



7 November 2025

UPDATE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF GLOBAL ACCREDITATION COOPERATION INCORPORATED

Dear Colleagues,

This letter provides a short summary regarding the establishment of Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (the Cooperation), and an update of resolutions and activities arising from the Second General Assembly held in Bangkok, Thailand in October 2025.

Establishment of the Cooperation

The International Accreditation Forum (IAF), (formed in 1993), is a global association of accreditation bodies, certification body associations and other stakeholders involved in conformity assessment activities in a variety of fields including management systems, validation/verification, products, services and personnel.

Similarly, the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) (which started as a conference in 1977 and then became a formal cooperation in 1996), is the international authority on laboratory, inspection body, proficiency testing provider and reference material producer accreditation, with a membership consisting of accreditation bodies and affiliated organisations throughout the world.

Since their formation, both organisations have promoted the worldwide acceptance of conformity assessment results by conformity assessment bodies accredited by their accreditation body members and the increased use and acceptance by industry and governments of the results from accredited conformity assessment bodies (such as laboratories, inspection bodies, certification bodies, proficiency testing providers, reference material producers, and validation and verification bodies).

In 2019, the members of IAF and ILAC made the decision to establish a single international organisation for accreditation to replace IAF and ILAC.

Following extensive work and discussions, the IAF and ILAC membership, in 2024, agreed the Constitution and General Rules for a new organisation to take over the existing roles of both IAF and ILAC. The Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (the Cooperation) was formally registered in New Zealand as a Not-for-Profit incorporated Society in December 2024.

Since that time extensive work has been undertaken to finalise the administrative and operational activities of the Cooperation, including development of supporting governance and procedural documentation, transfer/licensing of the ILAC MRA Mark and IAF MLA Mark and all associated trademarks, transition arrangements for the use of both marks prior to the dissolution of ILAC and IAF and development of a new Acronym, MRA Mark and Website.

The Second General Assembly of the Cooperation was held on 23 and 24 October 2025 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Membership numbers increased significantly, with applications that had been submitted by 21 October being approved. The breakdown of new members is as follows:

- 103 Full Members
- 8 Associate Members; and
- 38 Stakeholder Members

All six of the existing Regional Cooperation Bodies (RCBs) also joined the organisation, ensuring a seamless transition to the new Multilateral Recognition Arrangement. This brings the total number of Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated members to 159.

Procedural and guidance documents were approved at the meeting, enabling the Cooperation to function as a complete entity from 1 January 2026. Processes for establishing the new MRA and transfer of the ILAC MRA Mark and licencing of the IAF MLA Mark to Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated were also formalised. The ILAC and IAF Secretariats are now busy finalising the remaining documents that will be needed from 1 January.

Members elected Mr. Brahim Houla from the GCC Accreditation Center, Saudi Arabia as the Chair-elect and Mr. Emanuele Riva from Accredia, Italy as the Vice Chair-elect. Their election marks an important step in guiding the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated through its formative phase and ensuring a smooth and successful transition as the organisation prepares to commence full operations from 1 January 2026. Both will commence their three-year terms from that date.

The existing transitional Executive Committee will continue in the role until 31 December, after which the new Executive will assume responsibility. Committee Chair elections will take place in November and December 2025, while new membership applications will continue to be approved through the end of the year, ensuring all newly joined organisations can participate in the upcoming Committee Vice Chair elections in early 2026.

Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated bank accounts are in the process of being finalised in Australia, where the existing ILAC bank accounts are currently operated by the ILAC Secretariat.

Bell Gully will continue to be engaged as legal advisors to Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated.

Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated has engaged Novagraaf Nederland NV to register the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated Mark and to transfer the ownership of the ILAC Mark.

We would encourage all existing members of IAF and ILAC that haven't already submitted their applications to Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated to complete the process before 31 December 2025.

For those members that are unable to submit their applications by 31 December 2025, it would be greatly appreciated if you could please advise the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated secretariat secretariat@global-accreditation.nz of your intention to join or any issues that are preventing your organisation from joining.

Best regards



Etty Feller
ILAC Chair



Emanuele Riva
IAF Chair