed on behalf of

(NAME OF LICENSED IAF MLA SIGNATORY)

.....
(Signature)

(Name of signatory)

(Title/position)

Date

Licensed to use the IAF MLA Mark in conjunction with the Licensed IAF MLA Signatory's accreditation symbol for the *main scopes and* sub scopes of the IAF MLA for which the CAB has been accredited by the *(Licensed IAF MLA Signatory)*.

Further Information:

For further Information on this document or other IAF documents, contact any member of IAF or the IAF Secretariat.

For contact details of Members of IAF see – IAF website – <http://www.iaf.nu>

Secretariat:

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