



Accredited Inspection Bodies and the ILAC Inspection MRA

In October 2012 the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) established a global Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) for inspection. This MRA commits signatory accreditation bodies to abide by its terms and conditions and by the ILAC evaluation procedures and to:

- Maintain conformance with the current version of ISO/IEC 17011, related ILAC guidance documents, and a few, but important, supplementary requirements, and
- Ensure that all accredited inspection bodies comply with ISO/IEC 17020 and related ILAC policy and guidance documents.

The MRA establishes a uniform approach to assessing inspection body competence. Each signatory to the ILAC MRA recognizes the accreditation and findings of an inspection body accredited by another signatory, as if it were one of its own accredited inspection bodies. The uniform approach supported by periodic evaluation allows stakeholders to confidently accept an inspection report and / or certificate sourced from across borders, and therefore facilitates the acceptance of goods and services between economies.

Thirty-nine accreditation bodies from thirty-nine economies became the inaugural signatories (www.ilac.org/ilacarrangement) to the ILAC MRA for the accreditation of inspection bodies. NATA was one of the 39 inaugural signatories to the ILAC Inspection MRA.

Some accredited inspection bodies have asked to use the ILAC MRA Mark on endorsed reports in a manner similar to that used by accredited laboratories. The legal framework allowing an inspection body access to the ILAC MRA Mark is, however, not yet in place, as some complicated issues have yet to be resolved. This means that, in practical terms, no inspection body, regardless of where they are located, is currently able to legally place the ILAC MRA Mark on endorsed inspection reports.

ILAC are working to address the legal issues that need attention prior to allowing access to the ILAC MRA mark to accredited inspection bodies. As soon as this access is possible, NATA will advise its accredited inspection bodies of the changes.

In the meantime, ILAC have prepared a brochure that is available to download from the public area of the ILAC website which can be accessed at:
https://www.ilac.org/documents/Signatories_to_the_ILAC_Arrangement.pdf

The press release for the Inspection MRA can also be downloaded from the website under ILAC MRA and Signatories – and via this link - <https://ilac.org/ilacarrangement.html> .

Should there be any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julian Wilson', written over a white background.

Julian Wilson
Sector Manger, Inspection