



The
OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement
(OIML MAA)

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OIML

International Organization of Legal Metrology
Organisation Internationale de Métrologie Légale

Intergovernmental Organization
set up in 1955



OIML

Key figures (13 February 2006)

- **60 Member States**
- **53 Corresponding Members**
- **Cooperation with other International Organizations (ISO, ILAC, Meter Convention ...) and Regional Organizations (WELMEC, APLMF...)**



Each Member State designates one representative:

- Who represents the Member State in the CIGM (International Committee of Legal Metrology) which meets once a year
- Who represents the OIML in his country



Goals of the OIML

- To develop mutual information, recognition and confidence among Members
- To set up systems for mutual recognition and cooperation
- To draw up International Recommendations



OIML Recommendations

- **Technical harmonized documents**
- **Basis for drawing up national and/or regional regulations**
- **Moral obligation for Member States to implement these Recommendations**



OIML Recommendations

- Drawn up by Technical Committees and Subcommittees made up of experts from Member States
- According to procedures defined in the *Directives for Technical Work*
- Related to a category or a group of categories of measuring instruments



Structure of an OIML Recommendation in three parts

- Technical and metrological requirements
- Testing procedures
- Test Report Format



Such a structure led to the setting up in 1991 of the OIML Certificate System for Measuring Instruments

OIML Publication B 3



Today, 41 categories
of measuring instruments
are covered by the
OIML Certificate System



Certificates issued

- **Approx. 1400 since 1991**
- **300 manufacturers**



OIML Certificate System

- To facilitate and harmonize the work of national and regional bodies in charge of type evaluation of measuring instruments
- To harmonize practices of testing laboratories



OIML Certificate System

- Voluntary system
- Certificates issued by Issuing Authorities designated by OIML Members on the basis of an OIML Evaluation Report



OIML Certificate System

Designation of an Issuing Authority

- by the OIML Member
- Currently no reference criteria for designation

proposal for introducing requirements based
on ISO/IEC Guide 65



OIML Certificate System

To help manufacturers demonstrate
conformity of measuring instruments
they manufacture
to requirements in the various countries
where they request type approval



The OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement (MAA)

- To set up additional tools to increase the existing mutual confidence through the OIML Certificate System
- To facilitate the recognition of test results



Similar international arrangements already exist

- **Meter Convention / BIPM: recognition of equivalency of national reference standards**

- **ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation): recognition of calibration and testing laboratory accreditations**



OIML MAA

- **Voluntary System**
- **To help Member States which do not have their own test facilities**
- **To increase confidence by setting up an evaluation of testing laboratories**
- **To take into account additional national requirements**



Voluntary System

- Decision for participation belongs to each Member State
- Two kinds of Participants:
 - ❖ Issuing Participants
 - ❖ Utilizing Participants



**To help Member States which do not
have their own test facilities**

By becoming a Utilizing Participant



To increase confidence by setting up an evaluation of testing laboratories

- Based on ISO/IEC 17025 *"General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories"*
- Accreditation for the relevant scope by an accreditation body signatory of ILAC MRA or evaluation by "peer assessment"



To take into account additional national requirements

- National specificities
- Additional requirements to be taken into account in OIML Recommendations
- Manufacturers better informed



The OIML MAA
leads to the signature of
Declarations of Mutual
Confidence
(DoMCs)



Signatories of a Declaration of Mutual Confidence

- OIML Issuing Authorities
- National type approval bodies
- Bodies which authorize measuring instruments to be put on the market



OIML MAA

Committee on Participation Review

- Composed of experts in legal metrology
- Responsible for the implementation of the OIML MAA and for the maintenance of DoMCs
- Review the applications for participation
- Propose the acceptance of participants to become signatories



OIML MAA Conduct of peer assessments

- Reference documents
 - ❖ ISO/IEC 17025
 - ❖ OIML Guide XX (under development)
 - ❖ Relevant OIML Recommendations
 - ❖ OIML procedure for conducting peer assessments



OIML MAA Assessors responsible for conducting peer assessments

- Team of two experts:
 - ❖ one metrological and technical expert
 - ❖ one expert in quality systems



OIML MAA Metrological and technological expert

- **Reference criteria defined**
 - ❖ Experience in type evaluation of the relevant category of measuring instrument
 - ❖ Good knowledge of testing procedures
 - ❖ Participation in training organized by the OIML and in any additional training requested by the CPR
 - ❖ English speaking
 - ❖ Independency from manufacturers of measuring instruments

- **Proposed by CIML Members**

- **List validated by the CPR**



OIML MAA Expert in quality systems

Item included in the cooperation program under development between ILAC and the OIML

- **Qualified assessors from the National Accreditation Body, signatory of ILAC MRA, for assessing testing laboratories according to ISO/IEC 17025**
- **List to be developed by ILAC and the OIML**



OIML MAA

Cooperation between ILAC and the OIML

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is under discussion
- To guarantee harmonization between the means for assessing competence of testing laboratories in the implementation of the MAA (accreditation or peer assessment)
- To facilitate a common approach in the implementation of ISO/IEC 17025



OIML MAA

Some proposed practical solutions

- ILAC evaluators to be used by the OIML as experts in quality systems to conduct peer assessments under the MAA
- Technical and metrological experts validated by the CPR to be used by ILAC to conduct assessments for accreditation in the field of legal metrology



OIML MAA

Implementation started
in January 2005

- Load cells according to OIML R 60
- Nonautomatic weighing instruments according to OIML R 76



OIML MAA

- 21 countries requested participation
- Evaluation of testing laboratories was conducted in November 2005



- The CPR will meet in March 2006 to propose the acceptance of Participants
- The signing of the first two DoMCs is expected in October 2006



The signing of these DoMCs
will allow OIML Test Reports
and OIML Certificates of Conformity
to be issued under the MAA
and identified by a specific logo
which is currently under development



**We are now continuing
the implementation of the MAA
with water meters (OIML R 49)**

**Deadline for applying for participation:
31 March 2006**



For further information

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Thank you for your attention