



**Criteria for NIST Designation of US Third Party  
Testing Laboratories to Mexico under the  
US-Mexico Mutual Recognition Agreement**

*Issued December 3, 2025*

## Introduction

The *Mutual Recognition Agreement Between the Government of the United Mexican States and the Government of the United States of America for Conformity Assessment of Telecommunications Equipment* (US-Mexico Telecom MRA, MRA, or Agreement) was signed on May 26, 2011 and implemented by the US on September 26, 2017.

This Agreement provides for the mutual recognition of qualified testing laboratories (hereafter referred to as CABs – *conformity assessment bodies*) by the US and Mexican governments, and for the mutual acceptance of the results of testing undertaken by these CABs for specific technical regulations specified by each Party in the relevant MRA Annex I<sup>1</sup>.

Each MRA Partner’s regulatory scheme may differ in the requirements (1) for the types of telecommunication equipment that must be tested, (2) in the applicable technical regulations, test methods, and standards that must be applied, and (3) in any further certification and/or homologation that must be conducted before the equipment can be placed on the market. The activities related to product certification and homologation fall outside the scope of this US-Mexico Telecom MRA.

NIST is the US Designating Authority under the MRA. NIST reviews and processes requests from qualified third-party CABs located in the United States for designation to Mexico’s telecom regulator, Comisión Reguladora de Telecomunicaciones (CRT)<sup>2</sup>. CRT makes the decision on recognition of US CABs.

A US third party CAB seeking designation by NIST and recognition by Mexico shall meet the requirements identified in this document.

To apply for designation, the US third party CAB shall submit the documentation and information listed in the Application Checklist located in Section 8.0 of this document to the NIST Telecom MRA Program Office via e-mail at [mra@nist.gov](mailto:mra@nist.gov).

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to Section 6.0 of this document.

<sup>2</sup> CRT replaced IFT (Instituto Federal de Telecomunicaciones) as of October 17, 2025.

## 1.0 General Requirements for Designation

To be eligible for designation by NIST to Mexico for consideration as a recognized CAB for testing of telecommunications equipment to one or more of the technical regulations covered under the MRA (see Section 6.0), the following criteria shall be met by the CAB:

- 1.1 The CAB shall be a legally identifiable third-party test lab located in the US.

*Note: Mexico does not accept designations from first-party and second party testing laboratories. [MRA, Appendix B, II (2)]*

- 1.2 The CAB shall be ISO/IEC 17025 accredited by a US laboratory accreditation body (lab AB) that is NIST-Listed<sup>3</sup> as acceptable for use by US CABs for NIST MRA designations under the EMC/Telecom MRAs signed by the US.
- 1.3 The CAB's ISO/IEC 17025 Scope of Accreditation shall contain one or more of the NOMs (Norma Oficial Mexicana/Official Mexican Standards) and/or Technical Provisions covered under the MRA (See Section 6.0). The Scope of Accreditation format shall include all information noted in Section 2.0 of this document.
- 1.4 The CAB shall only subcontract testing covered under its scope of recognition to other third-party testing laboratories also recognized by CRT for the relevant NOMs and/or Technical Provisions.
- 1.5 The CAB shall have sufficient technical knowledge of Mexico's relevant telecommunications laws and the technical regulations applicable to the scope of testing for which recognition from CRT is being sought.
- 1.6 The CAB is responsible for staying up-to-date with the relevant laws, technical regulations, procedures and rules of Mexico as these apply under the MRA.
- 1.7 The CAB shall have access to the applicable NOMs and Technical Provisions in English or have the capability to accurately translate the technical requirements from Spanish to English.
- 1.8 The CAB shall renew recognition in accordance with instructions provided by NIST and in accordance with CRT requirements.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nist.gov/standardsgov/accreditation-bodies-mras>

## 2.0 Scope of Accreditation Requirements – Content/Format

### 2.1 Content/Format

The Scope of Accreditation shall include the applicable NOMs and Technical Provisions available for recognition under the MRA (see Section 6.0).

For each applicable NOM and/or Technical Provision, the Scope of Accreditation should reference the specific sections and subsections of the applicable test methods in the NOMs and Technical Provisions that the CAB has been deemed competent to perform.

### 2.2 Example Format

#### Scope of Accreditation Example

Type of Test	Standard and Test Method Sections/Sub-Sections
Radiated Emissions	IFT-008-2015 Sections: 5.1.4.2, 5.2.1, 5.2.2.1, 5.2.3, 5.3.1.1, 5.3.1.2, 5.3.1.3, 5.3.1.4, 5.3.1.5, 5.3.3, 5.4.1, 5.4.1 Method 1, 5.4.1 Method 2, 5.4.2 (A1-M1, A2, A2-M2, A2-M3, A2-M4), 5.4.3, 5.5.1, 5.5.2, 5.6.1, 5.6.2  NOM-208-SCFI-2016 (all subsections)

## 3.0 Expiration

- 3.1 CRT requires that CABs be accredited for a two-year accreditation period.
- 3.2 If a US CAB is accredited for a period of validity that exceeds two years (as allowed by ISO/IEC 17011), NIST will designate the US CAB for no more than two years at a time. The designation period must be updated at the end of the two years.
- 3.3 CRT recognition expires when the ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation expires. To continue recognition, the CAB must provide evidence of continued ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation. Additional information may be required to continue recognition. NIST will request the renewal information from CABs in advance of the expiration date.

## 4.0 Test Report Signatories Requirements

When applying for designation to NIST, the CAB shall submit a list of competent test report signatories who have been approved by the NIST-Listed AB. The details for this list and its management are noted below.

- 4.1 For each NOM and Technical Provision for which recognition is being sought, the CAB shall maintain a list of the qualified competent test report signatories that sign applicable test reports.
- 4.2 The CAB shall obtain written confirmation (in the form of a letter, for example) from the NIST-Listed AB that the signatories identified by the CAB are competent to sign the test reports.
- 4.3 The written confirmation shall identify the full name of each signatory, the effective date of AB approval, and the NOMs and Technical Provisions applicable to that signatory.
- 4.4 The written confirmation of the competent signatories issued by the NIST-Listed AB shall be provided to NIST as part of the application process.
- 4.5 NIST will provide this information to **CRT** upon designation.

[**CRT** will provide the list to the relevant Mexican certification bodies (CB) that will be receiving test reports from recognized CABs. Test reports issued by the recognized CAB are accepted by the relevant Mexican CBs only if the test report signatory is on record with the Mexican CB.]

- 4.6 The CAB shall keep test report signatory information up-to-date with their AB and NIST. If there are changes to the list, the CAB shall provide NIST with an updated written confirmation from their AB.

## 5.0 Accreditation Body Assessment Documentation and Translation Requirements

In accordance with the text of the MRA, for initial designation, the CAB shall submit the following assessment documentation in English (original AB version) to NIST.

- 5.1 The AB issued ISO/IEC 17025 assessment checklist (or other AB assessment documentation) showing each ISO/IEC 17025 clauses that was assessed and the determination of compliance. **The checklist must be dated and signed by the AB or assessor.**
- 5.2 The AB issued ISO/IEC 17025 Assessment Deficiency Report

- 5.3 The CAB's written Corrective Action Responses and documented evidence that that all deficiencies were resolved (closed by AB).

Note: The CAB shall provide more detailed Corrective Action Response information/objective evidence related to deficiencies if requested by CRT.

For recognition renewal, the AB assessment information is not currently required.

## 6.0 Standards/Technical Provisions Covered under the MRA

The current standards (NOMs) and Technical Provisions available for CRT recognition are provide on the NIST TEL MRA webpage for the US-Mexico MRA:

<https://www.nist.gov/standardsgov/us-mexico-mra>

## 7.0 CRT Resources

(Note: The weblinks will be updated to the CRT webpages when available.)

- CRT website: <http://www.ift.org.mx/>
- CRT webpage to the Guidelines for Accreditation, Authorization, Designation and Recognition  
[http://www.ift.org.mx/industria/politica\\_regulatoria/laboratorios-de-prueba](http://www.ift.org.mx/industria/politica_regulatoria/laboratorios-de-prueba).
- Guidelines for Recognition of Third Party Testing Laboratories Designated by a Designating Authority of a Foreign Government (Canada or United States of America)  
<http://inventariotramites.ift.org.mx/mitweb/#!/tramite/UCS-04-067>
- List of Third Party Mexican Testing Laboratories Recognized by CRT:  
<http://www.ift.org.mx/industria/lista-de-laboratorios-de-prueba>
- List of the Third Party MRA Testing Laboratories Recognized by CRT:  
<http://www.ift.org.mx/industria/lista-de-laboratorios-de-prueba-de-tercera-parte-extranjeros-reconocidos>
- CRT Conformity Assessment Overview for Telecommunications Equipment

CRT has provided diagrams illustrating how the MRA fits in to the broader conformity assessment system for telecommunications equipment in Mexico. The flow diagrams show the process for testing, certification, use of experts (Peritos), and homologation. The diagrams are posted at the bottom of NIST's Mexico MRA Designation webpage: <https://www.nist.gov/standardsgov/us-mexico-mra>

## 8.0 US CAB Designation Application

To apply for designation, the CAB shall meet all requirements stated in this document and shall submit the following checklist along with the indicated documents/information to the NIST MRA Program Office at [mra@nist.gov](mailto:mra@nist.gov).

Application	CAB use
1. Copy of this Application Checklist	
2. Cover letter or e-mail that includes organization name, web address, mailing address, physical address of laboratory, main phone number, and the CAB's primary and alternate contact information (name, title, email address and phone number) for that location	
3. Written confirmation letter (affidavit) signed by top management confirming that (1) the CAB is a third-party independent testing laboratory and (2) the CAB shall only subcontract relevant testing covered under their <b>CRT</b> recognition to other third-party testing laboratories also recognized by <b>CRT</b> for the relevant NOMs and Technical Provision. <i>Refer to Sections 1.1 and 1.4 of this document.</i>	
4. A copy of the ISO/IEC 17025 Scope of Accreditation and Certificate of Accreditation valid for at least six months with - Relevant NOMs and Technical Provisions <i>Refer to Section 2.0 of this document.</i>	
5. Written confirmation letter (affidavit) from AB listing the approved signatories <i>Refer to Section 4.0 of this document.</i>	
6. The AB issued ISO/IEC 17025 Checklist showing the clauses that have been assessed and the assessor's determination of compliance. <b>This document must be dated and signed by the AB or assessor.</b> <i>Refer to Section 5.1 of this document.</i>	
7. The AB issued ISO/IEC 17025 Assessment Deficiency Report in English <i>Refer to Section 5.2 of this document</i>	
8. The CAB's written Corrective Action Responses in <b>English and evidence that the AB has closed the deficiencies.</b> <i>Refer to Section 5.3 of this document</i>	
9. Signed <a href="#">CAB Declaration Form</a>	

NAME OF CAB: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPLETED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

## 9.0 Document Control Information

Date	Version #	Other Details
September 26, 2017	Version 1.0	Initial version released.
October 17, 2018	Version 2.0	<p>Cover page: Removed Notice</p> <p>Section 2.1 Made the references to the sub-sections optional (changed shall to should)</p> <p>Sections 5.0 and 8.0: Requirement for Spanish translation of assessment documents removed</p> <p>Section 3.0: Clarified two-year accreditation period requirement</p> <p>Added details on IFT recognition expiration and need for renewal process</p> <p>Section 6.0: Added language to clarify that standards available for recognition are included on the NIST TEL MRA webpage</p> <p>Section 6.1 Removed this section</p> <p>Section 6.2 Removed this section</p> <p>Section 8.0 Updated the checklist to remove requirement for Spanish translation of assessment documents</p> <p>Added requirement for submittal of the AB's ISO/IEC 17025 Checklist that shows which clauses were assessed</p>

Date	Version #	Other Details
January 29, 2020	Version 2.1	<p>Section 7.0 Updated several hyperlinks</p> <p>Section 7.0 Added link to IFT list of Labs Recognized under the MRAs</p> <p>Section 8.0 Updated NIST CAB Declaration link</p>
December 3, 2025	Version 3.0	<p>Main reason for update Regulator IFETEL (IFT) has been replaced by the newly formed Comisión Reguladora de Telecomunicaciones (CRT) as of October 17, 2025.</p> <p>Full Document Replaced IFT with CRT</p> <p>Removed IFT from term IFT Technical Provision</p> <p>Section 5.1 Removed request for the AB assessment report since most ABs no longer provide this</p> <p>Clarified that the ISO/IEC 17025 checklist must be dated and signed by the AB or assessor</p> <p>Section 5.3 Expanded request for corrective action responses to include all deficiencies (instead of just the technical ones relevant to the scope of designation) and added request for documented evidence that the AB has closed all deficiencies (that all deficiencies were resolved).</p>

*For questions about the information contained in this document, please contact the NIST Telecom MRA Program Office via e-mail at [mra@nist.gov](mailto:mra@nist.gov).*