

US-UK Telecom MRA

NIST Implementation Guidance

Version 1.2 – February 1, 2020

Introduction to the US-UK MRA

The US-UK Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) was signed on February 14, 2019.

The agreement includes provisions that mirror those of the US-EU Telecom MRA:

- qualified UK CABs can become FCC recognized test labs and FCC recognized TCBs
- qualified US CABs can become UK “Approved Bodies” (UABs¹)

The text of the agreement: <https://ustr.gov/sites/default/files/US-UK-Framework-MRA-signed.pdf>

- Framework (MRA text p. 2)
- Telecommunications Equipment Annex (MRA text p. 17)
- EMC Annex (MRA text p. 29)

Entry into Force (Article 20)

The MRA enters into force when the UK leaves the EU and is no longer following EU rules.

Timeline:

On March 29, 2017, the UK formally gave notice to the EU of the intent to leave the EU by invoking Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty. A two-year time period was given for the UK to negotiate the terms of the departure (or leave the EU without an agreement).

On April 10, 2019, the European Council agreed to allow for additional time (until October 31 2019) for the EU and the UK to work out the terms of the UK’s departure.

On October 28, 2019, the EU agreed to another delay until January 31, 2020.

On January 31, 2020, the UK left the EU (and Article 50 expired).

The UK is now in a [transition period until at least December 31, 2020](#). **During this time, the UK will continue to follow the EU rules.** New rules are expected to take effect on January 1, 2021.

Current Status:

Based on the information available to date, NIST anticipates that the MRA will now enter into force in early 2021.

¹ In this document, a “UK Approved Body” is equivalent to a Notified Body. The UK terminology may change.

Existing US NBs for the EU RED and/or the EMC

All existing US NBs approved by the EU and listed on NANDO will automatically continue to be recognized by the UK (as UABs) when the agreement enters into force. (References: MRA text p. 23 and p. 34 - right column, 2nd paragraph)

Existing US NBs are listed here:

17 US RED NBs – NANDO - http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/nando/index.cfm?fuseaction=directive.notifiedbody&dir_id=154428

15 US EMC NBs - NANDO - http://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/nando/index.cfm?fuseaction=directive.notifiedbody&dir_id=153681

IMPORTANT: Existing EU Type Examination Certificates (TECs) issued by the US NBs (as approved by the EC) and the CE marked products will continue to be accepted in the UK for a time-limited period after Brexit. As such, it will not be necessary to issue separate UK TECs yet.

Updating the Scope of Accreditation to reflect UK Regulations

After entry into force of the MRA, each **UAB** will have to update the Scope of Accreditation for their “UAB” activities to reflect the UK regulations listed below.

UK Regulations	Notes
Radio Equipment Regulation (SI 2017/1206)	On-Line: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1206/contents/made PDF: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2017/1206/pdfs/ukxi_20171206_en.pdf <i>This is the UK transposition of the RED.</i>
Electromagnetic Compatibility Regulation (SI 2016/1091)	On-Line: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2016/1091/contents PDF: http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2016/1091/pdfs/ukxi_20161091_en.pdf <i>This is the UK transposition of the EMC.</i>

On Day 1 of entry into force of the MRA, the UK regulations noted above reflect a direct transposition of the EU RED and EMC. As such (and as confirmed by the UK), the addition of these references on the Scope of Accreditation is a purely administrative exercise. [There are no additional technical competency requirements that need to be assessed by the NIST-Listed Accreditation Bodies that accredit the UABs.]

- The UK regulations can be listed with the EU RED and EMC references already included on the Scope of Accreditation.
- The same lists of radio equipment (for RED) and apparatus (for EMC) will continue to apply for the UK regulations.

Official Listing of All UABs

The UK expects to transition to a UK version of a NANDO-like database so that all **UABs** can be viewed. The UK is planning to make the database available on-line as of the date of the UK departure.

US CABs Newly Seeking UAB Status

US CABs that are in the European Commission's NB process (in the 60-day standstill period and not yet approved as EU NBs) on Day 1 will need to be designated to the UK separately by NIST after the US-UK MRA has entered into force.

The process for this has not yet been determined by the UK.

NIST Support for the MRA

Once the US-UK MRA enters into force, the NIST TEL MRA Program office will publish the designation requirements [here](#).

Published UK Guidance

[UK Guidance for Business](#)

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Please send questions to mra@nist.gov.

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