



## **Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI)**

**And**

## **The International Institute of Welding (IIW)**

### **Endorsed Scheme Agreement**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The **International Institute of Welding (IIW)** is the scheme owner of the globally operated Scheme for Certification of International Welding Inspectors, IAB-361r1-25. IIW has sought and received endorsement of their scheme listed in Schedule 1 to this Agreement (hereinafter referred to as “the Scheme”) as a Global ACI Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) sub-scope in accordance with Global ACI MRA-003 and this Agreement.
- 1.2 The Scheme requires Authorised Nomination Bodies (ANB)/Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) operating in the Scheme 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 and a sub-scope of the scheme included in Schedule 1 to this Agreement (Global ACI MRA signatories).
- 1.3 The Scheme sets voluntary standards for the certification of the field of certification of persons. The Scheme outlines the requirements for the certification of welding inspection personnel. The Scheme is owned and managed by the International Institute of Welding. Currently, there are around 200,000 individuals who have been qualified and/or certified across all IIW schemes on its website, [www.iiwelding.org](http://www.iiwelding.org).
- 1.4 IIW contracts at the time of this Agreement with 15 ANBs/CABs worldwide under its Schemes, the supervision of which may be carried out by the ABs signatories to the Global ACI MRA.
- 1.5 IIW delegates the responsibility of supervision of the CABs 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.
- 1.6 Scheme for Certification of International Welding Inspectors provides the standard and framework for independent, recognised 3rd party certification of Persons based on ISO/IEC 17024.
- 1.7 The **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.

- 1.8 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) and V&VBs (Validation and Verification Bodies) and to support its Global ACI MRA.
- 1.9 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 IIW, 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 Global ACI and IIW 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 Global ACI MRA signatories.
- 2.4 IIW will only work with Global ACI MRA signatories. IIW will stop working with an AB that is no longer a signatory to the Global ACI MRA.
- 2.5 Both Global ACI and IIW shall appoint a liaison person of each organisation to act as contact persons.

## **3. Information Exchange**

In order to achieve such goals, both organisations have agreed upon the following:

- 3.1 IIW shall inform Global ACI of the following:
  - a) Changes to the scheme listed in Schedule 1, that may impact compliance with Global ACI-MRA-003.
  - b) Any revision/extension of the Schemes' standards/documents.
  - c) Outcomes from any AB workshop held by IIW on the Scheme.
  - d) Feedback IIW may have regarding the Global ACI MRA signatory ABs.

Note: All correspondence, including responses to related questions, shall be provided expeditiously (within at least 7 days).
- 3.2 Global ACI shall inform IIW 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 Schemes' standards/documents.
- c) Changes in policy, procedure or documentation that may have an impact on the Global ACI MRA and Scheme's sub-scope.

#### **4. Mandatory Interpretation of the Scheme Documents**

- 4.1 Scheme for Certification of International Welding Inspectors documents and modules shall be prepared using the IIW's procedure for the setting and revision of scheme documents.

There 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 IIW website.

- 4.2 Global ACI will be considered as a stakeholder and invited during any public consultation period of the standard revision process.
- 4.3 The review period for the Scheme normative documents is three (3) years. The Scheme's normative documents shall be available free of charge on the IIW website, [www.iiwelding.org](http://www.iiwelding.org).
- 4.4 The IIW will provide new draft version document(s) with a gap analysis and proposed transition plan for implementation of the new version documents to Global ACI in order to make sure, that the scheme continues to comply with the requirements of Global ACI MRA-003.
- 4.5 The need for the development of specific Global ACI application documents for inclusion of publicly owned standards/normative documents in the Global ACI MRA shall be proposed by the Global ACI Technical Committee and the need for additional preparation of peer evaluation by the Global ACI MRA Committee as specified in Global ACI MRA-003.

#### **5. Implementation**

- 5.1 Global ACI and IIW 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 be able to apply for an Global ACI MRA scope extension for the Scheme through provision of a signed self-declaration once this 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 the Scheme.

#### **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 IIW.

**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 IIW and Global ACI can be cancelled by either party in writing with a period of notice of three months.

## SCHEDULE 1

IIW scheme endorsed for inclusion as a sub-scope to the Global ACI MRA:



1. Scheme for Certification of International Welding Inspectors

Level 4 - IAB-361r1-25 - Criteria to be satisfied by ANBs seeking to implement the IIW scheme for certification of welding inspection personnel

Level 5 - IAB-360r1-25-January-2025-IIW-PCS-INSPECTOR

End of List

### Execution of the Agreement

Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI)	International Institute of Welding (IIW)
 Brahim Houla Global ACI Chair	 Luca Costa Chief Executive Officer

Date of Agreement: 15 April 2026