

ISSUE 06 – ENSURING CONFORMANCE TO REQUIREMENTS FROM ALL AFFECTED REGIONS IN MULTI-REGIONAL JOINT EVALUATIONS

APAC Lead Evaluator Training Objectives:

Examine adequacy of current approach that allows joint evaluation teams to determine conformance to requirements from all regions applicable in a joint evaluation.

ILAC Finding: CN-03 and APAC Response

ITEM	CONSIDERATION
CN # 03	APLAC MR006 describes the conduct of joint peer-evaluations with other regional cooperation bodies, but it does not detail how APLAC ensures that its specific requirements will be assessed by the joint peer-evaluation team. IAF/ILAC A1, §2.2
Response from the Region	The responsibility for ensuring APLAC requirements are met (during joint evaluations) remains the responsibility of APLAC evaluators on the team, and of the MRA Council during the review/decision making process. MR006 has been modified to show this. The evaluation process to be followed by the evaluation team and the AB shall be based primarily on the documented procedures of the regional cooperation from which the TL has been appointed, unless otherwise mutually agreed between the AB and the TL. APLAC MR 001 (in the case of an APLAC TL) or IAAC MD 002 (in the case of an IAAC TL) shall be the base procedural document adopted, but in all cases the specific requirements of the complementary document shall be considered and addressed in an appropriate manner.
Reaction from the ILAC evaluation team	Corrective action accepted - finding closed.

IAF-ILAC A1:2010, Evaluation of Regional Management Systems (used during ILAC evaluation)

Section 2: Requirements for Regional Groups

Clause 2.2: Management System

2.2.1 The Regional Group shall establish and maintain a management system to operate an Arrangement in accordance with the relevant parts of this document and appropriate to the type, range and volume of work performed. The Regional Group shall ensure effective implementation of the documented management system procedures and work instructions. The Regional Group shall periodically audit and review the management system as a basis for improvement of the system.

2.2.2 The following elements of the management system shall be documented:

- Mission, policies, and objectives;
- Organization chart and description of the organization;
- Procedures for peer evaluation of a single accreditation body that are consistent with those specified in IAF/ILAC A2 and its relevant annexes;
- Conduct of internal audits and management reviews;
- Control of documents;

- Selection, training, qualification and monitoring of Peer Evaluators;
- Records related to Peer Evaluation;
- Arrangements for ensuring confidentiality of Peer Evaluation information;
- Policies and procedures for the resolution of complaints and appeals received from accreditation bodies or other parties about the handling of Peer Evaluations and Arrangement Signatory status or any related matters; and
- Policy and procedure for suspension, including the subsequent actions by the Regional Group and the consequences of suspension.

IAF-ILAC A1:2018, Evaluation of Regional Management Systems (current version)

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- Mission, policies, and objectives;
- Organization chart and description of the organization;
- Procedures for peer evaluation of a single accreditation body that are consistent with those specified in IAF/ILAC A2 and its relevant annexes and mandatory use of IAF/ILAC A3 Peer Evaluation templates for single or unaffiliated ABs;
- Conduct of internal audits and management reviews;
- Control of documents;
- Selection, training, qualification and monitoring of Peer Evaluators;
- Records related to Peer Evaluation;
- Arrangements for ensuring confidentiality of Peer Evaluation information;
- Policies and procedures for the resolution of complaints and appeals received from accreditation bodies or other parties about the handling of Peer Evaluations and Arrangement Signatory status or any related matters;
- Policy and procedure for suspension and withdrawal, including the subsequent actions by the Regional Group and the consequences of suspension or withdrawal; and
- Procedure for extending into new scopes of recognition, addressing development of the program, requirements for evaluation and decision making.

Acceptable / Possible solutions

Determine if the APLAC response to ILAC provides sufficient guidance to TLs.