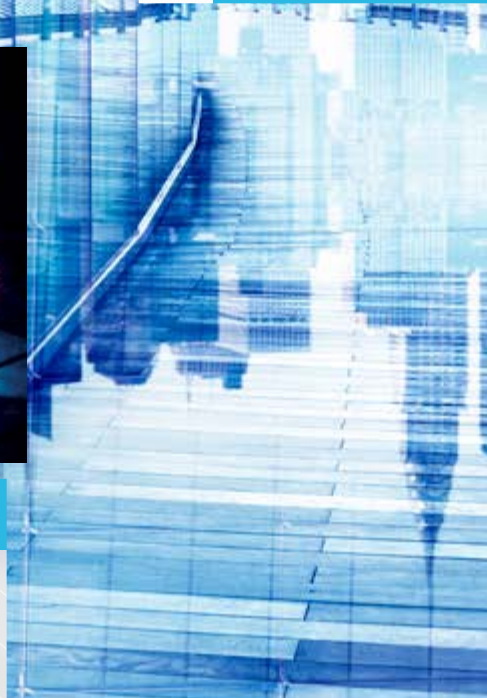




Accredited Once Accepted Everywhere



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

[www.iaf.nu](http://www.iaf.nu)

**Annual Report  
2022**

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# IAF MLA Annual Report 2022

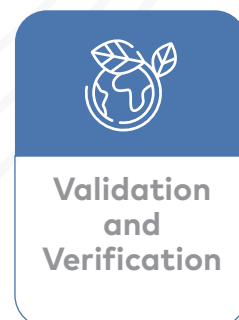
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The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and its Accreditation Body (AB) members invest significant effort and resources to maintain the integrity and consistency of the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) through a peer evaluation process. 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 focus of this document is to report on the activities undertaken by IAF, in collaboration with ILAC, and the evaluation activities undertaken by these organisations or the Regional Accreditation Groups (RAGs). This report also outlines the activities of the IAF MLA Committee (MLAC) and the IAF MLA Management Committee (MLA MC) in collaboration with ILAC under the Joint Management Committee (JMC).



## The IAF MLA

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



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".



# Changes in the Scope of the IAF MLA During 2022

## 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 and validation/verification bodies can also use the IAF MLA Mark in combination with the accreditation symbol on their certificates or statements, provided that the certificates or statements are issued under a granted IAF MLA scope.

The IAF MLA Mark demonstrates that the certificate or statement 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 or statement 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.

There were no changes to the scope of the MLA during 2022, however several scheme endorsement applications were received from private scheme owners during this period.

At the end of 2022 there were 11 private schemes under evaluation against the requirements of IAF *PL3 Policies and procedures on the IAF MLA Structure and for expansion of the scope of the MLA*.

The transition to ISO/IEC 17029:2019 – *Conformity assessment – General principle and requirements for validation and verification bodies* remained in process, with endorsed schemes and signatory ABs required to transition to that standard by mid 2024.

# Signatories to the IAF MLA

The IAF MLA has been structured to build on existing and developing regional MLAs established around the world. As of 2022, IAF had formally recognised the MLA programs of five RAGs:



**Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC)**



**African Accreditation Cooperation (AFRAC)**

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

Membership in the IAF MLA is facilitated by membership in the Recognized RAGs' MLAs for recognised programs. IAF members who are also signatories of these regional MLAs can be accepted into the IAF MLA for recognised programs.

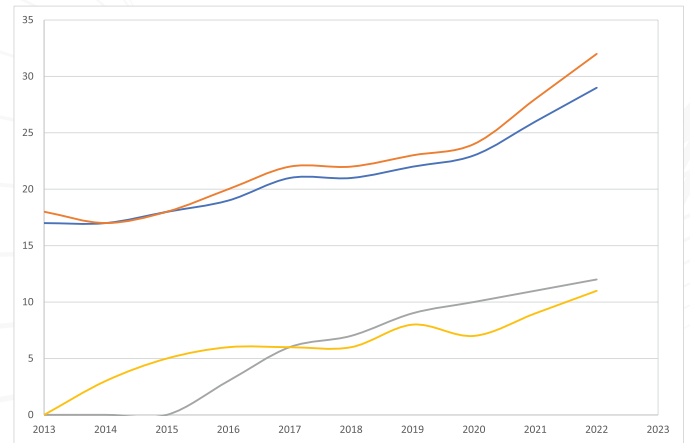
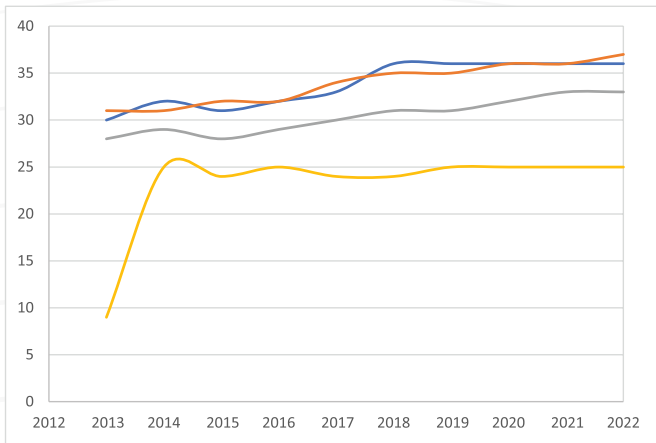
Originally, unaffiliated ABs applied directly to IAF to become an IAF MLA signatory. Since the end of 2018, there are no unaffiliated IAF

Member ABs as all IAF AB members are now also members of a RAG.

The South African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation (SADCA) became an IAF MLA signatory in 2023, and has been included in the statistics that follow.

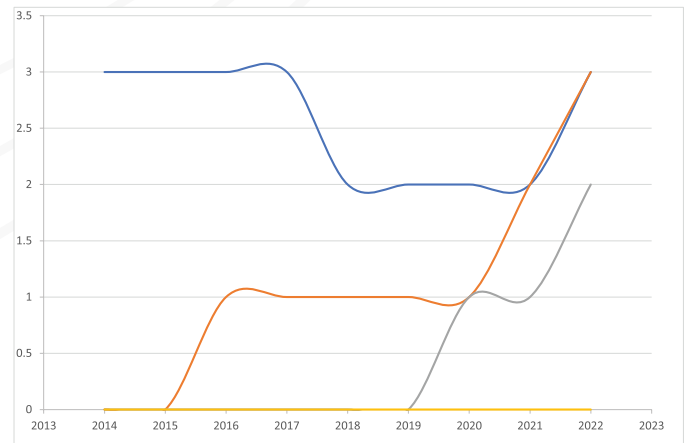
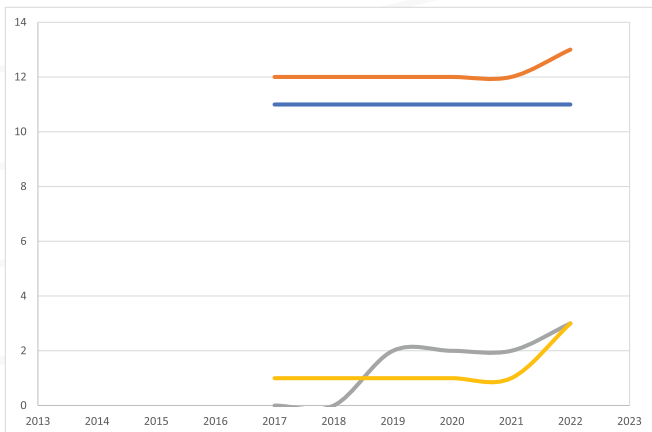
The number of signatories to the IAF MLA has grown in recent years, providing confidence to businesses and regulators in a greater number of economies. A full list of IAF MLA signatories is available in [IAF MLA MC 17](#) and new IAF MLA signatories and scope extensions, as noted during the 2022 IAF General Assembly, are referenced in Annex 2 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 GHG Validation/Verification



**European co-operation for Accreditation**

**Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation**

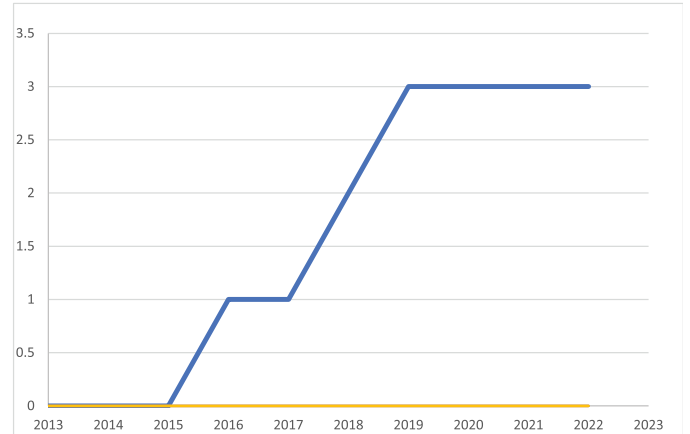
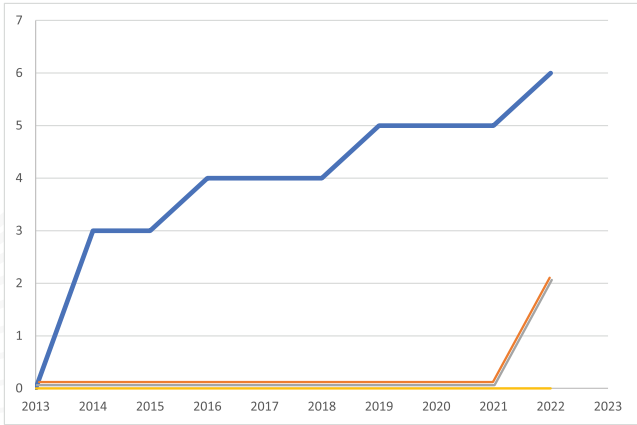


**Inter American Accreditation Cooperation**

**Arab Accreditation Cooperation**

- Number of signatories for Certification of Management Systems
- Number of signatories for Certification of Products, Processes and Services

- Number of signatories for Certification of Persons
- Number of signatories for GHG Validation/Verification



### African Accreditation Cooperation

### Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation



- IAF MLA Signatories
- IAF Members not yet Signatories

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

In 2022, the IAF MLA comprised five recognised RAGs and **81** ABs, representing a total of **92** economies.

# Management Systems Certifications – 2022

Number of Accredited CBs	APAC	IAAC	ARAC	AFRAC	SADCA
FSMS	389	92	32	53	N/A
FAMI-QS	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
QMS	1,140	400	48	91	31
EMS	846	278	42	75	N/A
ISMS	259	118	N/A	N/A	N/A
MDQMS	120	64	N/A	N/A	N/A
EnMS	160	42	N/A	19	N/A
OH&SMS	677	205	N/A	72	N/A
FSSC 22000	56	38	N/A	N/A	N/A

\* EA: To be reported in 2023

## Peer Evaluation Activities

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

The following peer evaluations of RAGs were conducted in 2022:

**AFRAC**

re-evaluation

**ARAC**

re-evaluation

**IAAC**

re-evaluation

**SADCA**

initial evaluation



# IAF MLA

## 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 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:**

- Complaints referred to ABs – five received and remain open; one received in a previous year remained open on 31 December 2022
- Complaints referred to RAGs – one received and remained open; one received in a previous year remained open on 31 December 2022

# Post-COVID-19 Restrictions

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 RAGs, 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.

## Resources published in 2020 and maintained in 2021 and 2022 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*
- *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 MC and ILAC Arrangement Management Committee (AMC) 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.

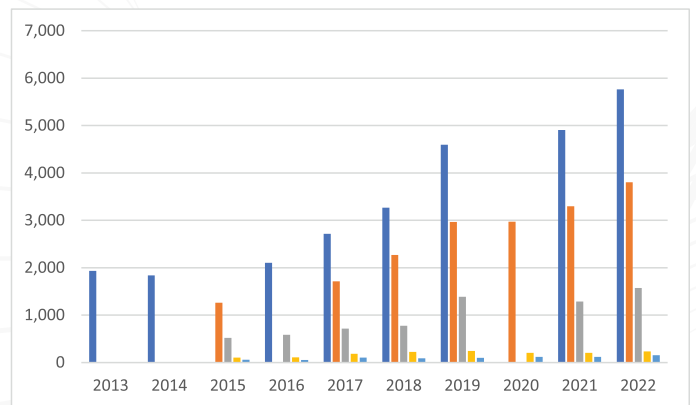
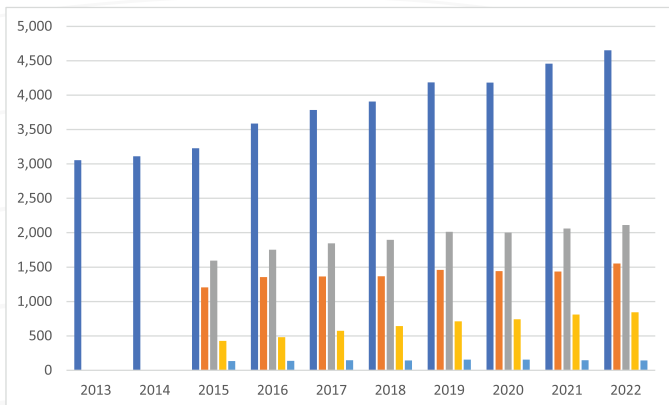
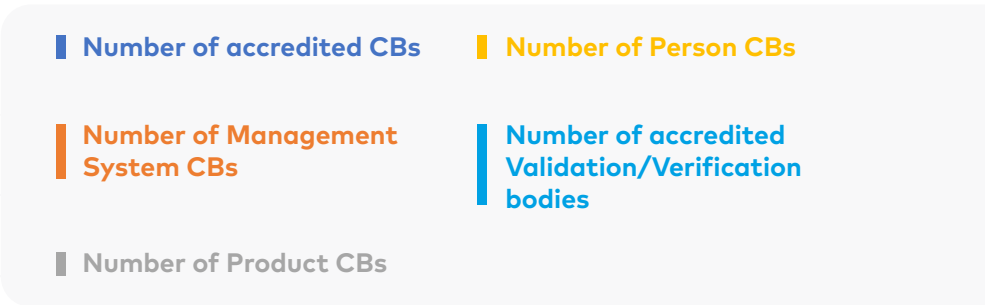


In 2022, IAF continued to improve its collaboration with ILAC. Only IAF/ILAC JMC meetings are held and there are no separate meetings of the IAF MLA MC and the ILAC AMC. This provides for a better understanding of the few different requirements and the many commonalities in the MLA area between the two organisations.

- » *IAF PL3 Policies and procedures on the IAF MLA Structure and for expansion of the scope of the MLA was reviewed and published within this period to include new MLA scope extension processes. In addition, the JMC initiated a revision of IAF/ILAC A2 – IAF/ILAC Multi-lateral mutual recognition arrangements (Arrangements): Requirements and procedures for evaluation of a single accreditation body, in order to incorporate identified changes and explore a risk-based approach to evaluation.*

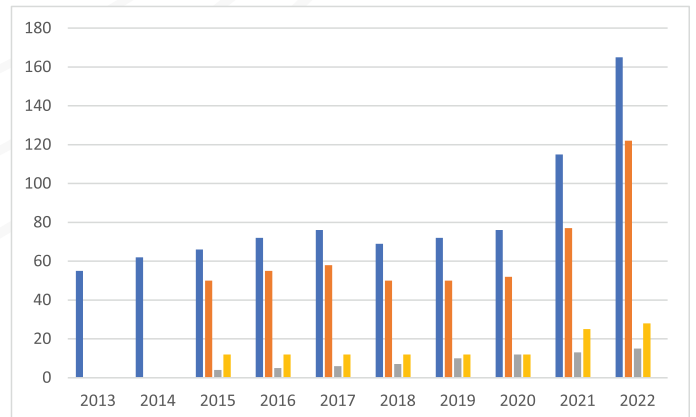
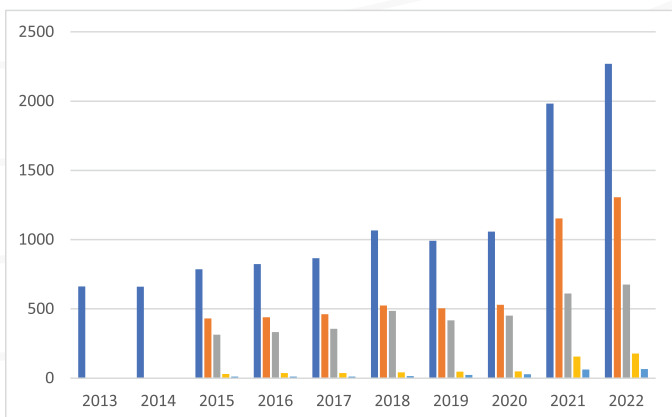
# Global Growth

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



European co-operation for Accreditation

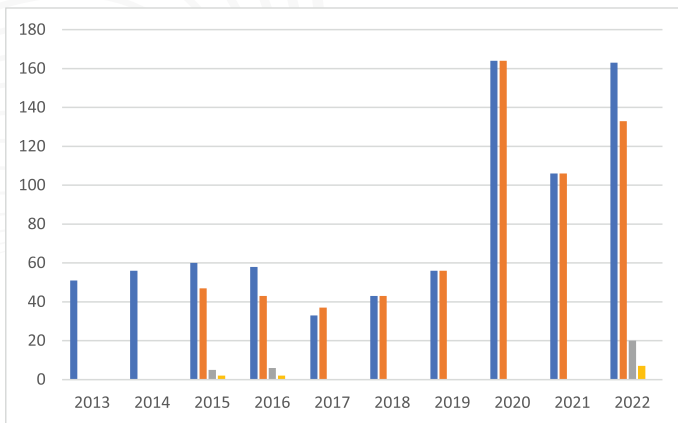
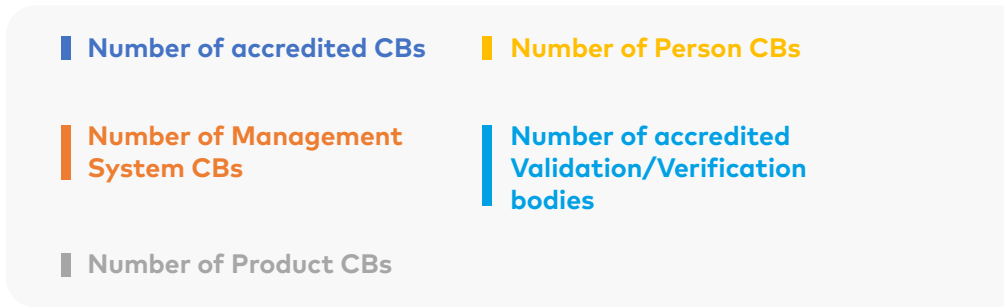
Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation



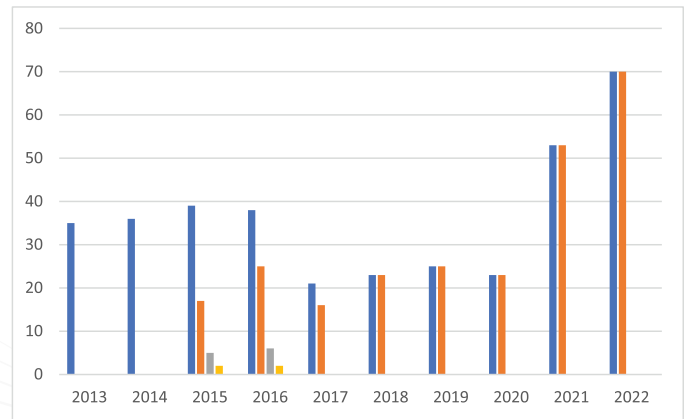
Inter- American Accreditation Cooperation

Arab Accreditation Cooperation

# Global Growth



**African Accreditation Cooperation**



**Southern African Development Community Cooperation in Accreditation**

A total of **13,084** CBs and VVBs were accredited in 2022, an increase of **13%** since 2021.



*Note: 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.*

## Annex 1 – Scope of the MLA

In 2022, the IAF MLA consisted of the following scopes:

Level 1: ISO/IEC 17011:2017

Level 2: Product Certification:

○ Level 3: ISO/IEC 17065:2012

○ Level 4:

GLOBALG.A.P. IFA General Regulations Version 4

○ Level 5:

GLOBALG.A.P. IFA CPCCs Version 4

Level 2: Management Systems Certification:

Level 3: ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015

Level 4:

- ISO/TS 22003:2013, ISO 22003-1:2022

- ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017

- ISO/IEC 17021-2:2016

- ISO/IEC 27006:2015

- ISO 50003:2014, 2021

- ISO/IEC TS 17021-10:2018

- ISO/TS 22003 FAMI-QS Rules for Certification Bodies Version 8

- ISO/TS 22003:2013; FSSC 22000 V5.1 Scheme Parts 3 and 4

Level 5:

- ISO 22000:2018 (FSMS)

- ISO 9001:2015 (QMS)

- ISO 14001:2015 (EMS)

- ISO/IEC 27001:2013 (ISMS)

- ISO 13485:2016 (MDMS)

- ISO 50001:2018 (EnMS)

- ISO 45001:2018 (OH&SMS)

- FAMI-QS Certification Scheme Code, Version 6

- FSSC 22000 V5.1 Scheme Part 2

Level 2: Person Certification:

Level 3: ISO/IEC 17024:2012

Level 5: IPC-PL-11-006

Level 2: Validation and Verification:

Level 3:

ISO 14065:2013

ISO/IEC 17029:2019

Level 4:

ICAO CORSIA ETM - Volume IV Version 1;

ISO 14064-3:2006; ISO 14066:2011

ISO 14066:2011; ISO 14064-3:2006, 2019

ISO 14065:2020; ISO 14066:2011; ISO 14064-3:2019

Level 5:

ICAO CORSIA SARPs – Annex 16 Volume IV, Version 1

ISO 14064-1:2018; ISO 14064-2:2019

Level 1 is the endorsed normative document for ABs

Levels 2 and 3 are the Main scopes, consisting of accreditation programs and endorsed normative documents

Levels 4 and 5 are the Sub-scopes consisting of applicable documents and endorsed normative documents

The current status of the IAF MLA can be viewed [here](#).

## IAF Secretariat

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## Annex 2– New IAF MLA Signatories and Scope Extensions

### IAF Resolution 2022-16 – Regional Accreditation Group IAF MLA Scope Extensions

The General Assembly noted the MLA scope extensions, since the 2021 General Assembly, of the following IAF Regional Accreditation Group members:

- **AFRAC** – Main Scope: Product Certification – ISO/IEC 17065; Main Scope: Certification of Persons – ISO/IEC 17024.

### IAF Resolution 2022-17 – New AB IAF MLA Signatories

The General Assembly noted the admissions to the IAF MLA, since the 2021 General Assembly, of the following IAF Accreditation Body Members:

- **NIER** Korea (APAC) – Main Scope: Validation and Verification – ISO 14065
- **UAF** United States of America (APAC) – Main Scope: Management Systems Certification – ISO/IEC 17021-1; Sub-Scopes: Level 4: ISO/IEC 17021-3, ISO/IEC 17021-2; Sub-Scopes: Level 5: ISO 9001, ISO 14001
- **GAC (Georgia)** Georgia (EA) – Main Scope: Product Certification – ISO/IEC 17065; Main Scope: Certification of Persons – ISO/IEC 17024
- **EAS** Ethiopia (AFRAC) – Main Scope: Management System Certification – ISO/IEC 17021-1; Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/IEC 17021-3; Sub-Scope: Level 5: ISO 9001
- **CYS-CYSAB** Cyprus (EA) – Main Scope: Product Certification – ISO/IEC 17065
- **LATAK** Latvia (EA) – Main Scope: Product Certification – ISO/IEC 17065; Main Scope: Management Systems Certification – ISO/IEC 17021-1; Main Scope: Certification of Persons – ISO/IEC 17024; Main Scope: Validation and Verification – ISO 14065; Sub-Scopes: Level 4: ISO/IEC 17021-3, ISO/IEC 17021-2, ISO/TS 22003, ISO/IEC 27006, ISO/IEC TS 17021-10, ISO 50003, ICAO CORSIA ETM Vol. IV, ISO 14064-3, ISO 14066; Sub-Scopes: Level 5: ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 22000, ISO 27001, ISO 45001, ISO 50001, ISO 13485, ICAO CORSIA SARPs Annex 16 Vol. IV
- **O'ZAKK** Uzbekistan (APAC) – Main Scope: Product Certification – ISO/IEC 17065; Main Scope: Management Systems Certification – ISO/IEC 17021-1; Sub-Scopes: Level 4: ISO/IEC 17021-3, ISO/IEC 17021-2, ISO/TS 22003, ISO/IEC TS 17021-10, ISO 50003; Sub-Scopes: Level 5: ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 22000, ISO 45001, ISO 50001
- **ACFS** Thailand (APAC) – Main Scope: Product Certification – ISO/IEC 17065; Main Scope: Management Systems Certification – ISO/IEC 17021-1; Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/TS 22003, Sub-Scope: Level 5: ISO 22000.

### IAF Resolution 2022-18 – AB IAF MLA Scope Extensions

The General Assembly noted the MLA scope extensions, since the 2021 General Assembly, of the following IAF Accreditation Body Members:

- **PAB** Philippines (APAC) – Main Scope: Product Certification – ISO/IEC 17065
- **NSC** Thailand (APAC); DPA Albania, INAB Ireland (EA) – Main Scope: Certification of Persons – ISO/IEC 17024
- **KAN** Indonesia, NSC Thailand (APAC) – Main Scope: Validation and Verification – ISO 14065
- **GAC** (GCC) GCC Economies (ARAC) – Main Scope: Management Systems Certification – ISO/IEC 17021-1; Sub-Scopes: Level 4: ISO/IEC 17021-3, ISO/IEC 17021-2; Sub-Scopes: Level 5: ISO 9001, ISO 14001
- **SAE** Ecuador (IAAC); JAB Japan (APAC) – Sub-Scope: Level 4: GLOBALG.A.P. IFA General Regulations; Sub-Scope: Level 5: GLOBALG.A.P. IFA Control Points and Compliance Criteria
- **OLAS** Luxembourg (EA); KAN Indonesia, UAF United States of America (APAC) – Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/IEC TS 17021-10; Sub-Scope: Level 5: ISO 45001
- **JAB** Japan (APAC) – Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/TS 22003, FSSC 22000 Scheme Part 3 – Requirements for the Certification Process, FSSC 22000 Scheme Part 4 – Requirements for Certification Bodies; Sub-Scope: Level 5: FSSC 22000 Scheme Part 2 – Requirements for organizations to be audited
- **GAC** (GCC) GCC Economies (ARAC); UAF United States of America (APAC) – Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/TS 22003; Sub-Scope: Level 5: ISO 22000
- **UAF** United States of America (APAC) – Sub-Scope: Level 4: ISO/IEC 27006; Sub-Scopes: Level 5: ISO/IEC 27001, ISO 13485

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