

# ISO/IEC 17025 & THE ILAC MRA

## What is ISO/IEC 17025?

**ISO/IEC 17025** was first issued in 1999 by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). It is the single most important standard for **calibration and testing laboratories** around the world. Laboratories that are accredited to this international standard have demonstrated that they are technically competent and able to produce precise and accurate test and/or calibration data.

## What is Accreditation?

Accreditation is a voluntary, third party-reviewed process. As part of accreditation, a laboratory's quality management system is thoroughly evaluated on a regular basis to ensure continued **technical competence** and compliance with ISO 17025. Laboratory Accreditation can only be granted by an accreditation body, or AB. Although there are a number of accreditation bodies in the US, customers should choose calibration and testing laboratories accredited by ABs having an MRA with ILAC.

## What is the ILAC MRA? Why is it Important?

In order for accreditation bodies to recognize each others' accreditations, the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) developed a standard for accreditation bodies: ISO/IEC 17011. ABs having a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (or MRA) with ILAC agree to maintain conformity with the current version of 17011 and to regularly submit themselves and their own quality management systems to peer review. By complying with ISO 17011, ABs demonstrate that they are capable of accrediting testing and/or calibration laboratories to the ISO 17025 standard. In essence, the ILAC arrangement guarantees that test results are mutually acceptable between different governmental and regulatory organizations on regional, national and international levels and that these test results meet the same minimum standards for quality regardless of the lab's accreditation body. Each member of the agreement recognizes other members' results as if they themselves had performed the test or calibration because the MRA ensures that each laboratory is actually complying with the same minimum standards.

## How do I know who has an MRA with ILAC?

Currently there are accrediting bodies from 51 different countries with full signatory status in the ILAC agreement, and the list is continually growing. Go to [www.ilac.org](http://www.ilac.org) for details and the current list.

## What ABs for ISO/IEC 17025 Have Been Granted Signatory Status to ILAC's MRA in the United States?

*As of May 16, 2011*

### **American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA)**

SCOPE: Testing & Calibration

### **National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP)**

SCOPE: Testing & Calibration

### **International Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS)**

SCOPE: Testing & Calibration

### **ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board**

*doing business as ACLASS*

SCOPE: Testing & Calibration

### **Laboratory Accreditation Bureau (L-A-B)**

SCOPE: Testing & Calibration

### **Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc. (PJLA)**

SCOPE: Testing & Calibration

### **American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board (ASCLD/LAB)**

SCOPE: Testing

### **AIHA Laboratory Accreditation Program, LLC (AIHA-LAP, LLC)**

SCOPE: Testing

### **Forensic Quality Services (FQS)**

SCOPE: Testing



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