

APLAC MRA

Overcoming Technical Barriers to Trade Seminar

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APLAC It's Role and the MRA

- Overview of APLAC
- The Role of APLAC
- APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement

Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation

- Established 1992
- Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)
November 1997
- Inspection MRA November 2003
- RMP MRA December 2007
- Incorporated in 2006: APLAC
Constitution

APLAC Membership

- Laboratory, inspection body and reference material producer (RMP) accreditation bodies in APEC economies
- Accreditation bodies in other economies with approval by membership
- Commitment to compliance with ISO/IEC 17011

Current APLAC Membership

- All APEC economies except Chile
- Also Bangladesh, India, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka

- 37 full members
- 8 associate members

APLAC's Role

- Development of laboratory, inspection body and RMP accreditation procedures and practices in the APEC region
- Promotion of accreditation as a trade facilitation tool
- Assistance to developing accreditation systems

APLAC's Role

- Recognition of competent test and calibration facilities, inspection bodies and reference material producers in the APEC region

APLAC's Role

- Cooperation with other regional laboratory and inspection body accreditation organisations such as EA, IAAC, SADCA and AFRAC
- Strong links with APEC SCSC & the other APEC Specialist Regional Bodies, APLMF, APMP, PAC, PASC
- APLAC is a recognised Regional Cooperation Body Member of ILAC

APLAC - Primary Objective

- Acceptance of test, calibration and inspection reports and reference material certificates amongst all signatories' economies
 - demands mutual confidence in technical competence
- Confidence cannot be legislated

APLAC - Subsidiary Objectives

- Information exchange
- Exchange of experts
- Training
- Proficiency Testing

APLAC MRA

- Single multilateral MRA for testing and calibration, 1997
- Extended to include inspection, 2003
- ISO 15189 separated out, 2007
- Extended to include RMP, 2007
- Regional component of global ILAC Arrangement, November 2000 (test and calibration only)

APLAC MRA ctd

- A facility accredited by one MRA partner has equivalent competence to a facility accredited by other MRA partners
- **Each signatory acknowledges equivalence of all other signatories**
- Signatories demonstrate compliance with ISO/IEC 17011
- Procedure: APLAC MR 001
- Re-evaluation every 4 years maximum
 - shorter interval for various causes

APLAC Procedure MR 001

- Application; pre-evaluation; evaluation
- Maintenance of signatory status
- Criteria for accreditation bodies
 - ISO/IEC 17011
- Qualifications of evaluators
 - Expanded on in APLAC MR 004

APLAC Procedure MR 001 ctd

- Criteria for accredited conformity assessment bodies
 - ISO/IEC 17025: laboratories
 - ISO 15189: medical laboratories
 - ISO/IEC 17020: inspection bodies
 - ISO Guide 34 in combination with ISO/IEC 17025: RMPs

APLAC MRA - Supplementary Requirements

- Access to appropriate measurement traceability system
- Avoidance of conflict of interest
- Confidentiality
- Access to adequate comprehensive proficiency testing programs

APLAC MRA - Evaluation Team

- Peer review
- Balance of skills and technical expertise
- Evaluators
 - experienced in laboratory accreditation
 - technical expertise
 - proficiency testing experience
 - free from conflict of interest

APLAC MRA - Evaluation

- Preparation
- On-site visit
 - accreditation body
 - accredited & applicant facilities
- Report
 - corrective actions identified
 - acceptance of corrective actions
 - schedule for implementation
- Full review by APLAC MRA Council

APLAC MRA - Maintenance of Signatory Status

- Accreditation body notifies changes
 - name; legal status; organisation structure
 - key staff
 - operational procedures
- Re-evaluation
 - maximum every 4 years
 - after a shorter period with due cause
 - focus on changes
 - new team leader

APLAC MRA - Assisting Trade

- APLAC MRA enhances acceptance of test, calibration and inspection reports, and RM certificates amongst signatory economies
- APLAC MRA signatories recognise equivalence of each others' accredited facilities
- APLAC MRA is an international recognition for accredited laboratories, inspection bodies and RMPs

APLAC MRA - Assisting Trade

- APLAC MRA reduces or eliminates need for re-testing or re-inspection of imported goods
- Entry into global ILAC Arrangement (for testing and calibration only)

APLAC MRA & Regulators

- Laboratories and inspection bodies accredited for compliance with domestic & foreign regulations
- MRA evaluations assure competence to assess to domestic & foreign regulations
- APLAC MRA underpins APEC G2G arrangements

Contact APLAC

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