



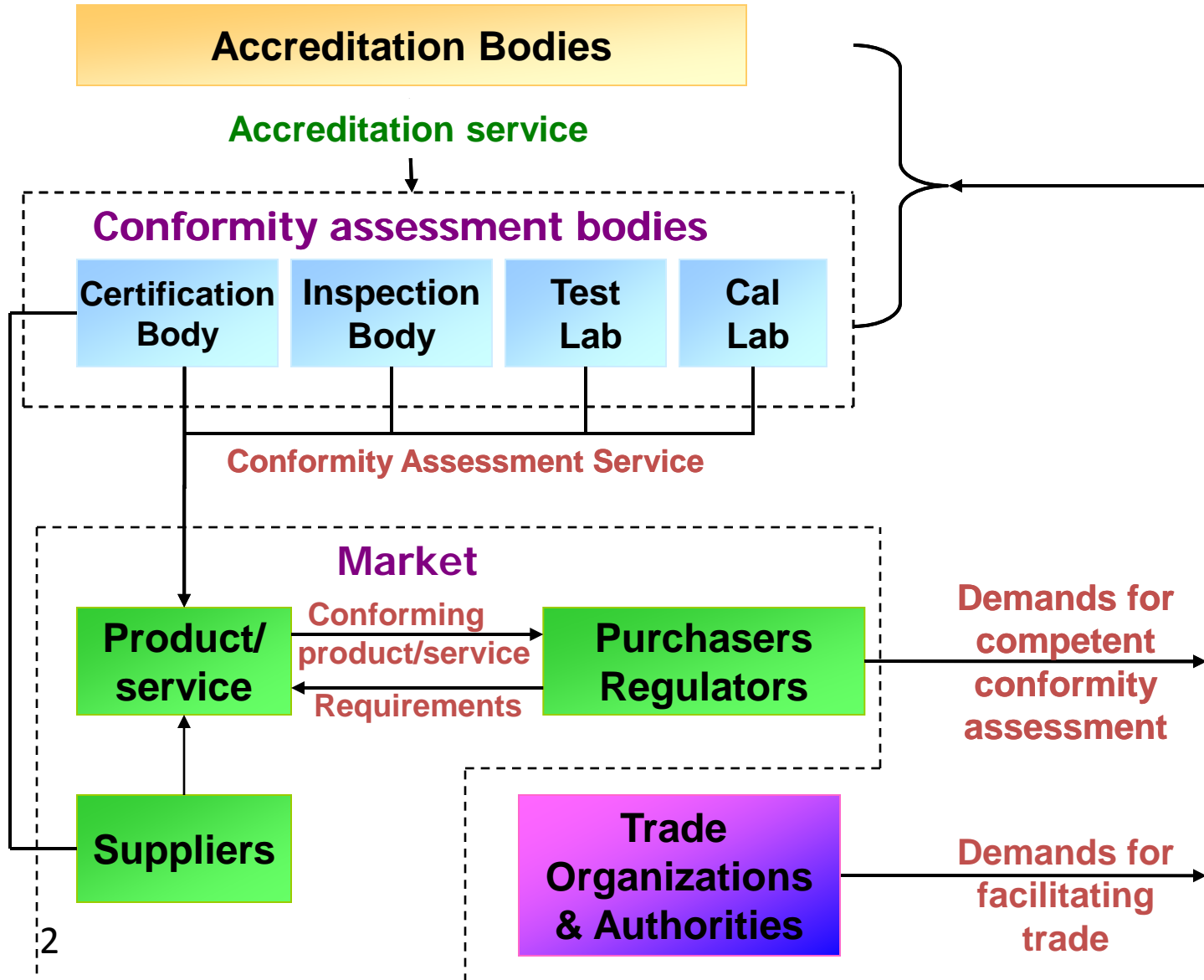
# The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) & The International Accreditation Forum (IAF)

NIST Conformity Assessment Workshop  
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# Accreditation in the Market



# IAF and ILAC – an Introduction

**ILAC and IAF are global networks of accreditation bodies and organizations involved in conformity assessment.**

- Recognition of competent and equally reliable conformity assessment activities through Global Arrangements**
- Development/harmonization of accreditation practices**
- Promotion of accreditation as an effective mechanism for providing confidence in goods and services**



# IAF and ILAC Objectives

- **Maintain multi-lateral mutual recognition Arrangements**
  - Expand coverage into all economies of the world
  - Provide support to new accreditation systems
- **Harmonize accreditation best practice**
  - Cooperate with all relevant stakeholders



# Global Vision

- Ensuring that accredited services are reliable
- Reliance on the Arrangements to further develop or enhance trade agreements.
- *‘Tested, inspected or certified once and accepted everywhere’*
- *“Accredited once accepted everywhere”*



# ILAC – The Membership

- **ILAC is the oversight body for laboratory and inspection body accreditation.**



# IAF– The Membership

- **IAF is the oversight body for certification of management systems, personnel and products.**



# Regional Cooperation Bodies

- The IAF and ILAC Arrangements are structured to build on existing and developing regional MLAs/MRAs established around the world.



European  
Cooperation  
for  
Accreditation  
(EA)



Pacific  
Accreditation  
Cooperation  
(PAC)



Inter-American  
Accreditation  
Cooperation  
(IAAC)



Asia Pacific  
Laboratory  
Accreditation  
Cooperation  
(APLAC)



Southern African  
Development  
Community  
Accreditation  
(SADCA)



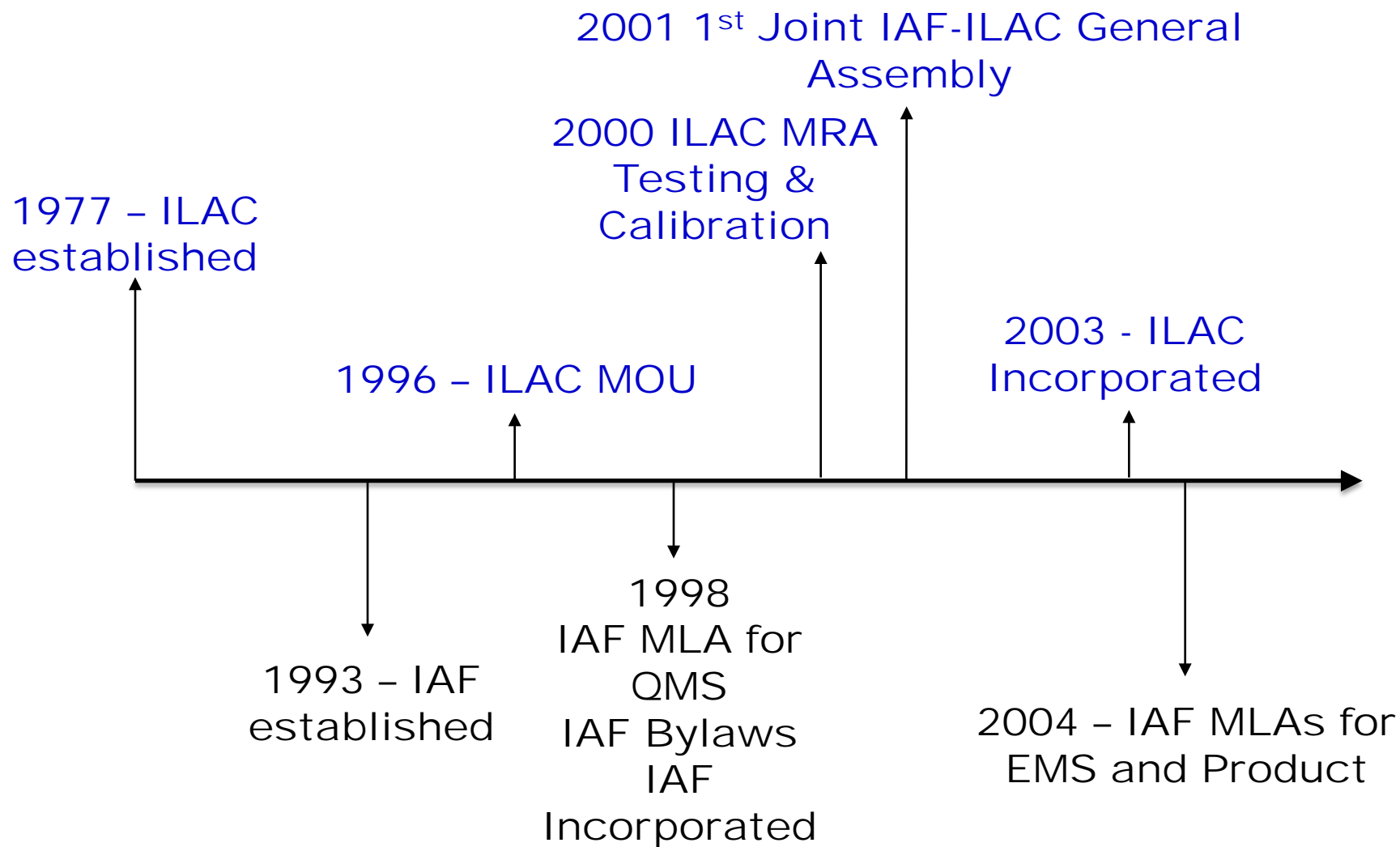
African  
Accreditation  
Cooperation  
(AFRAC)

- The IAF MLA recognizes EA, PAC, IAAC
- The ILAC MRA recognizes EA, APLAC, IAAC





# IAF / ILAC timeline



# The ILAC and IAF Arrangements

- **Accreditation body members deemed competent through a peer evaluation process:**
  - **ISO/IEC 17011**
  - **IAF-ILAC A series documents**
  - **IAF & ILAC application documents**
- **Signatories recognize certificates, reports, and results issued by organizations accredited by other Signatories**



# IAF/ILAC A2: Evaluation of an AB

- **Two main sections; two main purposes:**
- **Criteria (Section 2)**
  - **Requirements on an AB Signatory**
- **Procedures (Section 3)**
  - **How to conduct an evaluation for IAF/ILAC**



# IAF/ILAC A2: Evaluation of an AB

## Section 2.2 Supplementary Requirements

- **Demonstrated competence and experience**
- **Acceptable routes for measurement traceability**
- **Proficiency testing requirements**
- **Arrangement obligations**
- **Promotion of the Arrangements**
- **Contribute to peer evaluations**
- **Cross-frontier policy**



# IAF/ILAC A2: Evaluation of an AB

## Qualifications of Evaluators

- **Team members:**
  - At least 3 years experience as staff member or assessor in a member accreditation body
  - Evaluator training course completed
  - English understood
- **Team Leaders**
  - Senior AB staff
  - Experience as a team member



# IAF/ILAC A2: Evaluation of an AB Full Evaluation

- **Four to six days duration**
- **Three to seven team members**
- **Several assessments witnessed**
- **Summary report of findings at end of visit**



# IAF/ILAC A2: Evaluation of an AB Full Evaluation Report Process

- **Summary report with Findings:**
- **Draft full report**
- **Formal response by AB to findings**
- **Formal reaction of the evaluation team**
- **Often more than one iteration**
- **Follow-up visit possible**
- **Final report to the Arrangement group**
- **Decision by the Arrangement group**



# IAF/ILAC A2: Evaluation of an AB

## Nonconformity

- **Finding where the AB does not meet a requirement of the applicable standard (ISO/IEC 17011), its own management system or the Arrangement requirements**

*The evaluated AB is expected to respond to each non-conformity by taking appropriate corrective action and providing the evaluation team with evidence of effective implementation.*





# IAF/ILAC A2: Evaluation of an AB Concern

- **Finding where the AB's practice may develop into a nonconformity**

*The evaluated AB is expected to respond to each concern by providing the evaluation team with an appropriate action plan and time schedule for implementation.*



# IAF/ILAC A2: Evaluation of an AB Comment

- **Finding about documents or the AB's practices with a potential for improvement but still fulfilling requirements**

*The evaluated AB is encouraged to respond to comments*



# Status of the ILAC MRA (Mar 2012)

- **The ILAC network of members includes 144 bodies from 109 different economies**
- **74 ILAC MRA Signatories representing 61 economies.**
- **ILAC MRA covers testing and calibration**
- **Signatories represent about 95% of Global GDP**
- **More than 43,000 accredited laboratories**
- **About 7,300 accredited inspection bodies**



# Status of the IAF MLA (Mar 2012)

- **There are 49 IAF MLA Signatories, representing 47 economies.**
  - **Management Systems: 47 Accreditation Bodies and EA, PAC & IAAC**
  - **ISO 9001 QMS: 47 Accreditation Bodies and EA, PAC & IAAC**
  - **ISO 14001 EMS: 41 Accreditation Bodies and EA, PAC & IAAC**
  - **ISO 22000 FSMS: in development**
  - **ISO 27001 ISMS: in development**
  - **Product: 38 Accreditation Bodies EA, PAC & IAAC**
  - **Persons: In development**



# Benefits

- **Increased confidence in conformity assessment results**
- **Eliminating redundant conformity assessment activities**
- **Improving efficiency of assessment process**
- **Continual monitoring and enforcement**



# Contact Details

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