



The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) & The International Accreditation Forum (IAF)

Perspectives on ILAC & IAF Multilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements

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Agenda

- An introduction to ILAC and IAF
- Multi-lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements
- Role accreditation plays to support trade and regulation



Accreditation in TBT Agreement

“6.1.1 adequate and enduring technical competence of the relevant conformity assessment bodies in the exporting Member, so that confidence in the continued reliability of their conformity assessment results can exist; in this regard, verified compliance, for instance through *accreditation*, with relevant guides or recommendations issued by international standardizing bodies shall be taken into account as an indication of adequate technical competence;”

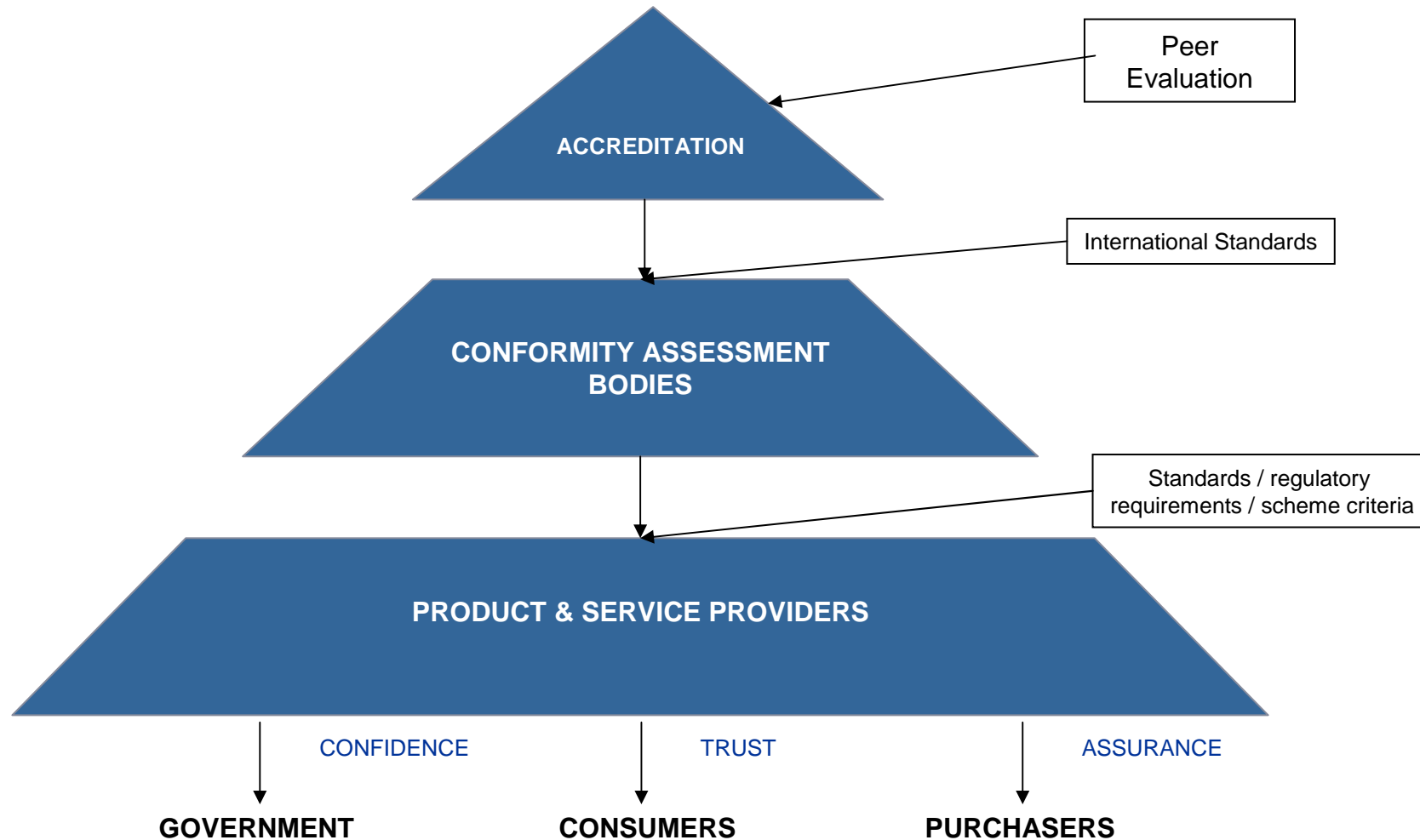


What is accreditation?

‘Independent evaluation of conformity assessment bodies against recognized standards to ensure their impartiality and competence to carry out specific activities, such as tests, calibrations, inspections and certifications.’



Accreditation in the Market



IAF and ILAC – an Introduction

ILAC and IAF are global networks of accreditation bodies and organizations involved in conformity assessment activities.

- Recognition of competent conformity assessment bodies through Multi-Lateral Mutual Recognition Arrangements**
- Development and harmonization of accreditation practices across the globe**
- Promotion of accreditation as an effective mechanism for providing confidence in goods and services, essential for global trade facilitation and socio-economic issues**



IAF and ILAC Objectives

- To maintain the ILAC and IAF Arrangements, and to expand coverage into new territories
- To increase cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, i.e. conformity assessment bodies, regulators, industry groups, standard writing bodies and governments
- To act as a central global ‘hub’ to harmonize conformity assessment best practice
- To provide assistance to developing countries by providing appropriate support to new accreditation systems

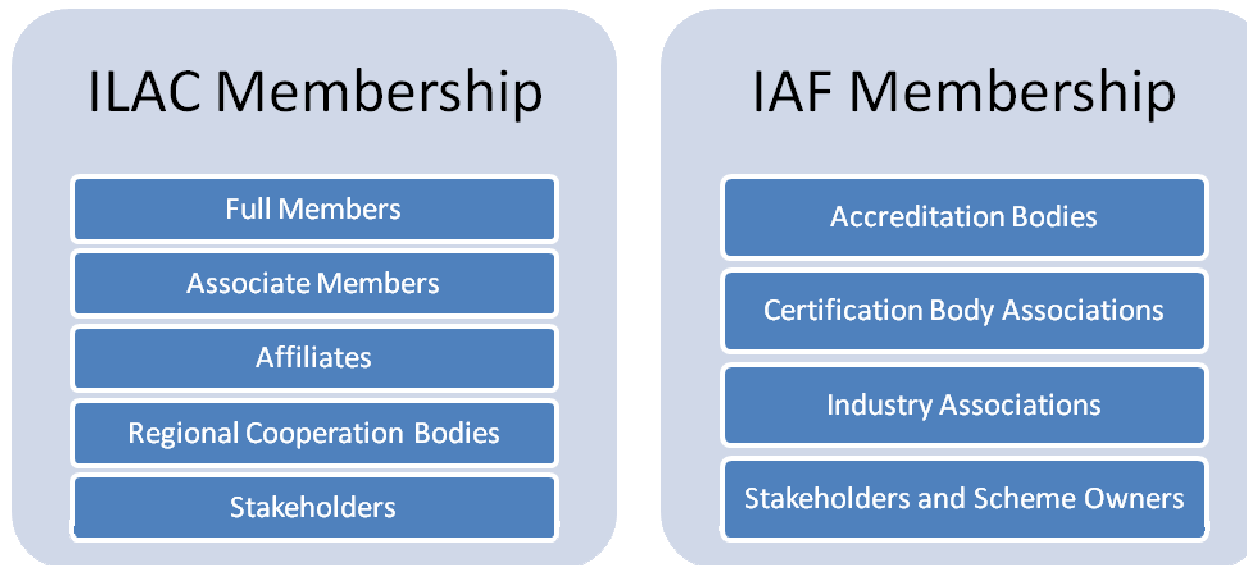


Global Vision

- A single worldwide program of conformity assessment which reduces risk for business, regulators and the consumer, by ensuring that accredited services can be relied upon.
- Government and regulators relying on the IAF and ILAC Arrangements to further develop or enhance trade agreements.
- To support the freedom of world trade by eliminating technical barriers, realizing the free-trade goal of *'tested, inspected or certified once and accepted everywhere'* .



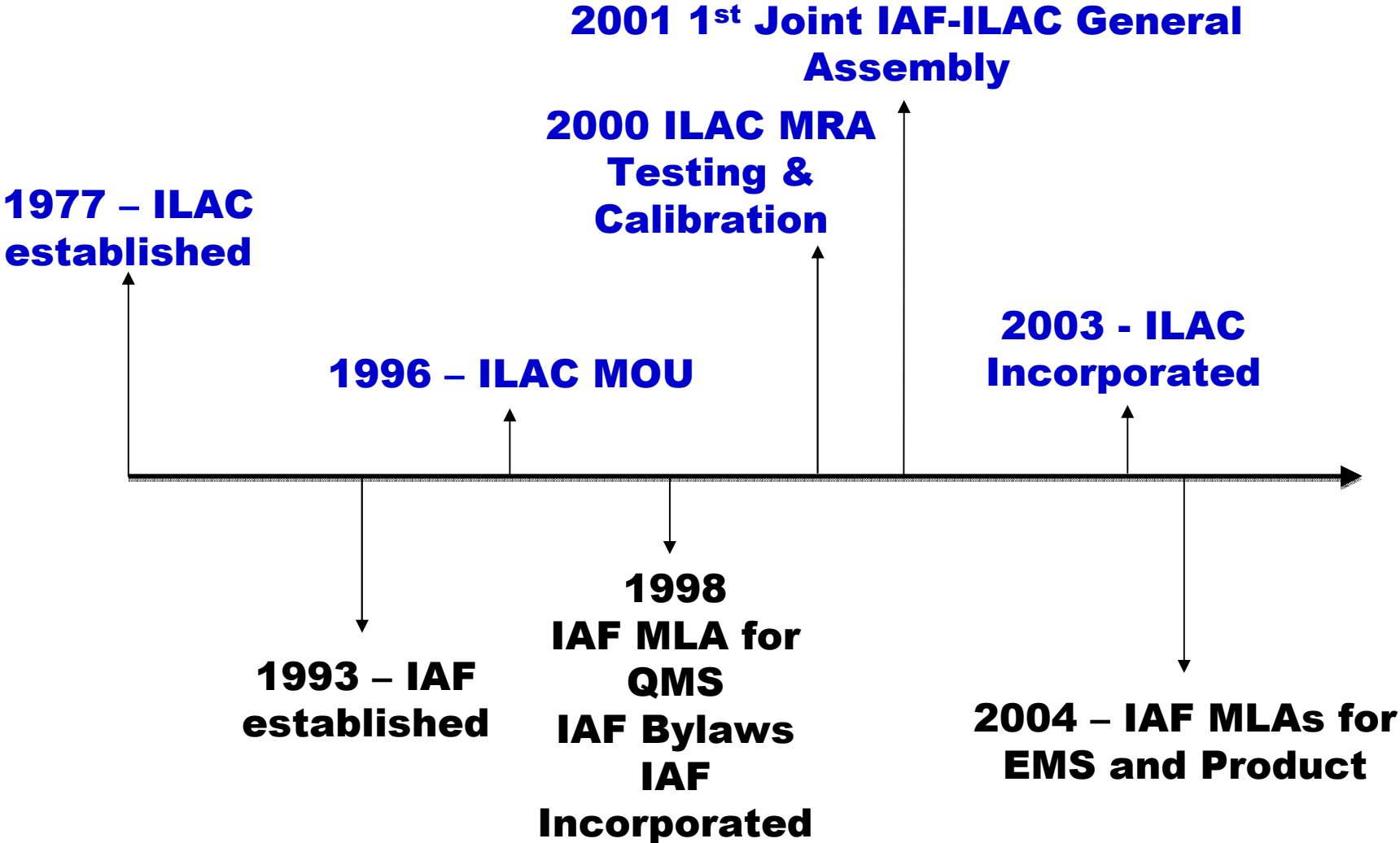
IAF and ILAC – an Introduction



- ILAC is the global authority for laboratory and inspection body accreditation.
- IAF oversees the fields of the certification of management systems, personnel and products.



ILAC / IAF timeline



ILAC and IAF Arrangements

- Consists of ILAC and IAF accreditation body members that deemed competent through a peer evaluation process
 - ISO/IEC 17011
 - IAF-ILAC A series documents
- Signatories must recognise certificates, reports, and results issued by organisations accredited by all other members of the Arrangements.
- The Arrangements provide businesses with assurance that equivalent overseas conformity assessment bodies operate to the same standard as those in their own country.
- This recognition and acceptance removes technical barriers to trade (TBT) by eliminating redundant conformity assessment



Regional Cooperation Bodies

- The IAF and ILAC Arrangements are structured to build on existing and developing regional MLAs/MRAs established around the world.



European
Cooperation
for
Accreditation
(EA)



Pacific
Accreditation
Cooperation
(PAC)



Inter-American
Accreditation
Cooperation
(IAAC)



Asia Pacific
Laboratory
Accreditation
Cooperation
(APLAC)

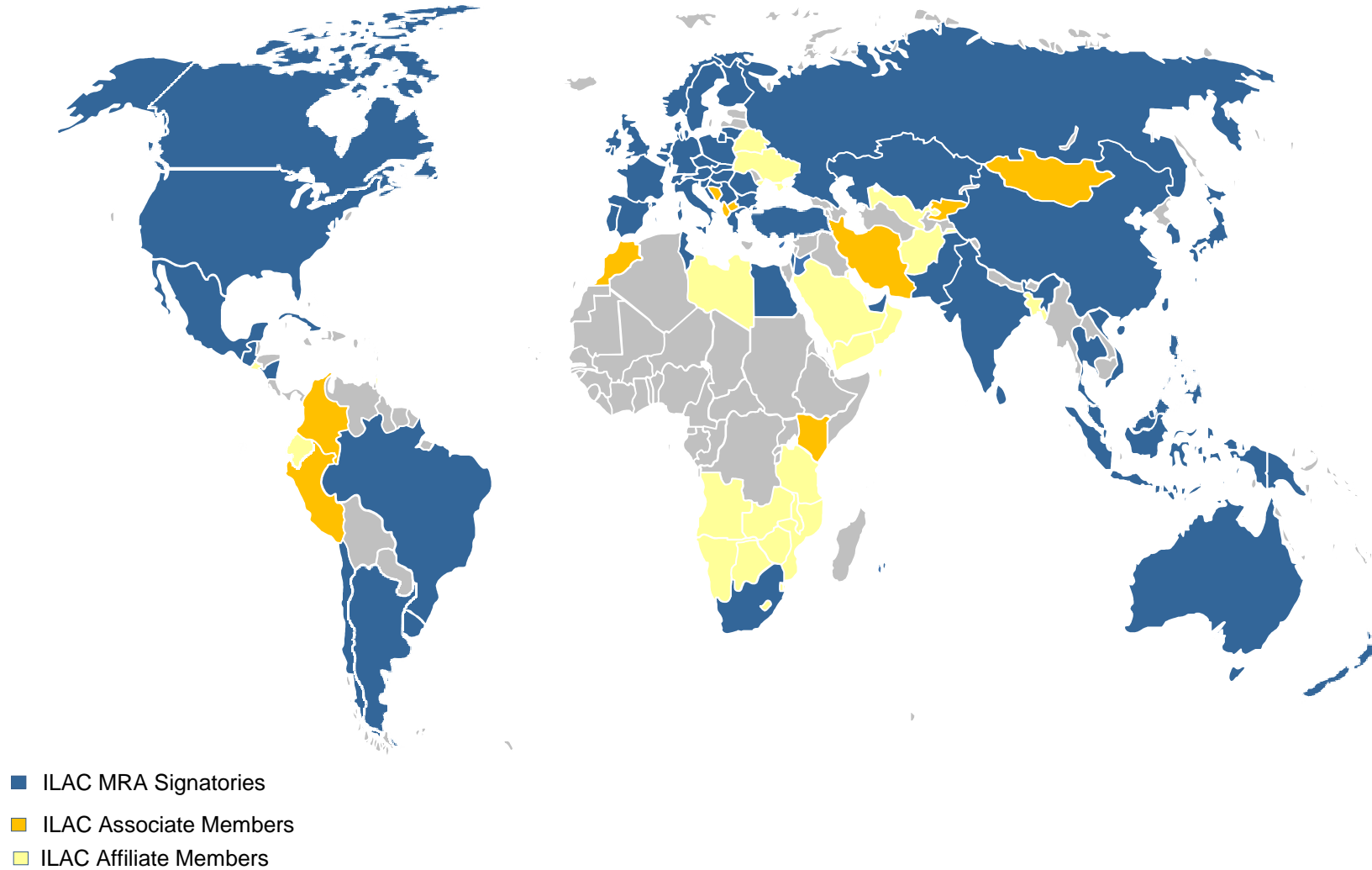


Southern African
Development
Community
Accreditation
(SADCA)

- The IAF MLA recognizes EA, PAC, IAAC
- The ILAC MRA recognizes EA, APLAC, IAAC



Coverage of the ILAC MRA (Apr 2011)

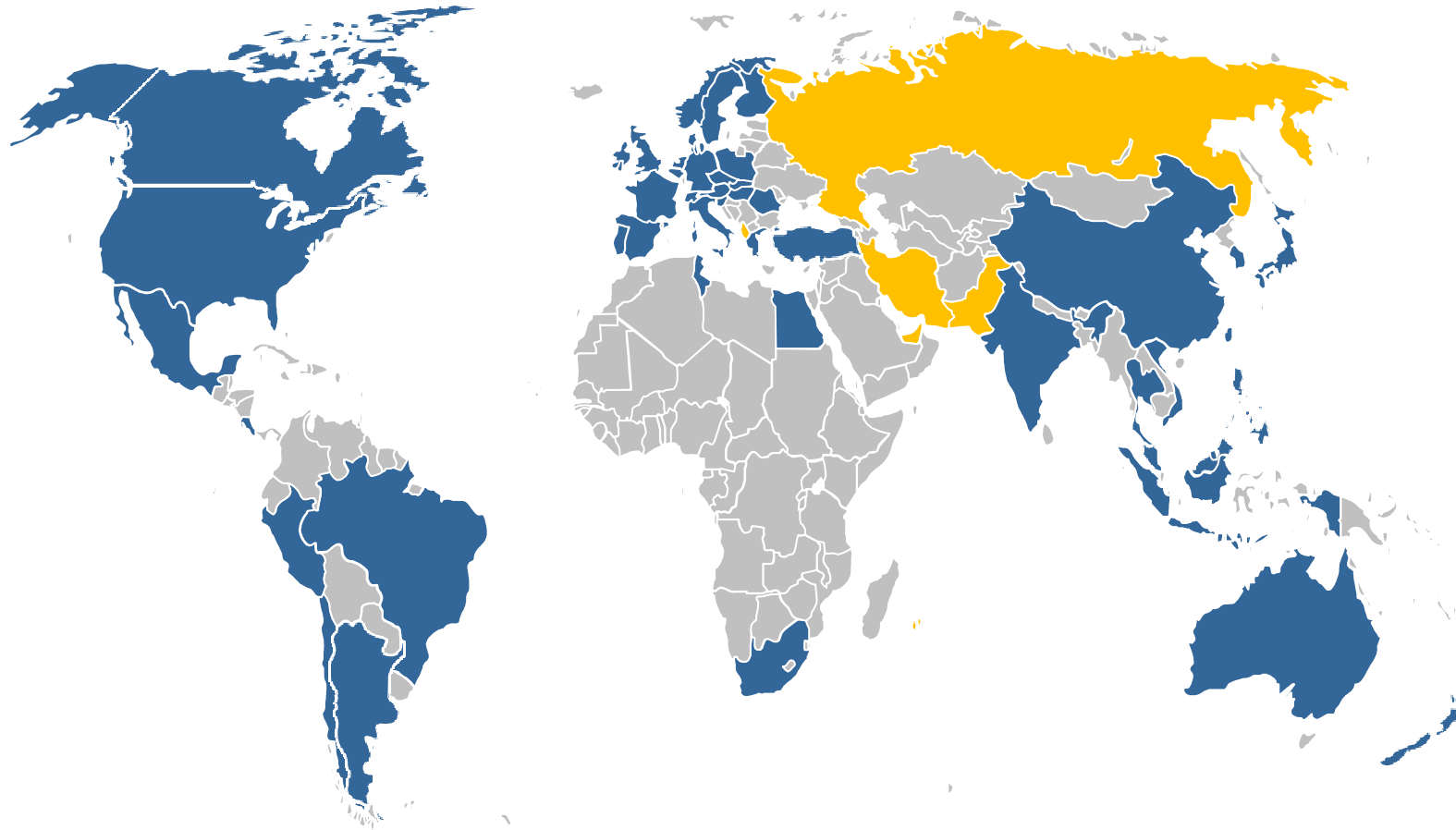


Status of the ILAC MRA

- **ILAC network of members includes 140 bodies from 93 different economies**
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- **72 ILAC MRA Signatories representing 59 economies.**
- **ILAC MRA covers testing and calibration**
- **Signatories represent about 95% of Global GDP**
- **Almost 40,000 accredited laboratories and about 6,700 accredited inspection bodies**
- **77% of regulators accept results from accredited organizations (2010)**



Coverage of the IAF MLA (Apr 2011)



- IAF MLA Signatories
- IAF Members



Status of the IAF MLA

51 IAF MLA Signatories, representing 47 economies.

• **Management Systems: 47 Accreditation Bodies and EA, PAC & IAAC**

- **ISO 9001 QMS: 47 Accreditation Bodies and EA, PAC & IAAC**
- **ISO 14001 EMS: 42 Accreditation Bodies and EA, PAC & IAAC**
- **ISO 22000 FSMS: in development**
- **ISO 27001 ISMS: in development**
- **Product: 41 Accreditation Bodies EA, PAC & IAAC**
- **Persons: In development**



The Benefits

For Government and Regulators

- Flexible alternative to Legislation
- Facilitator of trade
- An efficient monitoring tool

For Business

- Greater acceptance of products and services opening up market access
- Avoid costs associated with multiple testing, inspections or certifications
- Informed procurement selection

For Consumers

- Public confidence in goods and services, despite complex global marketplace
- Minimises product failures or recalls

Summary

- **IAF and ILAC are committed to developing a harmonized global approach for accreditation practices to ensure consistency of approach.**
- **Both organizations maintain the Arrangements to ensure equal reliability of accredited services.**
- **Growing acceptance by regulators and businesses is removing technical barriers to trade, and avoiding the need for duplicate certifications, testing or inspections.**
- **IAF and ILAC support developing economies to establish an accreditation infrastructure.**



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