IECQ
OPERATIONAL DOCUMENT

IEC Quality Assessment System, IECQ

General Criteria for Cooperation between IECQ and IAF Member Accreditation Bodies
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INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION
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General Criteria for Cooperation between IECQ and IAF Member Accreditation Bodies

INTRODUCTION

This Operational Document (OD) sets out the general principles and for cooperation between IECQ and IAF Member Accreditation Bodies for the purpose of assessments of Certification Bodies that are common between IECQ and Accreditation Bodies.

In the development of this OD, IECQ acknowledges with thanks the assistance and cooperation from various Members and experts of the IAF (International Accreditation Forum) and is in line with the signed Memorandum of Understanding between IEC IAF and ILAC. Further information concerning these procedures or any other aspect of the IECQ System may be obtained by contacting the IECQ Managing Secretary via E-mail.

This edition 1.1 is an administrative amendment to update the IECQ title.

Document History

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1 Scope

This Operational Document (OD) contains the general criteria for cooperation between IECQ and IAF Member Accreditation Bodies for the purpose of initial and on-going surveillance assessments of IECQ Approved CBs.

Upon satisfying these general criteria a “Statement of Cooperation” shall be prepared and signed by both the Accreditation Body and IECQ, to outline the mode and method of cooperation. See Annex A for a sample Statement Form.

2 Normative references

The following publications contain provisions, which, through reference in this text, constitute provisions of these Rules. At the time of publication, the editions indicated were valid. The IECQ Management Committee shall decide the timetable for the introduction of revised editions of the publications.

IEC CA 01, IEC Conformity Assessment Systems – Basic Rules

IECQ 01-S, IECQ Supplement to Harmonized Basic Rules IEC CA 01

IECQ OD 013, IECQ CB Assessment Report form

ISO/IEC 17021, Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems

ISO/IEC Guide 65, General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems

3 Terms and Definitions

The basic definitions concerning conformity assessment contained in ISO/IEC 17000 apply.

For the purpose of this document, the definitions contained in IEC CA 01 and IECQ 01-S and the below apply:

3.1 IECQ Certification Body (IECQ CB)

a body which has been accepted according to the IECQ Rules and which issues IECQ Certificates of Conformity

3.2 IAF Member Accreditation Body (IAF AB)

a body which has been accepted according to the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Rules and which conducts accreditation assessments of certification Bodies.
4 Criteria for Cooperation between IECQ and IAF ABs

4.1 General

The following items form the general criteria and provisions for cooperation between IECQ and IAF ABs for the purpose of assessments of IECQ CBs conformance to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021 and ISO/IEC Guide 65, where applicable and IECQ specific Scheme requirements, under the countries relevant laws provisions of the Basic Rules, IECQ 01.

1) An IAF AB may accept, for their review, results of IECQ peer assessments of IECQ CBs for the purpose of satisfying the IAF AB’s accreditation requirements related to any IECQ scheme;

2) The IECQ allows provision to include the IAF AB’s logo on certificates issued by IECQ CBs which hold IAF AB accreditation, where the IAF AB has an arrangement with IECQ to cooperate according to this IECQ Operational Document

4.2 Criteria – Where IAF ABs conduct assessments of IECQ CBs

An IAF AB shall ensure the following in order for IECQ to accept annual and re-assessments, conducted by IAF ABs

a) That all relevant IECQ rules and operational Documents are used for the purpose of conducting IAF AB assessments including reporting forms, eg OD 013

b) An IAF AB shall only use Assessors that are competent in the field of activity undertaken by the IECQ CB they are assessing

c) While it is permissible for an IAF AB to use contract assessors, an IAF AB shall on no occasion subcontract the assessment work to another legal entity, individual or organisation and shall maintain full control of all stages of the assessment.

d) An IECQ representative, nominated by the IECQ Secretary, shall be afforded the right to accompany or be part of the IAF AB assessment team

e) IECQ shall have the right to conduct reviews of the IAF AB, which may include but not limited to assessment of the IAF AB premises and review of all assessment records of IECQ CBs related to the IECQ schemes.

4.3 Criteria – Where IECQ Assessment results are used by the IAF AB

Assessment results of IECQ CBs generated as part of an IECQ peer assessment may be used by an IAF AB for the purpose of satisfying the IAF AB accreditation requirements for an IECQ scheme where the following is met

a) That the IECQ CB has provided a written statement agreeing to the release by the IECQ Secretariat for such assessment reports and records. E-mail communication is accepted as written statement

b) The IECQ CB nor the IAF AB shall hold IECQ liable for any consequences arising from the release of such assessment report information

4.4 Provisions for Cooperation

An IAF AB cooperating according to this OD shall have the following provision

a) Access to IECQ Rules and Operational Documents and forms

b) Attendance at IECQ annual meetings of the IECQ CABC
Annex A
Sample “Statement of Cooperation”

This Statement of Cooperation becomes effective on [DATE] between:

The International Electrotechnical Commission Quality Assessment System for Electronic Components, (IECQ),

And

The IAF Accreditation Body [Name of the IAF AB and address] (herein after referred to as ‘the IAF AB’)

Whereas:

The IECQ and the IAF AB have agreed to cooperate for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of Assessments of Certification Bodies that satisfy the requirements of the IECQ System and the IAF AB accreditation requirements.

Specific details of the IECQ / IAF AB Cooperation are detailed below:

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Validity

This agreed Statement of Cooperation shall commence from the date that it is signed by both Parties for an initial period of three years, and shall be tacitly renewed for successive periods of equal duration.

Termination

This agreed Statement of Cooperation can be terminated by either Party after consultation and following the receipt of written notification. Each Party shall take the required measures to duly finalise its existing commitments.

SIGNED
By

……………………………………………. Date……………………………
For and on behalf of the IECQ

And

……………………………………………. Date……………………………
For and on behalf of [Name of IAF AB]
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