



**Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI)
And
International Aerospace Quality Group AISBL (IAQG)
Endorsed Scheme Agreement**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The **International Aerospace Quality Group AISBL (IAQG)** is the scheme owner of the worldwide operated Industry Controlled Other Party Certification Scheme, hereinafter referred to as “the ICOP Scheme”. IAQG has sought and received endorsement of the ICOP Scheme as documented in the 9104-1:2012 standard, as a sub-scope of the Global ACI Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) in accordance with Global ACI MRA-003 and this Agreement.
- 1.2 The ICOP Scheme requires Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) operating in the ICOP Scheme as documented in the 9104-1:2012 standard or higher to be accredited by an Accreditation Body (AB) that is a signatory to the Global ACI MRA with a main scope of management system certification.
- 1.3 The Scheme sets voluntary standards for certification within the worldwide supply chain of the aviation, space, and defense industry. The IAQG implements quality initiatives for products and services improvements throughout the aviation, space and defense value stream. The Scheme is owned and managed by an international non-profit association based in Brussels, Belgium. Currently, there are around 24,000 ICOP Scheme certificates registered worldwide accessible on its website (<https://iaqg.org>) and within the IAQG Online Aerospace Supplier Information System (OASIS) database (<https://iaqg.org/oasis>).
- 1.4 IAQG contracts, at the time of this Agreement, with over 85 CBs worldwide under the ICOP Scheme, the supervision of which is carried out by 13 ABs that are signatories to the Global ACI MRA.
- 1.5 IAQG requirements for the professional competence of personnel auditors are defined in the IAQG Authentication requirements.
- 1.6 IAQG 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.
- 1.7 The ICOP Scheme provides the standard and framework for independent, recognised third-party management system certification of aviation, space, and defense products and services based on ISO/IEC 17021-1, the 9104 trilogy of standards (9104-1, 9104-2 and 9104-3), and the associated auditing standard 9101, for certification to one or more of the following Aerospace Quality Management System (AQMS) standards: 9100, 9110, and 9120.

- 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 on the basis of 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 promote the free circulation of conformity assessment attestations issued by accredited CABs.

2. Administration and Cooperation

- 2.1 Both Global ACI and IAQG 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 ICOP Scheme with the final goal of assuring the highest level of competence in the ICOP Scheme's accredited CABs.
- 2.2 Global ACI and the ICOP Scheme, as documented in the 9104-1:2012 standard or higher, 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 ICOP Scheme as documented in the 9104-1:2012 standard or higher 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 Management Systems to ISO/IEC 17021-1.
- 2.4 IAQG will only work with ABs that are signatories to the Global ACI MRA. The IAQG will stop working with an AB that is no longer a signatory to the Global ACI MRA for management systems certification.
- 2.5 Both Global ACI and IAQG 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 IAQG shall inform Global ACI of the following:

1. Changes to the ICOP Scheme that may impact compliance with Global ACI MRA-003.
 - a) Any revision/extension to the ICOP Scheme's standards/documents after the 9104-1:2012 standard and its associated standards and documents.
 - b) Outcomes from any AB workshop held by the IAQG on the ICOP Scheme.
 - c) Feedback the IAQG may have regarding the Global ACI MRA signatory ABs.
 - d) Change in the status as recognised scheme(s).

3.2 Global ACI shall inform IAQG of the following:

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

4. Mandatory Interpretation of the Scheme Documents

- 4.1 The ICOP Scheme documents shall be prepared using the IAQG Procedures for the setting and revision of IAQG standards relating to ICOP Scheme documentation laid down in IAQG Procedures.

For ICOP Scheme documentation this shall include a stakeholder consultation phase comprising of comment submissions by interested parties each lasting a specified timeframe with feedback being provided to organisations that made the comment.

- 4.2 Global ACI will be included as a stakeholder and invited during any stakeholder consultation period of the ICOP Scheme's revision process.
- 4.3 The Scheme's documents shall be available at no cost on the IAQG website <http://www.iaqg.org> or as provided by the IAQG to Global ACI.
- 4.4 The IAQG will provide new draft ICOP 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. IAQG accepts the process to be followed according to Global ACI MRA-003 for Global ACI MRA sub-scope inclusion of new versions of the ICOP 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 ICOP 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 IAQG shall each bear their own costs.
- 5.2 The ICOP Scheme will be included as a sub-scope under the main scope of Management System Certification, ISO/IEC 17021-1.

Those ABs currently providing accreditations to the ICOP 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 Management System MRA signatories working in one or more of the Schemes.

6. Confidentiality

- 6.1 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 IAQG.

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

Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI)	International Aerospace Quality Group AISBL
 Brahim Houla Global ACI Chair	 Eric Jefferies IAQG President

Date of Agreement: 10/20/26