



# **Is the OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement the Solution?**

**Presentation by  
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# Impact of Globalization

- Growth in international trade
- Improved access to new technology
- Shorter measuring instrument life cycle
- Expectation that government
  - will continue to protect its citizens
  - while reducing barriers to trade and innovation



# Resulting Challenges

- Increased competition for market share
- Need to reduce costs and time to market
- Growing measuring instrument complexity and diversity
- Legal metrology organizations must
  - identify means of achieving their mandates in the global economy
  - while continuing to protect citizens' interests



# Goals of OIML

- To establish systems for mutual recognition and cooperation
- To develop mutual information, recognition and confidence among members
- To develop international recommendations for measuring instruments



# The Challenge!

*“Often Measuring Instruments distributed Worldwide must:”*

- Simultaneously comply with requirements of several foreign jurisdictions
- Be tested in each country before approval is granted

**Resulting In**

- Increased costs
- Duplication of testing
- Need for individual countries to maintain broad spectrum of expertise and testing capability
- Increased time to market



# OIML Certificate System

- Voluntary System
- Goals
  - To facilitate and harmonize type evaluation of measuring instruments
  - To harmonize laboratory testing practices
- Certificates issued by Issuing Authorities



# Some of the Difficulties Encountered

- No standardized assessment of testing laboratories required
- National tests often performed in addition to evaluation of Issuing Authority test results
- No information about the requirements in other countries



# OIML's Evolution? – The MAA

- Voluntary program – participation is optional
- Builds on success of OIML Certificate System
- Commitment to accept and utilize test results is not legally binding
- Compatible with MID requirements



# How will the MAA function?

- Declarations of Mutual Confidence
- Issuing participants
  - Laboratories are either accredited by ILAC or OIML peer assessed
  - Test measuring instruments for compliance with agreed to standards
- Utilizing participants
  - Accept test results of issuing participants



**Allows reliance on other countries' facilities and competence**

**Decreased costs and duplication of testing**

**Promotes exchanges of information, experience and good practices**

**Benefits of MAA**

**One-stop testing**

**Promotes standardized testing and evaluation criteria**

**Facilitates compliance with WTO TBT Agreement**

**Allows for testing to unique country requirements**



# Summary

The OIML MAA will facilitate:

- Reduction of trade barriers
- Compliance with international agreements
- Viability of one stop testing
- Facilitate testing to unique country requirements (if necessary)
- Consistency, mutual confidence and recognition



# International Harmonization

- Reduces costs
- Improves the reliability of measuring instruments
- Makes international trade more efficient
- Allows legal metrology organizations to achieve their mandates with increased efficiency



# Conclusion

- The OIML MAA is the next step towards a global certification program
- Want more information?
  - I invite you to attend session presented by Régine Gaucher this afternoon