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# ITU Asia-Pacific Centres of Excellence Training on Conformity and Interoperability

## Session 5: Mutual Recognition Agreements

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## Agenda

- Aims and benefits of MRAs
- Types of MRA
- Example Framework MRA

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## Overview

- Mutual
  - Riciprocal
  - Bilateral
  - Multilateral
- Recognition
  - Technical requirements
  - Conformity assessment bodies
  - Conformity assessment results
- Agreement
  - Regulatory
- Arrangement
  - Voluntary

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## Aims

1 test, 1 report

1 audit, 1 certificate

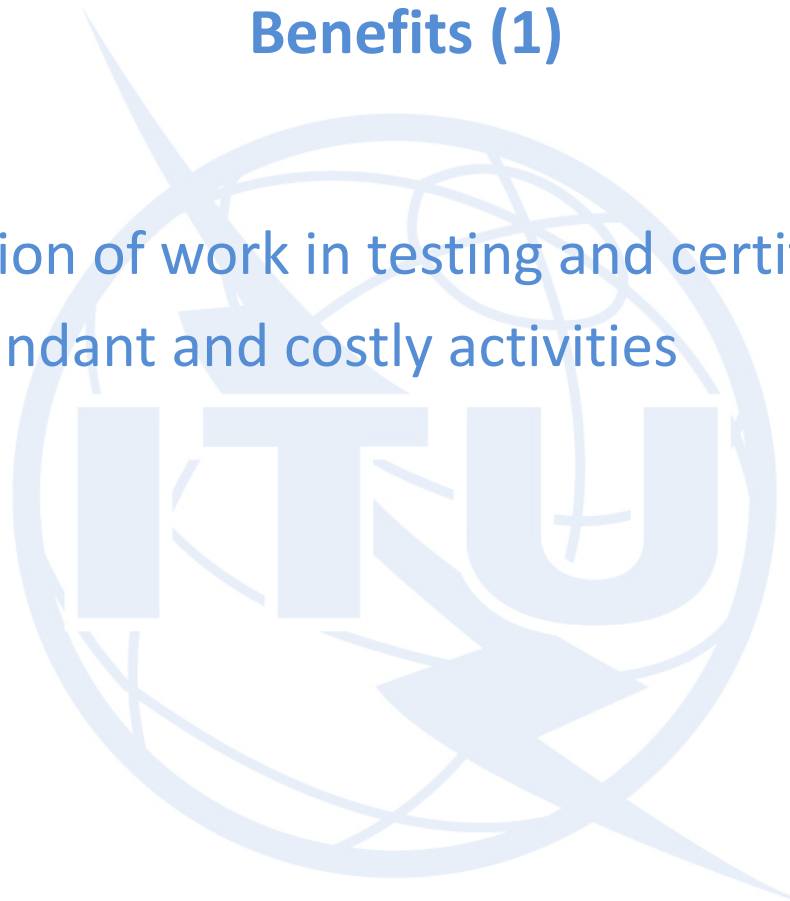
- Accepted everywhere



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## Benefits (1)

- Avoids duplication of work in testing and certification
- Eliminates redundant and costly activities



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## Benefits (2)

- Products may be shipped to foreign markets without any further requirements for testing and/or certification, thereby reducing costs and time to market
- Facilitates trade by promoting transparency in market access and competition
- Reduces and minimizes non-tariff trade barriers

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## Benefits for:

- Regulators
  - Reduced resources required for certification
- Manufacturers
  - Lower barriers for market access
  - Increased certification process efficiency
- Conformity assessment bodies
  - Larger market
- Consumers
  - Greater availability of equipment at lower prices

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## Mutual

- Recognition of:
  - Testing laboratories
  - Certification bodies
- Acceptance of:
  - Test reports
  - Certificates





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## Types of MRA

Between:

- Conformity Assessment Bodies
- Accreditation Bodies
  - International Laboratories Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)
  - International Accreditation Forum (IAF)
- Governments
  - Binding e.g. Canada – EU & USA – EU
  - Non-binding e.g. Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

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## ILAC MRA

- Promotes the acceptance of accredited test and calibration results by establishing a network of mutual recognition agreements among accreditation bodies
- The accreditation bodies which are signatories to the ILAC MRA have been peer-reviewed and shown to meet ILAC's criteria for competence
- Tests results prepared by testing laboratories of one signatory are accepted by testing laboratories of all other signatories

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## International Accreditation Forum (IAF)

- Aims to:
  - Ensure that its accreditation body members only accredit bodies that are competent to do the work they undertake
  - Establish mutual recognition arrangements, known as Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (MLA), between its accreditation body members

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## ILAC & IAF

- Both recognize the following Regional Cooperation Bodies which have their own MRAs:
  - The European cooperation for Accreditation (EA)
  - The Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC)
  - The Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC)

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## MRA between governments

- Single / Multi-Sector
  - Single sector e.g. Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) MRA – telecommunications
  - Multi-sector e.g. Canada / European Union MRA - six sectors including EMC and telecommunications
- Bilateral / Framework
  - Bilateral e.g. Canada / EU MRA
  - Framework e.g. Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and Inter-American (CITEL) MRAs


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# APEC-TEL MRA

- Mutual Recognition Arrangement for Conformity Assessment of Telecommunications Equipment - in effect from July 1999
- MRA Implementation Guide – 2001
- MRA Guide for Manufacturers – 2001
- MRA Guide for Conformity Assessment Bodies - 2001
- MRA-ETR Equivalence of Technical Requirements - 2010

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# APEC-TEL MRA Partners

- Australia
  - Brunei Darussalam
  - Canada
  - Chile
  - People's Republic of China
  - Hong Kong, China
  - Indonesia
  - Japan
  - Republic of Korea
  - Malaysia
  - Mexico
  - New Zealand
  - Papua New Guinea
  - Peru
  - Philippines
  - Russia
  - Singapore
  - Chinese Taipei
  - Thailand
  - USA
  - Viet Nam
  - ASEAN
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## MRA Pre-implementation (1)

- Review legislation, regulations and administrative procedures to determine if:
  - They permit recognition of MRA partners conformity assessment bodies (CABs)
  - They accept conformity assessment results prepared by MRA partners' CABs
  - Market surveillance procedures are in place



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## MRA Pre-implementation (2)

- Update or develop legislation and regulations to enable the implementation of MRA
- Develop MRA procedures
- Update or develop market surveillance procedures

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# Example Framework MRA Conformity Assessment of Telecommunications Equipment



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# Attributes

- Scope
  - Equipment subject to mandatory telecommunication requirements
- Coverage
  - Telecom, EMC and Electrical Safety
- Phases
  - Phase I - acceptance of test results
  - Phase II - acceptance of equipment certification
- Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs)
  - Testing laboratories
  - Certification bodies
- Competence of CABs
  - Determined using ISO/IEC Standards 17011, 17025, 17065 plus appropriate technical regulations

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# Contents

- Preamble
- Purpose of the agreement
- General Provisions
- Definitions and Interpretations
- Scope
- Designating Authorities
- Designation of CABs and Appointment of Accreditation Bodies (ABs)
- Recognition of CABs and Mutual Acceptance of the Results of Conformity Assessment (CA) Procedures
- Verification of CABs
- Commencing the Agreement and Initiating Participation in Phase I or Phase II Procedures
- Information Exchange
- Joint Committee
- Additional Provisions
- Confidentiality
- Preservation of Regulatory Authority
- Fees
- Amendment and Termination of Agreement
- Final Provisions

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## Appendices (1)

- I. Appendix A
  - A. Common Requirements
  - B. Designation of Testing Laboratories
  - C. Designation of Certification Bodies
- II. Appendix B – Phase I procedures for mutual recognition of testing laboratories as CABs and mutual acceptance of test results
  - A. Scope
  - B. Designation and Recognition of CABs
  - C. Participation in Phase I Procedures
  - D. Transition Periods
  - E. Mutual Acceptance of Test Reports
  - F. Processing of Applications
  - G. Suspension of Mutual Recognition and Acceptance Obligations

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## Appendices (2)

- III. Appendix C – Phase II procedures for mutual recognition of certification bodies as CABs and mutual acceptance of equipment certifications
  - A-G Same as above, except change Phase I to Phase II and testing to certification
- IV. Annexes I – Annexes IV
  - Annex I – List of the Technical Regulations for Each Participating Country
  - Annex II – List of Name and Address of Each Designating Authority and Accreditation Body for Each Participating Country
  - Annex III – List of Name and Address of Each CAB Designated by Each Participating Country
  - Annex IV – List of Name and Address of Each CAB or MRAs by AB Recognized by Each Participating Economy

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## Reference

- **Guidelines for the development, implementation and management of mutual recognition arrangements/agreements (MRAs) on conformity assessment of telecommunications equipment**
- [https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Technology/Documents/ConformanceInteroperability/GuidelinesMRAs\\_E.pdf](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Technology/Documents/ConformanceInteroperability/GuidelinesMRAs_E.pdf)

ITU : I Thank U

