



**USE OF THE MRA MARK BY ACCREDITATION BODIES AND
CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT BODIES, AND CLAIMS OF
ACCREDITATION STATUS BY CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT BODIES**

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FURTHER INFORMATION

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Purpose:** This document outlines the rules for using the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) Mark by Global ACI MRA signatories and for claiming accreditation status by Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) accredited by Global ACI Full Members.
- 1.2.** The use of the Global ACI MRA Mark by Global ACI MRA signatories and their accredited CABs is generally voluntary; however, Global ACI strongly encourages its use. For certain scopes, explicit reference to accreditation status may be mandatory in accordance with the requirements established in this procedure by Global ACI.

Note: Due to legal considerations, the Global ACI MRA Mark will continue to be referred to as a "mark" rather than a "symbol," despite the terminology used in ISO/IEC 17011, which references accreditation symbols.

- 1.3. Scope:** These requirements apply to all Global ACI Full Members and accredited CABs under the Global ACI MRA. The procedure outlines the rules, agreements, and compliance requirements for the use of the MRA Mark in reports, certificates, validation/verification statements, marketing materials, and other representations of accreditation status.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. Accreditation Body (AB)** - an authoritative body that provides accreditation (*Global ACI GOV-001: Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated Constitution*).
- 2.2. Conformity Assessment Body** - a body that performs Conformity Assessment Activities and that can be the object of accreditation (*ISO/IEC 17011:2017 clause 3.4*).
- 2.3. Full Member** - an Accreditation Body that has been accepted by Global ACI as a signatory of the Global ACI Arrangement and meets the requirements and obligations for Associate Members as specified in the Bylaws (*Global ACI GOV-001: Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated Constitution*).
- 2.4. Global ACI Arrangement (MRA)** - the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) on the operation of accreditation that is signed by Full Members (*Global ACI GOV-001: Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated Constitution*).
- 2.5. Global ACI MRA Mark** - a registered mark symbolises recognition under the Global ACI Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) and is owned by Global ACI.
- 2.6. Combined MRA Mark** - is the Global ACI MRA Mark used in combination with the Global ACI MRA signatory's logo or its accreditation symbol.
- 2.7. MRA Signatory:** a Full Member or a Recognised Regional Cooperation Body that has signed the Global ACI MRA and adheres to its requirements.

3. REFERENCES

- 3.1.** ISO/IEC 17011 Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies.

4. RULES FOR THE USE OF THE GLOBAL ACI MRA MARK

- 4.1. The ownership of the Global ACI MRA Mark belongs to the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated.
- 4.2. Global ACI is responsible for ensuring the worldwide protection of the MRA Mark.
- 4.3. The MRA Mark may be used for any purpose relating to the promotion of the Global ACI MRA or recognition of accreditation activities covered by the MRA, provided that such use will not give an incorrect or misleading impression as to the purpose, extent, or limitation of the MRA.
- 4.4. Recognised Regional Cooperation Bodies are entitled to use the Global ACI MRA Mark by itself but must provide information on the proposed use of the MRA Mark in advance to the Global ACI Secretariat. The Mark shall not be used until written approval is received.
- 4.5. Full Members must always use the Global ACI MRA Mark in conjunction with their own logo, ensuring that the two appear in close proximity and maintain proportionality. The Global ACI MRA Mark shall not be used in isolation in any context by Full Members. As a general guideline, one dimension of the accreditation body logo/symbol, preferably the height, should be within approximately 5% of the size of the Global ACI MRA Mark.

Note: For applications such as when the Global ACI MRA Mark is used in Full Members' lobbies or on their websites where the Full Member's logo is prevailing, the 'close proximity and proportionality' requirement is deemed to be met.

- 4.6. The rights derived to use the Global ACI MRA Mark are non-transferable under any circumstance, except where permission is granted by the Full Member to its accredited CABs to use the Combined MRA Mark.
- 4.7. Full Members shall have rules for the use of their accreditation body symbol as per ISO/IEC 17011. Therefore, when permitting accredited CABs to use the Combined MRA Mark, Full Members shall include in their rules information on the provisions for their accredited CABs relating to the use of the Combined MRA Mark.
- 4.8. The Combined MRA Mark may be used on the following materials, provided all applicable requirements are met:
 - a) Accreditation documents, such as accreditation scopes and certificates of accreditation
 - b) Accredited reports, certificates, and/or validation/verification statements
 - c) Communication tools (presentation slides, press releases, brochures, advertisements etc.)
 - d) Corporate Stationery (promotional gifts, calendars, document folders, notebooks, letterheads, business cards, compliment slips, faxes, invoices, quotations for work, etc.)
 - e) Event Materials and Displays (pop-up banners and stand displays, signage, posters, etc.)

f) Online applications (websites, newsletters, email signatures etc.)

- 4.9. Full Members shall monitor the use of the Combined MRA Mark by their accredited CABs in conjunction with the monitoring of the use of their own accreditation symbol.
- 4.10. Full Members shall maintain examples of their usage of the Global ACI MRA Mark. Global ACI may request its members to provide examples of the use of the MRA Mark at any time.
- 4.11. The design, size, and placement of the MRA Mark must comply with the branding guidelines provided by Global ACI in section 5.
- 4.12. Unauthorised use or modification of the MRA Mark is strictly prohibited.

5. REPRODUCTION RULES FOR THE GLOBAL ACI MRA MARK

- 5.1. The Global ACI MRA Mark is shown below. The Global ACI MRA Mark may be reproduced in black and white or in colour, provided the approved colours are used. Embossed, relief, or die-stamped versions are allowable.



- 5.2. All reproductions of the MRA Mark must adhere to the rules defined in this document.
- 5.3. The MRA Mark shall always be used in its original, designed proportions. The size shall assure its visibility and legibility.
- 5.4. It shall not be distorted, compressed, or stretched in any way.
- 5.5. The MRA Mark shall not appear in a size that renders the "Global ACI MRA" words unreadable.
- 5.6. The MRA Mark shall maintain similar proportions to the accreditation body's logo or the accreditation symbol, ensuring visual balance. As a general guideline, one dimension of the accreditation body logo/symbol, preferably the height, should be within approximately 5% of the size of the MRA Mark.
- 5.7. The MRA Mark shall only be used in its normal horizontal orientation and shall not be rotated.
- 5.8. A "similar" typeface shall not be substituted for the letters within the MRA Mark, as the typeface is custom-designed artwork. The MRA Mark shall always be used as a complete unit.
- 5.9. The MRA Mark shall be used on a background that does not impede readability.
- 5.10. High-quality reproductions of the MRA Mark based on the original artwork are preferred. Photocopies of logos from other documents are discouraged.

- 5.11. Modifying the MRA Mark, including alterations to the design or addition of unapproved elements, is prohibited.

6. THE COMBINED MRA MARK

- 6.1. The Combined Global ACI MRA Mark template, as used by Full Members, shall include the accreditation body's logo positioned above, below, or on either side of the Global ACI MRA Mark. The two elements must appear in close proximity to each other.



**Accreditation Body's
Logo
or Accreditation
Symbol**

- 6.2. Full Members wishing to use the Combined MRA Mark must seek permission by contacting the Global ACI Secretariat.
- 6.3. The Combined MRA Mark can only be used by a Full Member for the accreditation activities covered by the scope of their Global ACI MRA signatory status, and according to the MRA structure in *Global ACI FMRA-001: Structure and Normative Documents under the Scope of Global ACI MRA*.
- 6.4. The use of the Combined Global ACI MRA Mark is permitted only after the following conditions are met:
- a) An example of the Combined MRA Mark has been submitted to and approved by the Global ACI Secretariat.
 - b) The Full Member has signed the *FMRA-005 Global ACI MRA Mark Agreement*.
 - c) The scope of the Agreement is limited to the scope of the MRA for which the Full Member is a signatory.
- 6.5. By signing the Agreement for the Use of the Global ACI MRA Mark, the Full Member agrees to the terms of use set forth within this procedure.
- 6.6. Full Members shall not use the Combined MRA Mark until written approval is received.
- 6.7. The Combined MRA Mark shall only be used in economies where the Global ACI MRA Mark is registered or where an application for registration has been lodged, and registration is pending. If use in an unregistered economy is desired, the signatory must file a request with the Global ACI Secretariat. A list of economies where the MRA Mark is registered will be maintained and made available in the Members' area of the Global ACI website.
- 6.8. Global ACI MRA signatories shall only grant permission to use the Combined MRA Mark to accredited CABs established in economies where the Combined MRA Mark is registered, or where an application for registration has been lodged, and registration is pending. Accredited CABs are permitted to use the Combined MRA Mark for accredited activities undertaken outside the economy in which they are established.

- 6.9. Once registered in an economy, the Combined MRA Mark can be used by any organisation granted permission in accordance with this procedure and the associated agreements.

7. USE OF THE COMBINED MRA MARK BY ACCREDITED CABS

- 7.1. Accredited CABS shall only use the Combined MRA Mark, which includes the Global ACI MRA Mark positioned in conjunction with the AB's accreditation symbol. The Global ACI MRA Mark cannot be used in isolation.
- 7.2. The Combined MRA Mark shall only be used by CABS in association with activities for which they are accredited by the AB and within the AB's Global ACI recognised scopes and under the applicable Level 4 or Level 5 normative documents, according to Section 8.
- 7.3. Accredited CABS may use the Combined MRA Mark only for activities within their accredited scope that include Global ACI recognised activities, in accordance with Section 8 (Category 1 and Category 2, including requirements for Level 4 and Level 5 normative documents). The Combined MRA Mark may be applied on:
- a) Accredited reports, certificates, or validation/verification statements.
 - b) Letterheads, quotations for work, advertisements, and websites.
- 7.4. Accredited CABS shall not allow their customers or other entities to use the Combined MRA Mark under any circumstance.
- 7.5. Accredited CABS wishing to use the Combined MRA Mark must:
- a) Seek permission from the AB by whom they are accredited.
 - b) Present an example of the Combined MRA Mark to their AB and shall not use it until written approval is received.
 - c) Agree to the rules of use as established by the AB and Global ACI before being granted permission.
- 7.6. Full Members shall monitor the use of the Combined MRA Mark by their accredited CABS to ensure compliance with this procedure.
- 7.7. As a tool to promote harmonisation, Global ACI has created a model agreement titled *Global ACI FMRA-006: Agreement for Use of the Global ACI MRA Mark Between a Full Member and an Accredited Conformity Assessment Body (CAB)*. This template can be used by Full Members as the basis for their own legally enforceable arrangements with CABS or adapted as needed to suit their specific legal and operational frameworks.

8. CATEGORISATION OF SCOPES FOR THE USE OF THE COMBINED MRA MARK BY CABS

- 8.1. Global ACI has adopted a two-category model for the use of the Combined MRA Mark:

8.1.1. Category 1 – Scopes Not Requiring Endorsement at Level 5: Use of the Combined MRA Mark by CABS is permitted for activities accredited under Level 3 normative documents and, where applicable, Level 4 normative documents that do not require endorsement at Level 5. These accreditation activities are Testing, including medical, Calibration, Inspection, Proficiency Testing Provision, Reference Material Production and Biobanking.

8.1.2. Category 2 – Scopes Requiring Endorsement at Level 5: Use of the Combined MRA Mark by CABs is limited to activities covered under endorsed Level 4 and/or Level 5 normative documents. These accreditation activities are Certification of management systems, Certification of persons, Certification of products and Validation and Verification.

8.2. For all accreditation activities under Category 2, Accreditation Bodies (ABs) shall have legally enforceable arrangements with their accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) to ensure:

8.2.1. CABs do not issue non-accredited results in activities covered by Level 4 or Level 5 normative documents for which they are accredited.

8.2.2. CABs include the accreditation symbol and/or make explicit reference to their accreditation status, including identification of the AB, on all relevant documentation. Certificates or validation/verification statements that do not contain such a reference shall not be considered accredited and will not be recognised by any MRA signatory

8.3. When a new Level 3 normative document is added to the scope of the arrangement, Global ACI will determine whether it falls under Category 1 or Category 2 based on endorsement needs and risk considerations.

9. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR CLAIMS OF ACCREDITATION STATUS BY ACCREDITED CABs

9.1. ABs must provide clear guidance to CABs on:

- a) Formats, proportions, and color specifications for accreditation symbols.
- b) Placement and positioning of accreditation symbols on reports, certificates, statements, and labels.
- c) Digital reproduction and use of accreditation symbols for electronic and online formats.

9.2. Accreditation symbols must not appear on products, items, or services to imply certification, validation, or approval by the AB. CABs must ensure:

- a) The use of accreditation symbols does not imply the AB's approval of products, systems, or persons.
- b) Symbols and references to accreditation status are used only on outputs (e.g., certificates, reports, validation/verification statements, labels) explicitly covered by the accredited scope.
- c) That no misrepresentation occurs regarding the conformity assessment activity or the accredited scope, including Level 4 and Level 5 normative documents.

9.3. Accreditation symbols must clearly indicate the conformity assessment activity they relate to, e.g., testing, calibration, sampling (associated with subsequent testing or calibration), medical testing, inspection, reference material production, proficiency testing, biobanking, certification or validation/verification.

9.4. CABs may use accreditation symbols and references only for activities within their accredited scope and including those covered by Level 4 and Level 5 normative documents, in accordance with Section 8.

9.5. Advertising and publicity materials must not include misleading or ambiguous claims regarding the extent or scope of accreditation.

9.6. Misrepresentation of the CAB's accreditation status is strictly prohibited.

9.7. CABs must adhere to AB policies for accreditation symbols or references on websites, promotional materials, digital platforms, brochures, proposals, and service quotations.

9.8. Reporting Results Outside the Scope of Accreditation

9.8.1. Accredited CABs must clearly distinguish between accredited and non-accredited results in all reports, certificates, or statements.

9.8.2. Non-accredited results must include disclaimers, such as:

"This result is not covered by the scope of accreditation."

"The conclusion is based on activities outside the accredited scope."

9.8.3. Accreditation symbols shall not be used on documents containing exclusively non-accredited results.

9.8.4. Documents containing both accredited and non-accredited results must be clearly labelled to avoid any misinterpretation.

9.9. Monitoring and Enforcement:

9.9.1. ABs must actively monitor the use of accreditation symbols and claims to ensure compliance.

9.9.2. Misuse must result in:

- a) Immediate corrective actions.
- b) Suspension or withdrawal of accreditation, if necessary.
- c) Public disclosure or legal action when warranted.

9.10. Changes in Accreditation Status:

9.10.1. CABs must immediately discontinue the use of accreditation symbols and references upon suspension, withdrawal, or reduction of accreditation.

10. AMENDMENT TABLE

Section	Previous Version	Summary Of Changes
All	-	Initial issue of document

ANNEX 1 – TEMPORARY USE OF THE IAF MLA AND ILAC MRA MARKS

1. TEMPORARY PROCESS FOR THE USE OF THE IAF MLA MARK AND ILAC MRA MARK

- 1.1. Purpose: This temporary process establishes the conditions under which Global ACI Full Members may continue using the IAF MLA Mark and ILAC MRA Mark after 1 January 2026. This ensures continuity during the period required for the legal registration and availability of the Global ACI MRA Mark.
- 1.2. Applicability: This process applies to all Global ACI Full Members who were authorised to use the IAF MLA Mark and/or ILAC MRA Mark as of 31 December 2025.
- 1.3. **Conditions for Use:**
 - 1.3.1. The use of the IAF MLA Mark and ILAC MRA Mark after 1 January 2026 is limited to Global ACI Full Members who:
 - a) Were signatories of the IAF MLA or ILAC MRA as of 31 December 2025.
 - b) Had not been suspended or withdrawn from the IAF MLA or ILAC MRA as of that date.
 - 1.3.2. Such Full Members may continue to use the respective Mark(s) for activities covered under Category 1 (ILAC MRA Mark) and Category 2 (IAF MLA Mark), including in cases where a scope extension is granted after 1 January 2026, until full transition to the ACRONYM MRA Mark is completed. The continued use of the IAF MLA Mark and ILAC MRA Mark is subject to applicable legal restrictions, including sanctions or prohibitions in force in the jurisdictions where the Marks are registered.
 - 1.3.3. The Marks may only be used under the same conditions and rules previously established by:
 - a) IAF ML 2:2016 – General Principles on the Use of the IAF MLA Mark.
 - b) ILAC-R7:05/2015 – Rules for the Use of the ILAC MRA Mark.
 - c) ILAC-P8:03/2019 – Supplementary Requirements for the Use of Accreditation Symbols and for Claims of Accreditation Status by Accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies.
 - 1.3.4. The existing licenses or agreements signed with IAF or ILAC for the use of their respective Marks shall remain valid until the Global ACI MRA Mark is legally registered and available for use.
- 1.4. **Transition to the Global ACI MRA Mark:**
 - 1.4.1. Once the Global ACI MRA Mark is legally registered and available, all Full Members must transition to the use of the Global ACI MRA Mark in accordance with the rules and procedures established by Global ACI.
 - 1.4.2. The continued use of the IAF MLA Mark and ILAC MRA Mark will not be permitted for new accreditations or renewals granted after the Global ACI MRA Mark becomes legally registered and available.

Note 1: Existing accreditations issued prior to the transition may continue using the IAF MLA Mark and ILAC MRA Mark until their natural expiry, provided all other conditions in this temporary process are met.

Note 2: Accredited CABs that were authorised to use the IAF combined MLA Mark and/or ILAC combined MRA Mark prior to 1 January 2026 may continue to use these Marks during the transition period, in accordance with the rules and conditions established by their Accreditation Body. Such use is permitted only until the Global ACI MRA Mark becomes legally registered and available in their economy. Conformity Assessment Bodies shall not add or apply the IAF/ILAC combined Marks to any certificates issued, reissued, or renewed after that date and shall replace the combined Marks with the Global ACI MRA Mark following the instructions of their Accreditation Body.

- 1.5. Monitoring and Enforcement: Global ACI Full Members are responsible for ensuring compliance with this temporary process and for maintaining appropriate records of their use of the IAF MLA Mark and ILAC MRA Mark during this period.
- 1.6. This temporary process will expire upon the availability of the Global ACI MRA Mark. As the timeline for legal registration varies by economy, no specific end date can currently be defined.
- 1.7. As soon as the date on which the Global ACI MRA Mark becomes available in a given economy is determined, the Secretariat of Global ACI shall provide advance notice to the Accreditation Bodies in that economy. Accreditation Bodies are responsible for informing their accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies of the applicable transition arrangements.