Report of the

Ad-hoc working group

„Review of the OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement (MAA)

Roman Schwartz

Seminar in Ho Chi Minh City, 2013

A Seminar on the

„OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement (MAA)"

was held in Ho Chi Min City (Vietnam) on 7 October 2013

$\Rightarrow$ Seminar Report OIML S 7 (Edition 2013)

CIML Resolutions 2013

Three „MAA Resolutions" were approved at the CIML meeting 2013:

1. **Resolution no. 2013/15 on „raising awareness of the MAA system"**

2. **Resolution no. 2013/16 on „reviewing the CPR structure, rules and procedures"**

3. **Resolution no. 2013/17 on „steps towards one single certification system for OIML type evaluations"**

Ad-hoc Working Group (AHWG)

⇒ **Start: BIML letter, 20 Nov. 2013**

⇒ **15 P-members**

⇒ **2 O-members**

⇒ **4 manufacturer's associations + NCWM/NTEP**

⇒ **BIML (secretariat)**

⇒ **Chair: First Vice-President**

⇒ **Total: 34 participants**

Questionnaire on the review of the MAA

$\Rightarrow$ **16 questions addressing all aspects of the three CIML "MAA resolutions"**

$\Rightarrow$ **Circulated 18 Dec. 2013; deadline 21 Feb. 2014**

$\Rightarrow$ **21 responses ! Very good and useful proposals - Thanks !**

$\Rightarrow$ **Compilation and summary of all responses prepared by the BIML, and distributed to the AHWG, 13 March 2014**

$\Rightarrow$ **Input for the AHWG meeting at NIST/Gaithersburg, 20-21 March 2014**

$\rightarrow$ **Results …**

Awareness raising…

1. **… by improving the information provided on the OIML MAA website?**

⇒ **Support by 67% ⇒ clear majority in favor**

⇒ **Rather detailed and useful proposals**

⇒ **Considered as a work item of high priority**

⇒ **A task group (TG 1.1) was charged to take care**

Awareness raising…

2.   **…by an updated OIML MAA leaflet?**

$\Rightarrow$ **Support by 71% $\Rightarrow$ clear majority in favor, but:**

   - Consider different leaflets for different target groups

   - Existing leaflet is not really attracting manufacturers

   - Different languages would be desirable

$\Rightarrow$ **Considered as an important work item**

$\Rightarrow$ **TG 1.1 to take care**

TG 1.1 "MAA website and MAA leaflet"

Tasks:
- To develop, based on the respective responses to the questionnaire, a "functional specification" for the OIML web site pages pertaining to the OIML certification systems,
- To develop, based on the respective responses to the questionnaire, ideas for update / improvement of the OIML leaflet(s),

Objectives:
- to make the MAA more visible and attractive on the OIML home page,
- to better explain the benefits of the MAA and of MAA certificates (being "qualified certificates"), and
- to enable better promotion of the MAA by updated / improved leaflet(s)

Members:
DE (chair), UK, CECIP, IN, BIML

Results so far / Current status:
- A couple of concrete proposals have been submitted to the BIML
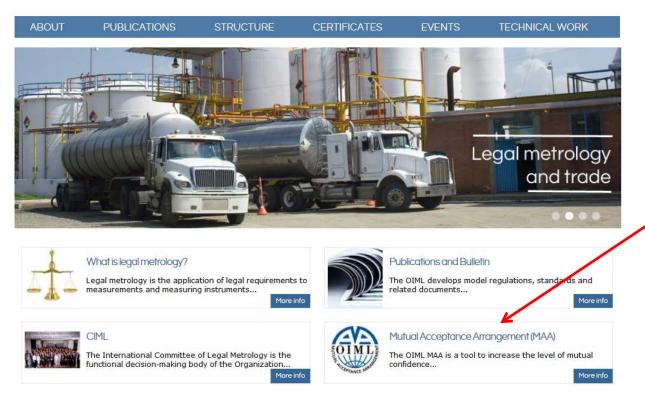- As a first step, the BIML has changed the OIML web site:

TG 1.1 "MAA website and MAA leaflet"

New OIML web site:

TG 1.1 "MAA website and MAA leaflet"

Home ——> Certificates ——> OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement

CERTIFICATES

Basic Certificate System

OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement
- o Documentation
- o Signed DOMCs

Registered Certificates

Issuing Authorities

Categories by Issuing Authority

OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement (OIML MAA)

An arrangement for issuing, registering and using OIML MAA Certificates of Conformity

Introduction

Implemented in January 2005, the OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement ("OIML MAA") is a tool to increase the level of mutual confidence provided by the OIML Basic Certificate System. Its purpose is to establish a worldwide multilateral arrangement which offers a wider scope than bilateral or regional arrangements.

Within the OIML MAA, confidence in test and examination results is reinforced by a formal and mandatory peer evaluation process.

Benefits

All stakeholders may benefit from the OIML MAA:

- For national legal metrology authorities, where national type evaluations and approvals are required the OIML MAA provides formal evidence to accept and utilize OIML MAA Type Evaluation Reports validated by an OIML MAA Certificate of Conformity.
- For countries in which no test facilities are available, the OIML MAA offers a viable solution.
- For manufacturers, the OIML MAA provides a tool to avoid duplication of type approval tests in different countries.

10

Awareness raising…

3. **…by an information letter from the BIML to potential users?**

$\Rightarrow$ **Support by 67% $\Rightarrow$ majority in favor, but:**

   - Would primarily address Issuing Authorities („regulators")

   - Manufacturers can be better reached through industrial

   organizations/associations or Authorities (in national language)

$\Rightarrow$ **Considered as work item of lower priority compared to 1 and 2**

$\Rightarrow$ **Wait for the improved MAA website and MAA leaflet to refer to**

Awareness raising…

4.   **…by drawing the attention of trade negiotiators to the opportunities that OIML offers to reduce barriers to trade?**

$\Rightarrow$ **Support by only 38%**

$\Rightarrow$ **Uncertainty about how to reach the right persons**

$\Rightarrow$ **Considered to be primarily the task of CIML members**

Awareness raising…

5. **…by making presentations at conferences, organize workshops, etc. ?**

⇒ **Support by 62% ⇒ majority is in favor**

⇒ **For example at meetings organized by RLMO's, or at a workshop in conjunction with CIML meeting**

⇒ **Develop standard presentations to be used on different occasions**

⇒ **Also depends on the „CPR review" and decisions towards „one single system"**

⇒ **Wait until the MAA revision process is finalized**

Awareness raising…

6. **…by other means?**

$\Rightarrow$ **There are a couple of good proposals, e.g. make more use of the OIML Bulletin**

$\Rightarrow$ **Some fundamental doubts about the performance of the MAA; some (few) requests to evaluate the MAA before reviewing it**

$\Rightarrow$ **Conclusion of the AHWG:**
We should be more patient and consider the current MAA review as a good chance to make it more effective and better accepted

$\Rightarrow$ **A task group (TG 1.2) was charged to take care**

TG 1.2 "Reasons for non-acceptance"

Tasks:

- To develop, based on respective responses to the questionnaire, proposals how CIML Members, RLMOs and manufacturers associations can be surveyed on their experience and knowledge about the reasons for non-acceptance of OIML certificates.

Members:

DE (chair), UK, NL, IN, ZM

Results so far / Current status:

- Feedback from RLMO's?, CECIP? CECOD?

- Feedback from **CIML members** is of **key importance**

→ **See proposed Draft Resolution addressing <u>CIML members</u>**

CPR review

1. **Do you consider the current <u>structure</u> of the CPRs appropriate?**

⇒ **Yes: 43%, No: 43% ⇒ split vote**

⇒ **Depends on the number of DoMCs; a majority considers the current CPR structure not appropriate for more than 3 DoMCs**

⇒ **There are a couple of useful proposals to be considered**

⇒ **A task group (TG 2) was charged to take care**

CPR review

2. **Do you consider the current <u>rules and procedures</u> of the CPRs appropriate?**

$\Rightarrow$ **Yes: 43%, No: 43%** $\Rightarrow$ **split vote**

$\Rightarrow$ **Many useful proposals**

$\Rightarrow$ **Some concerns that the existing rules are not strictly followed**

$\Rightarrow$ **TG 2 to take care**

CPR review

3. **Do you consider the current rules and procedures sufficiently clear and understandable?**

$\Rightarrow$ **Yes: 43%, No: 33% $\Rightarrow$ split vote, but:**

$\Rightarrow$ **Clear support to revise document MAA 01 to align with B 10:2012**

$\Rightarrow$ **Support to add templates and forms that can be used by potential new Issuing Participants**

$\Rightarrow$ **TG 2 to take care**

CPR review

4. **Do you think that the role of Utilizing Participants (UPs) should be redefined?**

$\Rightarrow$ **Yes: 43%, No: 43% $\Rightarrow$ split vote**

$\Rightarrow$ **There are two concerns:**

a) the number of UPs has not increased since the beginning of the MAA,

b) UPs that originally signed-up in a DoMC, often don't participate in CPR meetings.

$\Rightarrow$ **Proposal to let UPs choose between an active role or a passive role**

$\Rightarrow$ **TG 2 to take care**

CPR review

5   Do you support establishing other DoMCs?

$\Rightarrow$ **Yes: 81%, No: 14% $\Rightarrow$ clear majority in favor**

$\Rightarrow$ **In principle, there should be DoMCs for all relevant OIML Recommendations, depending on the number of Basic Certificates issued so far, and the number of Issuing Authorities and testing laboratories, but ...**

$\Rightarrow$ **... only on condition that the governance of the CPR has been revised and deemed effective**

$\Rightarrow$ **... stakeholders have expressed their interest**

$\Rightarrow$ **Task group 2 to take care**

CPR review

6. Other ideas…

$\Rightarrow$ **A couple of useful proposals, e.g.**

$\Rightarrow$ **Investigate/reconsider reporting requirements and review periods for Issuing Participants**

$\Rightarrow$ **Improve/ develop forms and checklists, and make them easily available**

$\Rightarrow$ **Develop guidance on how to implement OIML recommendations and documents into national legislation**

$\Rightarrow$ **Improve training of technical and metrological experts**

$\Rightarrow$ **Task group 2 to take care**

TG 2 "CPR Review"

Task:

To consider the respective responses to the questionnaire, especially:

- proposals to improve the effectiveness and the efficiency of the system,
- whether (or not) to have another layer of decision within the CPR,
- means to increase efficiency, e.g. more forms and templates,
- increased use of technical means (electronic voting, etc),
- to improve the preparation of CPR meetings,
- to develop a proposal concerning the chairing of CPR meetings,
- to expand the category of "associates" to include issuing authorities from
  OIML Member States that do not wish to actively participate in the CPR,
- to consider necessary amendments of both B 10 and MAA 01.

Members:

UK (chair), US, JP, DE, FR, NL, CH, BIML

Results so far / Current status:

- TG 2 had its first (informal) meeting on 21 March 2014 in Gaithersburg
- Concrete ideas and substantial proposals have been circulated for
  consideration by TG 2 members before 15 December 2014

Single system

1. **Would you support to stop the Basic certificate system for one or more categories?**

$\Rightarrow$ **Yes: 38%, No: 48% $\Rightarrow$ No majority**

$\Rightarrow$ **Main argument of the proponents:**

→ **"Two systems in parallel are confusing; uncertainty should be removed as soon as possible"**

$\Rightarrow$ **Main arguments of the opponents:**

→ **"Leave it to the market"**

→ **"Potential new IPs should be given a fair chance to get in the MAA system" (there should be no "closed circle")**

$\Rightarrow$ **But: there is a clear expectation of the CIML to have only one single OIML certification system as soon as possible**

$\Rightarrow$ **A task group (TG 3) was charged to take care**

Single system

2. **Further steps to arrive at one single certificate system?**

$\Rightarrow$ **A couple of useful responses**

$\Rightarrow$ **TG 3 to take care**

Single system

3. **Do you know of any „well established certification schemes" from which we can take advantage?**

$\Rightarrow$ **Yes: 52%, No: 38%**

$\Rightarrow$ **IEC EE, IEC Ex, ISO/IEC 17065 and 17067, European conformity assessment system (MID, NAWID)**

$\Rightarrow$ **TG's 2 and 3 to take care**

TG 3 "Single system"

Tasks:

- To investigate options how a single system may be organized, and how the transition could take place, considering the resp. responses to the questionnaire,

- to review/analyze (for R 60 and R 76 at the moment)
(a) past CIML decisions on the termination of the Basic system,
(b) the number of Basic certificates still being issued (including revisions),
(c) the implications of a CIML decision to terminate the Basic System for a category for which a DoMC exists,

- To define the conditions / options under which potential new Issuing Participants may get in the MAA system.

Members:
DE (chair), BIML, US, IN, UK, NL, CECIP

Results so far / Current status:

- The BIML has provided a list of all relevant CIML decisions

- CECIP responded: certain conditions to be fulfilled before terminating the Basic system for R 60 and R 76

- To be further discussed by TG3

Proposed CIML Resolution

Draft Resolution no. 2014/…

The Committee,

<u>Notes</u> the report given by the ad-hoc working group (AHWG) chair and First CIML Vice-President, Roman Schwartz,

<u>Considers</u> the review of the MAA as a high priority project, and therefore

<u>Encourages</u> the AHWG, including its task groups, to undertake every effort to present concrete proposals to the next CIML meeting,

<u>Instructs</u> the BIML to provide the necessary support for the AHWG, including its task groups, in order to implement CIML Resolutions no. 2013/15, 2013/16 and 2013/17,

<u>Requests</u> CIML members to inform the BIML about their experience and knowledge whether or not OIML certificates (Basic or MAA) and OIML Test Reports are accepted in their countries as the basis for national or regional type approval, and the reasons in case that they are not, or not completely, accepted.[*]

[*] for relevant OIML Recommendations only (R49, R50, R51, R60, R61, R76, R117, …(to be completed))

Informal AHWG meeting, 5 Nov. 2014

Information about the current status / progress of the 4 TG's

Next steps and timeline:

- In support of the CIML Resolution the BIML will circulate a short (!) questionnaire to CIML members a.s.a.p.

- TG's will discuss / comment the proposals by 15 December 2014

- TG chairs will summarize and provide final proposals by 31 January 2015

- A meeting of the TG chairs and other TG members is planned for the second half of February 2015

- The outcome of that meeting and further steps will be discussed at the Presidential Council meeting in March 2015