



IAF and the International Institute of Welding Memorandum of Understanding

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The **International Institute of Welding (IIW)** is the scheme owner of the globally operated Scheme for Certification of International Welding Inspectors, IAB-361r1-25. IIW has sought and received endorsement of their scheme listed in Schedule 1 to this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) (hereinafter referred to as "the Scheme") as an IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) sub-scope in accordance with IAF PL3 and this MoU.
- 1.2 The Scheme requires Authorised Nomination Bodies (ANB)/Certification Bodies (CBs) operating in the Scheme to be accredited by an Accreditation Body (AB) that is a signatory to the IAF MLA with a main scope of certification of persons and a sub-scope of the scheme included in Schedule 1 to this MoU (IAF MLA signatories).
- 1.3 The Scheme sets voluntary standards for the certification of the field of certification of persons. The Scheme outlines the requirements for the certification of welding inspection personnel. The Scheme is owned and managed by the International Institute of Welding. Currently, there are around 200,000 individuals who have been qualified and/or certified across all IIW schemes on its website, www.iiwelding.org.
- 1.4 IIW contracts at the time of this Agreement with 15 ANBs/CBs worldwide under its Schemes, the supervision of which may be carried out by the ABs that are IAF MLA signatories.
- 1.5 IIW delegates the responsibility of supervision of the CBs it contracts with 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.
- 1.6 Scheme for Certification of International Welding Inspectors provides the standard and framework for independent, recognized 3rd party certification of Persons based on ISO/IEC 17024.
- 1.7 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.
- 1.8 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 (Validation and Verification Bodies) and to support its IAF MLA.

1.9 The IAF MLA is established and maintained based on 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 and V&VBs.

2. Administration and Cooperation

2.1 Both IAF and IIW, by means of this formal 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 Scheme and to cooperate in the continuous improvement of the Scheme with the final goal of assuring the highest level of competence in the Scheme's accredited CBs.

2.2 IAF and IIW 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 Schemes will be open to all CBs that are accredited by IAF MLA signatories.

2.4 IIW will only work with IAF MLA signatories. IIW will stop working with an AB that is no longer a signatory to the IAF MLA.

3. Information Exchange

In order to achieve such goals, both organizations have agreed upon the following:

3.1 IIW shall inform the IAF of the following:

- a) Changes to any of the schemes listed in Schedule 1, that may impact compliance with IAF PL3.
- b) Any revision/extension of the Schemes' standards/documents.
- c) Outcomes from any AB workshop held by IIW on the Schemes.
- d) Feedback IIW may have regarding the IAF MLA signatory ABs.

Note: All correspondence, including responses to related questions, shall be provided expeditiously (within at least 7 days).

3.2 IAF shall inform IIW of the following:

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

4. Mandatory Interpretation of the Scheme Documents

4.1 Scheme for Certification of International Welding Inspectors documents and modules shall be prepared using the IIW's procedure for the setting and revision of scheme documents.

There shall include a public review phase comprising two rounds of comment submissions by interested parties, each lasting 60 days. The second round of comment may generally be conducted following completion of two trial audits in the field with feedback being provided to organizations that made the comment. A summary of comments shall be available on the IIW website.

- 4.2 The IAF will be considered as a stakeholder and invited during any public consultation period of the standard revision process.
- 4.3 The review period for the Scheme normative documents is three (3) years. The Scheme normative documents shall be available free of charge on the IIW website, www.iiwelding.org.
- 4.4 The IIW will provide new draft version document(s) with a gap analysis and proposed transition plan for implementation of the new version documents to IAF in order to make sure, that the scheme continues to comply with the requirements of IAF PL3.
- 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.

5. Implementation

- 5.1 IAF and IIW shall each bear their own costs.
- 5.2 The Schemes will be included as a sub-scope under the main scope of certification of persons, ISO/IEC 17024. Those ABs currently providing accreditations to the Scheme will be able to apply for an IAF MLA scope extension for the Scheme through provision of a signed self-declaration once this MoU is signed.
- 5.3 The revision of the implementation of this MoU is in the scope of the MLA Peer evaluation to the IAF certification of persons MLA signatories working in the Scheme.

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 IIW.

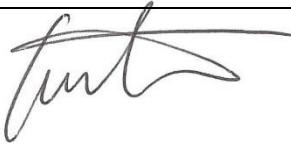
7. Term

- 7.1 This MoU shall commence from the original Date of Signing and, unless terminated earlier according to clause 8, continues indefinitely.

8. Cancellation

- 8.1 This MoU between IIW and IAF can be cancelled by either party in writing with a period of notice of three months.

Execution of the MoU

International Accreditation Forum, Inc.	International Institute of Welding
 Signature of authorised person IAF Chair	 Signature of authorised person Chief Executive Officer

Date of MoU: 23 December 2025

SCHEDULE 1

IIW scheme endorsed for inclusion as a sub-scope to the IAF MLA:

1. Scheme for Certification of International Welding Inspectors

Level 4 - IAB-361r1-25 - Criteria to be satisfied by ANBs seeking to implement the IIW scheme for certification of welding inspection personnel

Level 5 - IAB-360r1-25-January-2025-IIW-PCS-INSPECTOR

End of List