

PANEL: MUTUAL RECOGNITION ARRANGEMENTS FOR LABORATORY ACCREDITATION

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Abstract

Forty-four laboratory accreditation bodies of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) have signed the multi-lateral, mutual recognition arrangement (the “ILAC Arrangement”) to promote the acceptance of accredited test and calibration data globally. The “ILAC Arrangement” is currently supported by two recognized multi-lateral, mutual recognition arrangements (MRAs), one of the European cooperation for Accreditation (EA) and one of the Asia-Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC). Other regions of the world are developing MRAs. In the United States, the National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation (NACLA) has established an MRA primarily to serve domestic needs, but intended to be in harmony with internationally recognized laboratory accreditation standards and practice. Representatives from ILAC, EA, APLAC and NACLA will talk about how their respective MRAs work in support of facilitating trade within their region and across regions.