

National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia



Mutual Recognition Arrangements

The National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) is recognised by the Australian government as the national authority for accreditation of laboratories and inspection bodies. Formal agreements also exist between NATA and the national laboratory accreditation bodies listed in the attached table, *NATA's Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) Network*, for recognition of test and calibration reports from accredited laboratories, and between NATA and some of the national inspection body accreditation bodies, also as listed in the attached table, for recognition of inspection reports from accredited inspection bodies.

Under the mutual recognition arrangements between accreditation bodies, each organisation recognises the equivalence of accreditations granted by its overseas counterparts, and promotes the equivalence of such accreditations, covered by each scope of recognition, within its own economy. This reduces the need for re-testing, re-calibration or re-inspection of products in an importing economy and saves time and money for exporters. Before entering into such arrangements, accreditation bodies have the responsibility to thoroughly evaluate each other's systems of accreditation. These arrangements also include mechanisms to ensure that test, calibration and inspection reports, covered by the arrangement, carry the same degree of accuracy and credibility on an ongoing basis.

Each NATA-accredited laboratory and inspection body is recognised for its technical competence to perform specific tests, measurements or inspections. For those specific tests, measurements or inspections for which it is accredited, the laboratory or inspection body is entitled to place the appropriate NATA endorsement on its reports, details of which are listed in the Second Schedule of NATA's Rules (July 2006), copies of which can be obtained from the NATA web site. Each NATA-endorsed report must be signed by a person recognised by NATA as an approved signatory.

Accreditation is granted only after detailed assessment and regular reassessments of the technical competence of the laboratory or inspection body and its staff against defined technical and management system criteria. NATA assessments are carried out by teams that include independent technical experts.

For recognition of reports issued by laboratories or inspection bodies accredited by NATA's overseas mutual recognition partners, reports received from overseas laboratories or inspection bodies must bear the accreditation mark ("endorsement") of one of the accreditation bodies listed in the attached table.

While NATA promotes that the endorsed reports issued by facilities accredited by its MRA partners are equivalent to NATA-endorsed reports, NATA is not able to compel a regulator or other client to accept the overseas reports. To meet Australian regulatory requirements the overseas facility must be accredited for the test, calibration or inspection procedure prescribed by the Australian regulator.

The attached table includes the web site details for each of NATA's MRA partners. These web sites can be checked for details of accredited laboratories, and for the accreditation mark of each accreditation body. NATA does not itself maintain a list of laboratories accredited by its MRA partners.

Additional information about mutual recognition arrangements can also be found on the web sites of ILAC (<http://www.ilac.org>), APLAC (<http://www.aplac.org>) and EA (<http://www.european-accreditation.org>).

Further details about NATA accreditation of laboratories and inspection bodies and NATA's mutual recognition arrangements are available from Dr Helen Liddy, International Relations Manager (ph: +61 3 9329 1633; fax: +61 3 9326 4158) or by visiting NATA's internet web site at <http://www.nata.asn.au>. Please also see NATA Information Paper No. 3, *Guide to Use of NATA's MRA Network*, available from the "publications" page of NATA's web site.

NATA's Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) Network

Economy	Organisation	Acronym	Area/s Included	Year
Argentina	Organismo Argentino de Acreditacion Website: www.oaa.ar	OAA	Testing/Calibration ^{1,4}	2005
Austria	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Angelegenheiten Website: www.bmwa.gv.at	BMwA	Testing/Calibration ^{1,3}	1997 / 1998
Belgium	Belgian Organisation for Accreditation Website: www.belac.fgov.be	BELAC	Testing/Calibration ^{1,3}	1997
Brazil	Directoria de Credenciamento e Qualidade/Instituto Nacional de Metrologia, Normalizacao e Qualidade Industrial Website: www.inmetro.gov.br	INMETRO	Testing/Calibration ^{1,4}	2000
Canada	Canadian Association of Environmental Analytical Laboratories Website: www.caeal.ca	CAEAL	Testing ^{1,2}	2005
	Standards Council of Canada/Conseil canadien des normes Website: www.scc.ca	SCC	Testing/Calibration ^{1,2,4}	2000
People's Republic of China	China National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment Website: www.cnas.org.cn	CNAS	Testing/Calibration ^{1,2} ; Inspection (APLAC MRA)	1999; 2004
Costa Rica	Enta Costarricense De Acreditacion Website: www.eca.or.cr	ECA	Testing ^{1,4}	2007
Cuba	National Accreditation Body of Republica de Cuba Website: www.onarc.cubaindustria.cu	ONARC	Testing/Calibration ^{1,4}	2005
Czech Republic	Czech Accreditation Institute Website: www.cai.cz	CAI	Testing/Calibration ^{1,3}	2000

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Denmark	Dansk Akkreditering (Danish Agency for Trade and Industry) Website: www.danak.dk	DANAK	Testing/Calibration ^{1,3}	1994 / 1995
Egypt	National Laboratories Accreditation Bureau Website: www.nlab.org	NLAB	Testing/Calibration ¹	2005
Estonia	Estonian Accreditation Centre Website: www.eak.ee	EAK	Testing/Calibration ³	2004
Finland	Finnish Accreditation Service Centre for Metrology and Accreditation Website: www.finas.fi	FINAS	Testing/Calibration ^{1,3}	1994 / 1995
France	Comité Français d'Accreditation Website: www.cofrac.fr	COFRAC	Testing/Calibration ^{1,3}	1994 / 1995
Germany	Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle Chemie GmbH (German Accreditation Body for Chemistry) Website: www.dach-gmbh.de	DACH	Testing ^{1,3}	1998
	Deutsches Akkreditierungssystem Prüfwesen GmbH (German Accreditation System for Testing) Website: www.dap.de	DAP	Testing ^{1,3}	1994
	Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle für Technik e.V. (German Accreditation Body for Technology) Website: www.datech.de	DATEch	Testing ^{1,3}	1994
	Deutscher Kalibrierdienst (German Calibration Service) Website: www.dkd.ptb.de	DKD	Calibration ^{1,3}	1995
Greece	Hellenic Accreditation System Website: www.esyd.gr	ESYD	Testing/Calibration ^{1,3}	2004

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Hong Kong, China	Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme Website: www.itc.gov.hk/hkas	HKAS	Testing/Calibration ^{1,2} ; Inspection (APLAC MRA); ISO 15189 (APLAC MRA)	1990; 2003; 2007
India	National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories Website: www.nabl-india.org	NABL	Testing/Calibration ^{1,2}	2000
Indonesia	Komite Akreditasi Nasional Website: www.bsn.or.id	KAN	Testing/Calibration ^{1,2} ; Inspection (APLAC MRA)	2001 / 2003; 2004
Ireland	The Irish National Accreditation Board Website: www.inab.ie	NAB	Testing/Calibration ^{1,3}	1994 / 1995
Israel	Israel Laboratory Accreditation Authority Website: www.israc.gov.il	ISRAC	Testing/Calibration ¹	2001
Italy	Sistema Nazionale per L'Accreditamento di Laboratori (National System for the Accreditation of Laboratories) Website: www.sinal.it Servizio di Taratura in Italia (Italian Calibration Service) Website: www.sit-italia.it	SINAL SIT	Testing ^{1,3} Calibration ^{1,3}	1994 1995
Japan	Japan Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment Website: www.jab.or.jp International Accreditation Japan Website: www.nite.go.jp/asse/iajapan/ Voluntary EMC Laboratory Accreditation Centre Website: www.vlac.co.jp	JAB IAJapan VLAC	Testing/Calibration ^{1,2} ; ISO 15189 (APLAC MRA) JCSS ^{1,2} JNLA ^{1,2} ASNITE test ^{1,2} ASNITE cal ^{1,2} Testing ¹	1998 / 2003; 2007 1999 1998 2002 2002 2003

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Republic of Korea	Korea Laboratory Accreditation Scheme Website: www.kolas.ats.go.kr	KOLAS	Testing/Calibration ^{1,2}	1998 / 2001
Latvia	Latvian National Accreditation Bureau Website: www.latak.lv	LATAK	Testing/Calibration ³	2002
Lithuania	Lithuanian National Accreditation Bureau Website: www.nab.lt	LA	Testing/Calibration ³	2001
Malaysia	Standards Malaysia Website: www.standardsmalaysia.gov.my		Testing/Calibration ^{1,2,3} , ISO 15189 (APLAC MRA)	2002 / 2003; 2007
Mexico	Entidad Mexicana de Acreditación Website: www.ema.org.mx	ema	Testing/Calibration ^{1,2,4} Inspection (APLAC MRA); ISO 15189 (APLAC MRA)	2005; 2007
Netherlands	Raad voor Accreditatie - (Dutch Council for Accreditation) Website: www.rva.nl	RvA	Testing/Calibration ^{1,3}	1993 / 1995
New Zealand	International Accreditation New Zealand Website: www.ianz.govt.nz	IANZ	Testing/Calibration ^{1,2} ; Inspection (APLAC MRA); ISO 15189 (APLAC MRA)	1981; 1999; 2007
Norway	Norsk Akkreditering Website: www.akkreditert.no	NA	Testing/Calibration ^{1,3}	1994 / 1995
Philippines	Philippine Accreditation Office Website: www.dti.gov.ph/bps	PAO	Testing/Calibration ^{1,2}	2005

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Poland	Polskie Centrum Akredytacji Website: www.pca.gov.pl	PCA	Testing/Calibration ^{1,3}	2004
Portugal	Instituto Portugues de Acreditacao Website: www.ipac.pt	IPAC	Testing/Calibration ^{1,3}	2006
Romania	Romanian Accreditation Association* Email: renar@renar.ro	RENAR	Testing ^{1,3}	2004
Singapore	Singapore Accreditation Council Website: www.sac-accreditation.org.sg	SAC	Testing/Calibration ^{1,2} ; Inspection (APLAC MRA); ISO 15189 (APLAC MRA)	1996; 2003; 2007
Slovakia	Slovak National Accreditation Service Website: www.snas.sk	SNAS	Testing/Calibration ^{1,3}	2001
Slovenia	Slovenian Accreditation Website: www.gov.si/sa/	SA	Testing/Calibration ^{1,3}	2003
South Africa	South African National Accreditation System Website: www.sanas.co.za	SANAS	Testing/Calibration ¹	1998
Spain	Entidad Nacional de Acreditacion Website: www.enac.es	ENAC	Testing/Calibration ^{1,3}	1994 / 1995
Sweden	The Swedish Board for Accreditation and Conformity Assessment Website: www.swedac.se	SWEDAC	Testing/Calibration ^{1,3}	1993 / 1995
Switzerland	Swiss Accreditation Service Website: www.sas.admin.ch	SAS	Testing/Calibration ^{1,3}	1994 / 1995

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Chinese Taipei	Taiwan Accreditation Foundation Website: www.taft.org.tw	TAF	Testing/Calibration ^{1,2} , Inspection (APLAC MRA); ISO 15189 (APLAC MRA)	1997; 2005; 2007
Thailand	Thai Laboratory Accreditation Scheme Website: www.tisi.go.th Department of Medical Sciences Website: www.dmssc.moph.go.th Department of Science Service Website: www.dss.go.th	TLAS DMSc DSS	Testing/Calibration ^{1,2} Testing ^{1,2} ; ISO 15189 (APLAC MRA) Testing ²	2001 2002; 2007 2006
Turkey	Turkish Accreditation Agency Website: www.turkak.org.tr	TURKAK	Testing/Calibration ^{1,3}	2006
United Kingdom	United Kingdom Accreditation Service Website: www.ukas.com	UKAS	Testing/Calibration ^{1,3}	1985
United States of America	American Association for Laboratory Accreditation Website: www.a2la.org Assured Calibration and Laboratory Accreditation Select Services International Accreditation Service, Inc. Website: www.iasonline.org National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program Website: www.nist.gov/nvlap	A2LA ACLASS IAS NVLAP	Testing/Calibration ^{1,2,4} ; Inspection (APLAC MRA) Testing/Calibration ^{1,2,4} Testing/Calibration ^{1,2,3} ; Inspection (APLAC MRA) Testing/Calibration ^{1,2}	1990; 2006 2006 1999/2005; 2004 1982

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Economy	Organisation	Acronym	Area/s Included	Year
Vietnam	Bureau of Accreditation Website: www.boa.gov.vn	BoA/VILAS	Testing/Calibration ^{1,2} ; Inspection (APLAC MRA)	2000; 2004
Australasia	Joint Accreditation System – Australia and New Zealand	JAS-ANZ	Inspection ²	2006

1. party to the global ILAC Arrangement
2. party to the APLAC (Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) multilateral MRA
3. party to the EA (European cooperation for Accreditation) multilateral MLA
4. party to the IAAC (Interamerican Accreditation Cooperation) multilateral MLA