



**Standards Council of Canada**  
**Conseil canadien des normes**

## **Model/Framework for Mutual Recognition – CA Protocol, CETA**

1. Recognition for product/product categories
2. Notification processes
3. Maintenance of recognition

The purpose of this document is the implementation of the CETA Protocol on the Mutual Acceptance of the Results of Conformity Assessment and the Bilateral Agreement between the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) and Standards Council of Canada (SCC).

### **1. Recognition for product/product categories**

#### **1.1. Setting up the recognition at the national accreditation level**

- Select product(s)/category of products for implementation,
- Evaluation by the Steering Group (see below for details on Steering Group), development of a summary/list of specific requirements (Canada and EU), development of training for assessors, development of specific tools (if needed) for implementation,
- On-going process to implement as many product/product categories in Annex I of CA Protocol as possible,
- Establishment of a list of recognized product/product categories (living list, to which products are added as soon as evaluation by the Steering Group is concluded),
- Establishment of a list of recognized NABs with their scope of recognition; the scope of recognition will list the product/product categories for which they are recognized and the market specific regulatory requirements; this list will be the responsibility of the Steering Group and will be publicly available,
- Reiterative process when a product/category of product is implemented:
  - o Consider a product category, determine what are the regulatory requirements in EU and in Canada, which will drive the scope of recognition of the NAB accrediting the CAB,
  - o Accreditation of CABs by a “recognized” NAB; scope of accreditation includes the market specific regulatory requirements for the category of product/product certified,
  - o Steering Group will address training needs for the assessors of the other party.

#### **1.2. Recognition of National Accreditation Bodies (NABs) for specific product category**

- Each interested EU NAB and SCC will apply to the Steering Group for recognition for a specific product/product category.
- Application form, as well as a list of supporting documents to be submitted with the application (one example of evidence required is the training of assessors).

- Application is considered level 4 under the EA and IAF MLA for product, hence it is a scope extension of the NAB recognition based on a desk review of the application; the desk review is performed by the Steering Group; language of application and supporting documents shall be English.
- Based on a positive application review result, the Steering Group will recommend the recognition of a NAB to the “recognising Party”.
- Once scope extension is recognised, the EU NABs and SCC can start offering accreditation to the other side’s requirements for the product/product categories for which scope extension has been successfully recognised.

Note: According to Article 12 of the CETA Protocol on the mutual acceptance of the results of conformity assessment, the “recognising Party” is responsible for the recognition of a NAB. The “recognising Party” may, in accordance with the procedure described under Article 12 paragraphs 2 and 3, recognise an accreditation body established in the territory of the other Party (“nominating Party”) as competent to accredit conformity assessment bodies as, themselves, competent to assess conformity with the relevant technical regulations of the recognising Party. The recognition of a NAB should be based on a recommendation of the EA – SCC Steering Group.

## **2. Notification processes**

### **2.1. Notifying Canadian CABs to EU**

- A CAB already accredited by SCC for EU requirements and wanting to be recognised for EU requirements will apply to SCC (as notifying authority) for notification to EU,
- SCC will review the application and, provided all requirements for notification are met by the CAB, will notify the CAB to the EC,
- Once reviewed and approved according to EC’s processes, the CAB will be placed on NANDO data base,
- For notification procedures administered by SCC, please visit [add Link to procedures on SCC website](#).

### **2.2. Notifying EU CABs to Canada**

- The Member State in which the CAB accredited by a recognized NAB for the Canadian requirements will apply to SCC for recognition in Canada,
- SCC will liaise with the appropriate regulatory authority in Canada having jurisdiction for the product in question and will facilitate the administrative processes needed for recognition in Canada,

- Once all approvals obtained, SCC will place the CAB on the list of recognized CABs maintained by SCC,
- For notification procedures administered by SCC, please visit [add Link to procedures on SCC website.](#)

### **3. Maintenance of recognition**

#### **3.1. Maintenance of Recognition at national accreditation level**

The Steering Group has the responsibility of the on-going maintenance of recognition processes for specific product category/categories. A list of product categories and related requirements will be maintained by the Steering Group (placed on publicly accessible websites of EA and SCC). All other tools (such as training materials, pertinent documents and forms, etc.) are to be maintained by the Steering Group.

#### **3.2. Maintenance of Recognition of National Accreditation Bodies (NABs) for specific product category**

In order to maintain the recognition NABs shall demonstrate on a regular basis their ability to accredit CABs according the defined requirements. Therefore the NABs shall provide every four years the following set of documents/information:

- List of trained lead and technical assessors/technical experts for the relevant scope of recognition
- Records on training activities relevant of the scope of recognition
- Further documents/information requested by the Steering Group, if needed (e.g. assessment reports)

The Steering Group will evaluate the application of recognition and records provided by the NABs and recommend to the “recognising party” (see 1.2) the maintenance of recognition.

#### **Steering Group**

Membership: representatives from SCC and EA

- At least one member of the EA Executive Committee or the Executive Secretary and two other EA’s representatives involved in the accreditation of notified bodies; one of these three representatives shall be a peer evaluator; EA is responsible to nominate EA’s representatives to the Steering Group.
- One member of SCC (accreditation body) management team, a second member from SCC who is a peer evaluator with IAAC; a third member from SCC who is responsible for the notification/designation processes administered by SCC. SCC is responsible to nominate SCC’s representatives to this Steering Group.

Roles (apart from those defined in Article 3.9 of the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement between EA and SCC):

- Administer the processes leading to the mutual recognition for each product category between SCC and EA; the output of these processes: a list of product categories and related requirements for which the recognition has been established at national accreditation level.
- Administer processes leading to the mutual recognition for specific products/product categories for accreditation bodies; the output of these processes: list of NABs recognized with their scope of recognition (product/product categories and related requirements for which the NAB is recognized under the CETA CA Protocol).
- Update, as needed, documentation and related forms to be used for the recognition processes.
- Maintain regulatory currency and engagement with regulatory authorities.
- Maintain the list of recognized NABs, and their scope of recognition.
- Act as central point of contact for questions about CETA CA Protocol implementation and mutual recognition processes in application of the Protocol.

Operation of the Steering Group:

- The Group shall meet at least twice a year (virtual meetings are accepted).
- The Group will establish a virtual forum for sharing documents and interacting in-between meetings; this forum will be used to store documents of internal use; other means to interact with the public will be considered by the Group in order to achieve its role as central point of contact.
- A chair will be appointed for a one year mandate, rotating between SCC and EA.

#### Maintaining regulatory currency

Members of the Steering Group will participate in relevant EU regulatory meetings (for example IMP) and Canadian Regulatory Authority Advisory Bodies (RAABs) sessions as a way of keeping current. Members will update the representatives on the Steering Group of the other party on any significant changes to requirements.