



Inter American Accreditation Cooperation

IAAC Report to EA

This report includes IAAC activities from January to November 2018.

IAAC Membership

IAAC currently has a total of 58 members, 24 of which are full members, 5 are associate members and 29 are stakeholders. This year IAAC increased its membership by accepting three new Stakeholder members.

IAAC MLA Signatories

IAAC has a total of 20 MLA signatory members. Currently there are 20 MLA signatories for the scope of Testing Laboratories, 9 for Medical laboratories, 17 for Calibration Laboratories, 14 for Inspection Bodies, 4 for Reference Materials Producers, 5 for Proficiency Testing Providers, 11 for Quality Management Systems, 10 for Environmental Management Systems, 6 for Food Safety Management Systems, 3 for Information Security Management Systems, 3 for Medical Devices Management Systems, 1 for Energy Management Systems, 12 for Product Certification Bodies, and 1 for Verification/Validation of Green House Gases.

New IAAC MLA signatories

In August 2018 three IAAC MLA signatories extended their MLA scopes: OSA of El Salvador was accepted as an MLA signatory for Inspection Bodies, ECA of Costa Rica was accepted as an MLA signatory for Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) Certification Bodies, and ANAB of USA was accepted as an MLA signatory for Energy Management Systems (EnMS) Certification Bodies. In March 2018, four IAAC MLA signatories extended their MLA scopes: OUA of Uruguay was accepted as an MLA signatory for Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) Certification Bodies; ONA of Nicaragua was accepted as an MLA signatory for Calibration Laboratories; SAE of Ecuador was accepted as an MLA signatory for Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) Certification Bodies; and emma of Mexico was accepted as an MLA signatory for Medical Devices Management Systems (MDMS) and Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) Certification Bodies.

IAAC MLA recognition by IAF and ILAC

IAAC is a recognized Regional Cooperation for the scopes of Testing Laboratories (including Medical Laboratories) and Calibration Laboratories; Inspection Bodies; and Quality Management Systems, Environmental Management Systems, and Product Certification Bodies including GLOBAL GAP.

IAF MLA and ILAC MRA MLA scope extensions

IAAC submitted to IAF its MLA Declaration for sub-scope extensions for Food Safety Management Systems (FSMS) Certification, Information Security Management Systems (ISMS), and Medical Devices Management Systems (MDMS) Certification Bodies. IAAC also submitted an application to ILAC to extend its MRA recognition for the scope of Proficiency Testing Providers (PTP) and for Reference Materials Producers (RMP). IAAC is in the process of undergoing its re-evaluation and scope extension evaluations by IAF and ILAC during 2017 and 2018. ILAC will carry out a separate evaluation for RMP in 2019.



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The IAAC officers

IAAC held elections for a new Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and other key positions during its General Assembly in August 2018.

The current IAAC officers are:

Liliane Somma of OUA, Uruguay, IAAC Chair

Andrea Melo of Cgcre, Brazil, IAAC Vice-Chair

Elias Rafoul of SCC, Canada, IAAC Treasurer

Ferney Chaparro of ONAC, Colombia, as MLA Group and MLA Committee Chair

Barbara Belzer of NVLAP, USA, as MLA Group and MLA Committee Vice-Chair

Training

IAAC has an intensive program of training activities throughout the year focusing on different technical topics as decided by the subcommittees.

A workshop on ISO/IEC 17011:2017 was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in March 2018 and focused on the newly revised standard. 30 representatives of Accreditation Bodies in the Region attended, additionally 30 persons were trained remotely via a webex connection.

A workshop on ISO/IEC 17025:2017 was held in Guatemala City, Guatemala, in February 2018. Representatives from 19 accreditation bodies from the IAAC region and one representative from the APLAC region attended this workshop. Additionally 31 persons were trained remotely via a webex connection. As a result of the workshop a draft document "Harmonized Interpretation about ISO/IEC 17025" was drafted.

Technical Cooperation Projects

Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency Project (R3E)

The technical cooperation project titled "Quality Infrastructure Services for Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency (R3E) in Latin America and the Caribbean" is being implemented by the 3 regional organizations for accreditation, standards and metrology: IAAC, COPANT and SIM. Sponsor organizations include PTB of Germany and the Organization of American States (OAS).

Under the framework of this project, a workshop on "Border Control and Market Surveillance: Instruments, experiences, lessons learnt" was held in Montevideo, Uruguay from September 9-14, 2018. 90 representatives attended from organizations of conformity assessment, accreditation, standards, metrology, customs, government officials and regulators.

Biodiversity and Climate Change Project

IAAC together with COPANT and SIM, the Regional organizations for standards and metrology, participate in a project aimed at strengthening the regional quality infrastructure through programs related to biodiversity and climate change. Sponsor organizations include PTB of Germany and the Organization of American States (OAS). The project includes 2 accreditation subprojects. An Ecolabelling and Product Certification program carried out by ECA of Costa Rica, ema of Mexico and ONAC of Colombia, and a project on Sustainable Forests Certification carried out by ema of Mexico, ONAC of Colombia and SAE of Ecuador. A 3rd phase of the project was launched IAAC in June 2018, which includes a subproject submitted by ONA of Paraguay, ONAC of Colombia and INACAL-DA of Peru regarding the "Development of



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accreditation requirements for greenhouse gas validation and verification bodies, GHG inventories certification for quality infrastructure services”.

Innovations for a Green Economy project

IAAC together with COPANT and SIM, the Regional organizations for standards and metrology, participate in a project aimed at strengthening the regional quality infrastructure through programs related to Innovations for a Green Economy. Sponsor organizations include PTB of Germany and the Organization of American States (OAS). Based on a study on the region, the project is focusing on 3 selected sectors: Hazardous Waste and E-Waste, Air quality Monitoring in Cities, and Life Cycle Assessment. Several planning meetings have taken place in 2017.

Cooperation with International and Regional Organizations

Cooperation with APLAC and PAC:

IAAC and PAC successfully carried out one joint peer evaluation in 2018 and IAAC also carried out a joint evaluation with APLAC in 2018. IAAC, APLAC and PAC are in close communication to share evaluator resources when feasible, particularly in the scopes where evaluators are scarce.

Cooperation with ARAC, AFRAC and SADCA

IAAC regularly exchanges information with AFRAC, SADCA and ARAC regarding best practices in MLA management.

In June 2018, Barbara Belzer, IAAC instructor, provided an ISO/IEC 17011 workshop for new and experienced AFRAC peer evaluators. 30 participants from the region attended the workshop.

Cooperation with EA

IAAC regularly exchanges information with EA on the latest developments in the region.

Cooperation with IHAF

In April 2018, IAAC signed an MOU with the International Halal Accreditation Forum, (IHAF), and will begin a relationship of cooperation on halal accreditation with those accreditation bodies that are interested in developing the scheme.

The Quality Infrastructure Cooperation of the Americas, (QICA)

The QICA website is <http://qica.copant.org/index.php/en/>

- As part of a QICA initiative to reach out to regulators and stakeholders to promote the services of the quality infrastructure in their countries, an event was held in Buenos Aires on March 15, 2018.
- Representatives of IAAC, COPANT and SIM discussed the benefits of the Quality Infrastructure to Argentine regulatory and trade officials and private sector. Argentine officials shared their perspectives and representatives of ILAC-IAF provided ideas on how to increase the value of accredited services.
- Two successful cases were shared with the audience. Argentina discussed its experience in energy efficiency of lighting and Brazil talked about an inspection system for public works and construction.



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Upcoming IAAC Meetings

The next IAAC Executive Committee meetings will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from March 18-21, 2019.

The next IAAC General Assembly meetings will be held in Mexico City from August 14-20, 2019.