



The Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI)
and
The International Personnel Certification Association (IPC)
Endorsed Scheme Agreement

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The **International Personnel Certification Association (IPC)** is the scheme owner of the worldwide operated IPC scheme, "IPC Management System Auditors". IPC has sought and received endorsement of the sub-scope of the Global ACI Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) in accordance with Global ACI MRA-003 and this Agreement.
- 1.2 The Schemes require Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) operating in the Schemes to be accredited by an Accreditation Body (AB) that is a signatory to the Global ACI MRA with a main scope of certification of persons.
- 1.3 "IPC Management System Auditors" sets voluntary standards for the certification of Management Systems (MS) auditors. The two certification grades that IPC recognises are IPC MS Auditor, and IPC MS Lead Auditor. The certification of an IPC-graded auditor only indicates the individual's competence to perform MS audits. The IPC scheme does not identify the area of technical competence that an individual may have. The responsibility for identifying that an auditor has the necessary knowledge and understanding of the technical environment to perform an audit of a specific organisation will still rest with those responsible for managing the audit process.
- 1.4 IPC contracts at the time of this Agreement with over 17 CBs Worldwide under the "IPC Management System Auditors", the supervision of which is carried out by the ABs that are signatories to the Global ACI MRA.
- 1.5 The "IPC Management System Auditors" certification process is performed by more than 80,000 auditors. Requirements for the professional competence of personnel (auditors) are defined in Section 4 (Competence Required for each grade of IPC Management Systems Auditors) of the "IPC Management System Auditors" General Regulations.
- 1.6 IPC delegates the responsibility of supervision of the CBs it contracts with to the corresponding Global ACI ABs, noting that harmonisation of criteria applied by the different ABs is increasingly important to ensure consistency of that supervision.
- 1.7 "IPC Management System Auditors" provides the standard and framework for independent, recognised 3rd party certification of Management System Auditors based on ISO/IEC 17024.
- 1.8 The **Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI)** is the world association of conformity assessment accreditation bodies in the fields of management systems, products, services, process, persons, validation and verification; testing

(including medical testing/examination), calibration, provision of proficiency testing, production of reference materials, and biobanking; inspection activities and other similar programs of conformity assessment.

- 1.9 Global ACI is responsible for the harmonisation and continuous improvement of the accreditation practices of its members with the ultimate goal to ensure sound technical competence of accredited CABs; Certification Bodies (CBs), Verification and Validation Bodies (V&VBs), laboratories, and inspection bodies, and to support its Global ACI MRA.
- 1.10 The Global ACI MRA is established and maintained based on the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011 through regular peer evaluations and is the tool by which Global ACI contributes to the elimination of technical barriers to trade and to promoting the free circulation of certificates issued by accredited CABs.

2. Administration and Cooperation

- 2.1 Both Global ACI and IPC by means of this formal Agreement, have decided to develop and maintain a close cooperation between the two organisations to ensure harmonisation in the accreditation practices performed by Global ACI members for the Scheme and to cooperate in the continuous improvement of the Scheme with the final goal of assuring the highest level of competence in the Scheme's accredited CABs.
- 2.2 The Global ACI and the Scheme, shall comply with the respective requirements of *Global ACI MRA-003 Policies and Procedures for the Management and Expansion of the Scope of the Global ACI Arrangement*, operating and administrating in an open, non-discriminatory and transparent manner, avoiding conflicts of interest or limitation on the acceptance of CABs or ABs other than relevant technical considerations.
- 2.3 The Scheme will be open to all CABs that are accredited by signatories to the Global ACI MRA. The ABs will be signatory members of the Global ACI MRA for certification of persons to ISO/IEC 17024.
- 2.4 IPC will only work with ABs that are signatories to the Global ACI MRA. The IPC will stop working with an AB that is no longer a signatory to the Global ACI MRA for certification of persons.
- 2.5 Both Global ACI and IPC shall appoint a liaison person of each organisation to act as contact persons.

3. Information Exchange

To achieve such goals both organisations have agreed upon the following:

- 3.1 IPC shall inform Global ACI of the following:
 - a) Changes to the Scheme that may impact compliance with Global ACI MRA-003.
 - b) Any revision/extension to the Scheme's standards/documents.
 - c) Outcomes from any AB workshop held by the IPC on the Scheme.
 - d) Feedback the IPC may have regarding the Global ACI MRA signatory ABs.
 - e) Change in the status as recognised scheme(s).

3.2 The Global ACI shall inform IPC of the following:

- a) When a Global ACI MRA signatory with a sub-scope of the Scheme has been suspended or had their Global ACI MRA signatory status withdrawn.
- b) Any general or technical questions regarding the interpretation of the Scheme's standards/documents.
- c) Changes in policy, procedure or documentation that may have impact on the Global ACI MRA and the Scheme's sub-scope.

4. Mandatory Interpretation of the Scheme Documents

4.1 "IPC Management System Auditors" documents and modules shall be prepared using the "IPC Management System Auditors" Procedure for the setting and revision of "IPC Management System Auditors" Standards.

This shall include a public review phase comprising two rounds of comment submissions by interested parties, each lasting 60 days. The second round of comment may generally be conducted following completion of two trial audits in the field with feedback being provided to organisations that made the comment. A summary of comments shall be available on the "IPC Management System Auditors" Website.

4.2 The Global ACI will be included as a stakeholder and invited during any stakeholder consultation period of the Scheme's revision process.

4.3 The Scheme's documents shall be available at no cost on the IPC website <http://www.ipcaweb.org>.

4.4 The IPC will provide new draft Scheme version document(s) with a gap analysis and proposed transition plan for implementation of the new version documents to Global ACI as soon as a technically sound new version is available in order to make sure, that the new scheme version continues to comply with the requirements of Global ACI MRA-003. IPC accepts the process to be followed according to Global ACI MRA-003 for Global ACI MRA sub-scope inclusion of new versions of the Scheme.

4.5 The need for the development of specific Global ACI application documents shall be proposed by the Global ACI applicable Technical Committee and the need for additional preparation of peer evaluation by the Global ACI MRA Committee as specified in Global ACI MRA-003.

4.6 The Scheme endorsed as Global ACI MRA sub-scopes are included in the relevant Global ACI MRA status lists. After the end of the transition period to a new scheme version the old version will not be published as Global ACI MRA sub-scopes anymore.

5. Implementation

5.1 Global ACI and IPC shall each bear their own costs.

5.2 The Scheme will be included as a sub-scope under the main scope of certification of

persons, ISO/IEC 17024.

Those ABs currently providing accreditations to the Scheme will automatically be able to apply for a Global ACI MRA scope extension for the scheme through provision of a signed self-declaration through their Regional Accreditation Group (RAG) once the Agreement is signed.

- 5.3 The revision of the implementation of this Agreement is in the scope of the MRA peer evaluation to the Global ACI certification of persons MRA signatories working in one or more of the Schemes.

6. Confidentiality

- 6.1 The Global ACI shall hold all Confidential Information in strictest confidence and shall only use it for the purpose for which it was provided and shall not disclose or make available any Confidential Information to any third party without the prior written consent of IPC.

7. Term

- 7.1 This Agreement shall commence from the original Date of Signing and, unless terminated earlier according to clause 8, continues indefinitely.

8. Cancellation

- 8.1 This Agreement between IPC and Global ACI can be cancelled by either party in writing with a period of notice of three months.

SCHEDULE 1

IPC schemes endorsed for inclusion as sub-scopes to the Global ACI MRA:

1. IPC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AUDITORS certification scheme

Level 4 - IPC Management System Auditors certification scheme Issue 6

Level 5 - IPC Management System Auditors certification scheme Issue 6, Section 4

End of List

Global ACI	The International Personnel Certification Association
 Brahim Houla Global ACI Chair	 Mr. Huang Jixian IPC Chairman

Date of Agreement: 14 April 2026