



14 April 2026

SPECIFYING THE USE OF GLOBAL ACCREDITATION COOPERATION INCORPORATED ACCREDITATION

Purpose

Regulators, policymakers and specifiers rely on accredited conformity assessment results to support safety, health, environmental protection and confidence in products and services. Mutual recognition arrangements between peer-evaluated accreditation bodies enable accredited results to be accepted across borders, supporting trade and helping to reduce technical barriers.

This letter explains what is changing, what is not changing, and how to reference **Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI)** and its **Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA)** in regulations and specification documents.

Background

In 2019, the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) agreed to establish a single international organisation for accreditation. The new organisation, **Global ACI**, became fully operational on 1 January 2026, replacing IAF and ILAC as the international authority on the accreditation of laboratories, certification bodies, inspection bodies, proficiency testing providers, validation/verification bodies, reference material producers and biobanks.

Global ACI has assumed IAF and ILAC's former activities, including maintenance of a Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA). Global ACI promotes the worldwide acceptance of conformity assessment results by conformity assessment bodies accredited by its accreditation body members, and the increased use and acceptance by industry and governments of the results from accredited conformity assessment bodies.

As of 14 April 2026, the majority of former IAF and ILAC members have transferred to Global ACI, with the transition ongoing. The IAF MLA and ILAC MRA have been subsumed into Global ACI's MRA, with recognition of existing accredited conformity assessment results continuing without interruption under Global ACI's MRA.

IAF and ILAC became non-operational as of 1 January 2026 but will remain in existence for a period of time to enable, amongst other things, the ongoing management and protection of the IAF MLA Mark and the ILAC MRA Mark. IAF and ILAC will be wound up after the protection of the IAF and ILAC marks is no longer needed.

What is changing

- **References in regulations and specifications should transition over time from the IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (IAF MLA) and the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (ILAC MRA) to the Global ACI MRA.**
- Global ACI is working with its members to support this transition so that, over time, regulations and specifications **refer to Global ACI** rather than IAF or ILAC.



What is not changing

- **Continuity of recognition:** recognition of existing accredited results continues without interruption as arrangements transition.
- **No service interruptions:** accreditation bodies and conformity assessment bodies continue operating as normal through the transition.

Recommended wording for regulations and specifications (model clause)

To support clear and consistent referencing, Global ACI recommends that regulations, specifications, procurement documents and scheme rules use wording equivalent to the following:

Model clause

“Conformity assessment results and certificates shall be issued by bodies accredited by an accreditation body that is a signatory to the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (Global ACI MRA), for the relevant standard and scope.”

Where existing documents currently specify IAF MLA and/or ILAC MRA, these references may remain in force while updates are progressed, noting the transition arrangements below.

Transition arrangements for marks and references

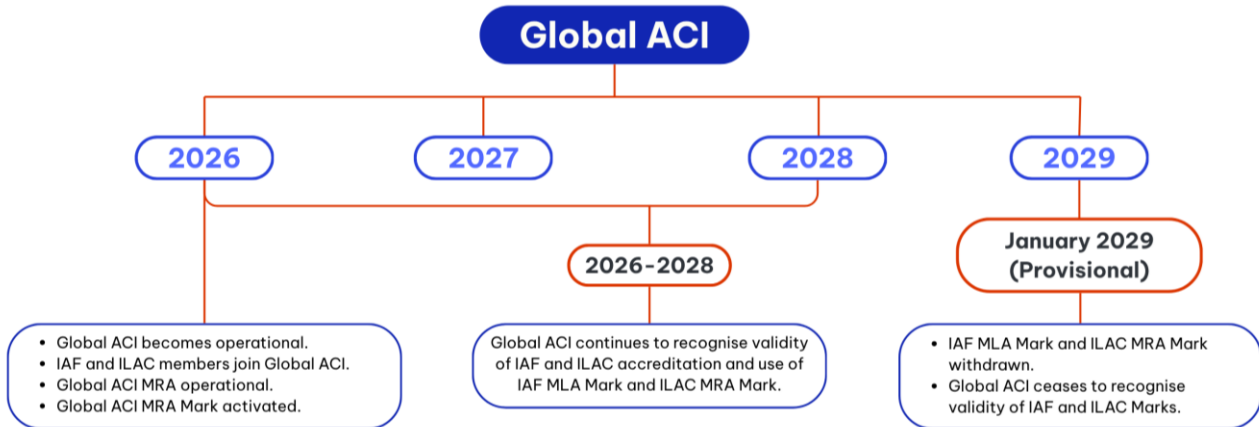
Global ACI recognises that regulations and specifications worldwide that reference the IAF MLA and/or the ILAC MRA may take time to be amended to refer to Global ACI.

For a limited time, Global ACI will recognise the ongoing use of the IAF MLA Mark and the ILAC MRA Mark as equivalent to Global ACI’s MRA Mark, in line with published transition procedures (including Global ACI MRA-006 *Use of the MRA Mark by Accreditation Bodies and Conformity Assessment Bodies, and Claims of Accreditation Status by Conformity Assessment Bodies*).

Until the Global ACI MRA Mark is available in their economy, Global ACI MRA signatories who were IAF MLA and/or ILAC MRA signatories as of 31 December 2025 may continue using the IAF and ILAC Marks. Once the Global ACI MRA Mark is available, signatories must transition to the Global ACI MRA Mark in accordance with the published transition procedure.

The anticipated end date for continuing use of the IAF/ILAC Marks is 1 January 2029 (or later if necessary).

Anticipated Timeline



What you should do now

1. Identify references to **IAF MLA**, **ILAC MRA**, and related marks in regulations, specifications, procurement documents and scheme rules.
2. Update those references to **Global ACI** and the **Global ACI MRA** using the model clause above (as soon as practicable).
3. Where documents cannot be amended immediately, apply transition arrangements so recognition of accredited results continues without disruption.
4. For economy-specific implementation guidance, contact your **local Global ACI member accreditation body**.
5. If you cannot identify the appropriate local member accreditation body, or you require global guidance, contact the **Global ACI Secretariat**.

Enquiries

Should you have any questions regarding the transition please contact Global ACI's Secretary: secretariat@global-aci.org.



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