

IAF and International Aerospace Quality Group MLA Memorandum of Understanding

1. Introduction

1.1 The **International Aerospace Quality Group AISBL**, hereinafter referred to as “IAQG”, is the scheme owner of the worldwide operated Industry Controlled Other Party Certification Scheme, hereinafter referred to as “the ICOP Scheme”. IAQG has sought and received endorsement of the ICOP Scheme as documented in the 9104-1:2012 standard, as a sub-scope of the IAF MLA in accordance with IAF PL3 and this MoU.

1.2 The ICOP Scheme requires Certification Bodies (CBs) operating in the ICOP Scheme as documented in the 9104-1:2012 standard or higher to be accredited by an Accreditation Body (AB) that is a signatory to the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) with a main scope of management system certification (IAF MLA signatories).

1.3 The Scheme sets voluntary standards for certification within the worldwide supply chain of the aviation, space, and defense industry. The IAQG implements quality initiatives for products and services improvements throughout the aviation, space and defense value stream. The Scheme is owned and managed by an international non-profit association based in Brussels, Belgium. Currently, there are around 19,200 ICOP Scheme certificates registered worldwide accessible on its website (<https://iaqg.org>) and within the IAQG Online Aerospace Supplier Information System (OASIS) database (<https://iaqg.org/oasis>).

1.4 IAQG authorizes, at the time of this MOU, more than 85 CBs worldwide under the ICOP Scheme, the supervision of which is currently carried out by 13 IAF MLA signatories.

1.5 The ICOP certification process is performed by more than 1500 auditors. Requirements for the professional competence of auditors in the ICOP Scheme are defined in the 9104-3 standard.

1.6 IAQG delegates the responsibility of supervision of the CBs it authorizes to the corresponding IAF Accreditation Bodies, noting that harmonization of criteria applied by the different ABs is increasingly important to ensure consistency of that supervision.

1.7 The ICOP Scheme provides the standards and framework for independent, recognized third-party management system certification of aviation, space, and defense products and services based on ISO/IEC 17021-1, the 9104 trilogy of standards (9104-1, 9104-2 and 9104-3), and the associated auditing standard 9101, for certification to one or more of the following Aerospace Quality Management System (AQMS) standards: 9100, 9110, and 9120.

1.8 The **International Accreditation Forum (IAF)** is the world association of conformity assessment accreditation bodies in the fields of management systems, products, services, process, persons, validation and verification and other similar programs of conformity assessment.

1.9 IAF is responsible for the harmonization and continuous improvement of the accreditation practices of its members with the ultimate goal to ensure sound technical competence of accredited CBs and V&VBs (Verification and Validation Bodies) and to support its IAF MLA.

1.10 The IAF MLA is established and maintained on the basis of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 through regular peer evaluations and is the tool by which IAF contributes to the elimination of technical barriers to trade and to promoting the free circulation of certificates issued by accredited CBs.

2. Administration and Cooperation

2.1 Both the IAF and the IAQG, by means of this MoU, have decided to develop and maintain a close cooperation between the two organizations to ensure harmonization in the accreditation practices performed by IAF members for the ICOP Scheme and to cooperate in the continuous improvement of the ICOP Scheme with the final goal of assuring the highest level of competence in the ICOP Scheme's accredited CBs.

2.2 The IAF and the ICOP Scheme as documented in the 9104-1:2012 standard or higher shall comply with the respective requirements of IAF PL3 *Policies and Procedures on the IAF MLA Structure and for Expansion of the Scope of the IAF MLA*, operating and administrating in an open, non-discriminatory and transparent manner, avoiding conflicts of interest or limitation on the acceptance of CBs or ABs other than relevant technical considerations.

2.3 The ICOP Scheme as documented in the 9104-1:2012 standard or higher will be open to all CBs that are accredited by IAF MLA signatories. The ABs will be signatory members of the IAF MLA for Management Systems (ISO/IEC 17021-1) and have agreed to implement the requirements between the IAQG and the IAF (MoU). A list of IAF ABs that have agreed to implement the MoU shall be maintained on the IAQG website within the OASIS database at <https://iaqg.org/oasis>.

2.4 The IAQG will only work with IAF MLA signatories who have agreed to implement the MoU. The IAQG will stop working with an AB that is no longer a signatory to the IAF MLA for management system certification or has not implemented and maintained the MoU.

2.5 Both the IAF and the IAQG shall appoint a liaison person of each organization to act as contact persons. For the IAQG the contact person shall be Ian Folland (ifolland@iaqg.org). For the IAF the contact shall be Elva Nilsen (secretary@iaf.nu).

3. Information Exchange

To achieve such goals, both organizations have agreed upon the following:

3.1 IAQG shall inform the IAF of the following:

- a) Changes to the ICOP Scheme that may impact compliance with IAF PL3.
- b) Any revision or extension to the ICOP Scheme after the 9104-1:2012 standard and its associated standards and documents.
- c) Outcomes from any AB workshop held by the IAQG on the ICOP Scheme.
- d) Feedback the IAQG may have regarding the IAF MLA signatory ABs.

3.2 IAF shall inform the IAQG of the following:

- a) When an IAF MLA signatory for management system certification with a sub-scope of the ICOP Scheme has been suspended or had their IAF MLA signatory status withdrawn.
- b) Any general or technical questions regarding the interpretation of the ICOP Scheme standards or documents.
- c) Changes in policy, procedure, or documentation that may have an impact on the IAF MLA and ICOP Scheme sub-scope.

4. Mandatory Interpretation of ICOP Documents

4.1 The ICOP Scheme documents shall be prepared using the IAQG Procedures for the setting and revision of IAQG standards relating to ICOP Scheme documentation laid down in IAQG Procedures 105.1, 105.2, and 105.3. For ICOP Scheme documentation, this shall include a stakeholder consultation phase comprising of comment submissions by relevant interested parties each lasting a specified timeframe with feedback being provided to organizations that made the comment.

4.2 The IAF will be included as a stakeholder and invited during any stakeholder consultation period of the ICOP Scheme revision process.

4.3 The review period for the ICOP Scheme normative documents shall be 5 years in accordance with IAQG Procedures. Normative documents relating to the ICOP Scheme that are publicly published by the IAQG shall be available free of charge (at least to participating IAF MLA signatory ABs) through the IAQG website. Standards and other normative documents published by organizations other than the IAQG, including those published on behalf of the IAQG, shall be available at a fair and reasonable cost for participating IAF MLA signatory ABs through the applicable publisher.

4.4 The IAQG will provide new draft ICOP Scheme normative document(s) with a gap analysis against the requirements of IAF PL3 and a proposed transition plan for implementation of the new version documents to the IAF as soon as a technically sound new version is available in order to make sure that the new scheme version continues to comply with the requirements of IAF PL3. IAQG accepts the process to be followed according to IAF PL3 for IAF MLA sub-scope inclusion of new versions of the ICOP Scheme.

4.5 The need for the development of specific IAF application documents for inclusion of publicly owned standards/normative documents in the IAF MLA shall be proposed by the IAF Technical Committee and the need for additional preparation of peer evaluation by the IAF MLA Committee as specified in IAF PL3.

4.6 The ICOP Scheme version(s) endorsed as IAF MLA sub-scopes are included in the relevant IAF MLA status lists. After the end of the transition period to a new scheme version the old version will not be published as IAF MLA sub-scopes anymore.

5. Implementation

5.1 IAF and IAQG shall each bear their own costs.

5.2 The ICOP scheme will be included as a sub-scope under the main scope of Management System Certification, ISO/IEC 17021-1. Those ABs currently providing accreditations to the ICOP Scheme will be able to apply for an IAF MLA scope extension for the ICOP Scheme through provision of a signed self-declaration through their Regional Accreditation Group (RAG) once this Agreement is signed.

The revision of the implementation of this MOU is in the scope of the MLA Peer evaluation to the IAF Management System MLA signatories working in the certification scheme that have agreed to implement the MoU.

6. Confidentiality



6.1 IAF shall hold all Confidential Information in strictest confidence and shall only use it for the purpose for which it was provided and shall not disclose or make available any Confidential Information to any third party without the prior written consent of IAQG.

7. Term

This MOU shall commence from the Date of Signing and, unless terminated earlier according to clause 8, continue for a period of 3 years.

8. Cancellation

This MOU between the IAQG and the IAF can be cancelled by either party in writing with a period of notice of three months.

International Accreditation Forum, Inc.	International Aerospace Quality Group
<p>DocuSigned by:  07396FF7DABA458... Emanuele Riva Chairman of IAF Date of Signature 6/27/2023</p>	<p>DocuSigned by:  D256E84608DC477... Andy Maher IAQG President Date of Signature 6/27/2023</p>