

Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated

DRAFT 10 October 2025 v1.11

Section 1. About Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated.

1.01 What is the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated?

The new single international accreditation organisation, Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated is the international organisation of accreditation bodies, stakeholders, and regional cooperation bodies. It is registered in New Zealand as a Not-For-Profit, Incorporated Society.

Last Update: October 10, 2025.

1.02 What is the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated vision, mission and strategic plan?

Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated will develop its vision, mission, and strategic plan with input from its members when it becomes fully operational in January 2026.

Last Update: September 15, 2025.

1.03 What are the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated governance documents?

Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated is governed by its Constitution (GOV-001), General Rules (GOV-002), and Code of Conduct (GOV-003), and other procedural documents. These key documents establish the objectives, membership requirements and obligations, general assembly, executive committee, committees and organisational structure, general rules, and members' codes of conduct.

Last Update: September 30, 2025.

1.04 Why is a new organisation being established?

The decision to establish a new international organisation, Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated, was made after years of strategic planning and consultation between the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). It also is the natural progression with key joint activities already in place, such as the Joint General Assembly, Joint Executive Committee, Joint Management Committee for both the ILAC MRA and IAF MLA, Joint Working Group Communications, Joint A Series documents and joint meetings.

In 2019, the 19th IAF-ILAC Joint General Assembly held in Frankfurt adopted two resolutions:

- Resolution 1 endorsed the creation of a single international accreditation organisation based on the results of a global stakeholder survey; and
- Resolution 2 established a Steering Committee, reporting to the Joint Executive Committee, to lead the development of the new organisation.

In October 2024, at the 22nd Joint IAF and ILAC General Assembly held in Berlin, both memberships formally endorsed the establishment of the new body.

The benefits of establishing a single international organisation include:

- One Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA) covering all types of conformity assessment with global acceptance;
- Streamlining of the organisation's operations, less duplication of activities;
- Improved capability to develop harmonised accreditation practices, requirements and procedures;
- A strengthened dialogue with Stakeholders to improve the relevance and efficacy of accreditation; and
- An enhanced global presence for promoting Accreditation and the Quality Infrastructure.

Last Update: October 10, 2025.

1.05 Is the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated registered as a legal entity?

Yes, the organisation was formally registered as an Incorporated Society on 6 December 2024 under the New Zealand Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

Last Update: October 10, 2025.

1.06 What is the Official Name, Acronym, Website, Address and Contact Information?

Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated is the official name of the organisation. An acronym will be announced in April 2026.

Legal address: Building 7, Central Park
660-670 Great South Road,
Ellerslie, Auckland 1051
New Zealand

Postal address: 2200 Wilson Blvd, Ste 102-332
Arlington, VA 22201
United States of America

Telephone: +1 571-569-2614 (USA)

Email: secretariat@global-accreditation.nz

Website URL: To be determined. Launch date: April 2026.

Last Update: October 10, 2025.

1.07 What is an Incorporated Society according to New Zealand law?

You may visit this website link for more information [about incorporated societies in New Zealand](#).

Last Update: September 15, 2025.

1.08 Is the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated registered as a Not-For-Profit organisation in New Zealand?

Yes, the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated is registered as an Incorporated Society, which is a Not-For-Profit organisation according to the New Zealand Incorporated Societies Act 2022. As Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated does not act for the financial gain of its members through the distribution of profits of surplus, it therefore qualifies as a Not-For-Profit entity according to the New Zealand law.

Last Update: September 30, 2025.

1.09 What are the objectives of Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated?

- Support governments, regulators, industry and end-users to implement conformity assessment policies.
- Facilitate global trade through the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA).
- Promote international accreditation to meet market needs.
- Promote accredited conformity assessment activities.
- Promote trust in the results of conformity assessment bodies.
- Harmonise accreditation practices.

Last Update: September 15, 2025.

1.10 What are the key principles of Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated?

Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated operates according to principles embedded in its founding documents, including its Constitution and General Rules. These principles reflect international best practices and the organisation's long-term vision. They include:

- **Transparency and impartiality**, as required in the organisation's procedures and oversight mechanisms;
- **Balanced participation**, ensuring meaningful involvement of accreditation bodies, stakeholders, and regional cooperation entities;
- **Recognition through peer evaluation**, grounded in globally accepted standards such as ISO/IEC 17011;
- **Promotion of confidence** in conformity assessment outcomes, as a foundation for international trust and cooperation; and
- **Compliance with applicable laws**, including New Zealand's legal framework for incorporated societies and international obligations.

These principles shape the organisation's structure, membership, and operations, and are consistently applied across all recognition and governance activities.

Last Update: September 15, 2025.

1.11 What are the benefits of being recognised by Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated?

Recognition by Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated provides several important benefits:

- **International Acceptance:** Accreditation decisions made by recognised accreditation bodies are generally accepted by regulators, businesses, and consumers in many economies, reducing duplication and technical barriers to trade;
- **Global Credibility:** Recognition affirms that the accreditation body or Regional Cooperation Body (RCB) operates according to international standards and has undergone rigorous peer evaluation;
- **Participation in Governance:** Recognised bodies may participate in technical and policy development, contributing to the direction of international accreditation; and
- **Access to the MRA Mark:** Recognised accreditation bodies and their accredited conformity assessment bodies may be licensed to use the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated MRA Mark, enhancing trust in the certificates and reports of their accredited CABs.

Recognition strengthens global cooperation and ensures that accreditation serves as a reliable tool for quality assurance, public protection, and market access.

Last Update: October 10, 2025.

1.12 When will Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated begin full operations?

Whilst Global Accreditation Cooperation incorporated has been in operation since its first General Assembly (Berlin October 2024) full operations will commence on **1 January 2026**. From that date, the organisation will:

- Accept new membership applications from organisations that are not existing IAF and/or ILAC members;
- Operate its own multilateral recognition arrangement (MRA); and
- Implement full governance activities under elected officers and designated committees.

Last Update: October 10, 2025

1.13 Who is currently overseeing the organisation?

During the **initial governance period, from incorporation until 31 December 2025**, leadership is provided by representatives of IAF and ILAC officers as required by **Article 15.2 of the Constitution (GOV-001)** and **JGA Berlin Resolution 2 (2024)**, the following are acting as Global Accreditation Cooperation leadership:

- Chair of IAF acting as Co-Chair;
- Chair of ILAC acting as Co-Chair;
- Vice-Chair of IAF acting as Co-Vice Chair;
- Vice-Chair of ILAC acting as Co-Vice Chair;
- IAF Secretary acting as Secretary; and
- IAF Treasurer acting as Treasurer.

These individuals were appointed to enable the legal registration of the organisation and provide oversight during the establishment phase.

The four (4) member accreditation body organisations during this initial governance period are Accredia of Italy, ANAB of the United States of America, ema of Mexico and ISRAC of Israel.

A formally elected Executive Committee, including its officers, will be in place and begin operating from 1 January 2026, in accordance with the General Rules (GOV-002) Section 7.4.2.

Last Update: October 10, 2025.

1.14 Who is developing and approving the official documents of Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated?

Documents are developed by a designated independent and qualified contractor with direct input from committees, working groups and/or the Secretariat, based on structures agreed upon by IAF and ILAC. All formal documents must be:

- Reviewed by the IAF and ILAC Joint Executive Committees (JEC), or relevant committees; and
- Endorsed by the JEC or by the IAF and ILAC members, where applicable.

Last Update: October 10, 2025.

Section 2 – Dissolution of IAF and ILAC and Establishment of a New Organisation.

2.01 Will IAF and ILAC Continue to operate after 1 January 2026?

Yes, but not in their current capacities. Both IAF and ILAC will cease active operations following their respective dissolution plans.

- **IAF** will discontinue all membership and operational activities. The current IAF Board of Directors will act as a caretaker Board and will remain in place until wind-up has been finalised.
- **ILAC** will be formally dissolved following approval by its General Assembly. All remaining financial, legal, and governance matters will be finalised in accordance with the ILAC Articles of Association.

During this period, Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated will operate as a distinct entity under New Zealand law, independent of both IAF and ILAC.

Last Update: October 10, 2025.

2.02 How will the IAF MLA and/or ILAC MRA signatories become Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated MRA signatories?

Accreditation Bodies that are signatories to the IAF MLA and/or ILAC MRA may be accepted into the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated MRA. Their prior recognition under ILAC or IAF will be the basis for acceptance by Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated General Assembly as full members, maintaining the same scopes of recognition as under ILAC and/or IAF.

The Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated MRA will be launched on 1 January 2026.

Accreditations issued before January 1, 2026, under the IAF MLA and/or ILAC MRA, shall be recognised and remain valid for a defined period of time.

Last Update: October 10, 2025.

2.03 What will happen with the IAF MLA and ILAC MRA Marks?

Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated and its members will be able to use the IAF MLA Mark and/or the ILAC MRA Mark for a period of time, until the new organisation's mark is available and the IAF MLA Mark and ILAC MRA Mark are transitioned out of the marketplace.

Last Update: October 10, 2025.

2.04 If an organisation cannot become a member of the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated by 1 January 2026, are they allowed to use the IAF MLA and/or ILAC MRA marks?

Former IAF and/or ILAC members that are unable to join Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated by the established deadline but are committed to joining the new organisation, may also be able to use the IAF MLA Mark and/or the ILAC MRA Mark at least through the transition period. Specific information about this topic is available from the Secretariat.

Last Update: October 10, 2025.

2.05 Will there be any interruption in services or processes during Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated's launch of full operations?

The work of Accreditation Bodies, Conformity Assessment Bodies, Scheme Owners, Regional Cooperation Bodies etc. will continue as normal, with no interruptions in their services.

The launch of full operations has been carefully planned to minimise disruptions to services for all members.

To ensure continuity:

- **Recognition processes** are being carried over or revalidated under Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated, based on the results of the most recent peer evaluations;
- **Use of the IAF MLA and ILAC MRA Marks** will be governed by appropriate temporary arrangements until they will no longer be used or needed; and
- **Peer evaluations and stakeholder engagement** activities will continue under new procedures, with oversight by the Executive Committee.

While IAF and ILAC will formally cease normal operations by **31 December 2025**, the new organisation will be fully operational from **1 January 2026**, ensuring no service gaps.

Last Update: October 10, 2025.

Section 3 – Governance and Structure.

3.01 How is Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated structured?

Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated is a not-for-profit Incorporated Society governed by its Constitution (GOV-001) and General Rules (GOV-002). It comprises:

- **General Assembly** – composed of all members - responsible for strategic decisions, elections, and approvals;

- **Executive Committee** – composed of elected representatives from Full Members, Stakeholder Members, and Regional Cooperation Bodies - responsible for day-to-day oversight;
- **Officers** – Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary - responsible for leadership and representation; and
- **Committees and Working Groups** – established by the General Assembly or Executive Committee to carry out technical, policy, and administrative tasks.

Last Update: September 15, 2025.

3.02 What are the Membership Categories of Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated?

Membership is open to entities that meet the criteria defined in the General Rules (GOV-002) Section 4. There are four main membership categories:

1. **Full Members** – accreditation bodies that meet eligibility and recognition requirements and are MRA signatories;
2. **Associate Members** - accreditation bodies that, while not yet signatories to the MRA, operate accreditation schemes recognised under the MRA and can provide evidence that they are operational and committed to comply with the requirements set out in relevant standards established by appropriate international standards writing bodies such as the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and are recognised in their economy as offering an accreditation service;
3. **Stakeholder Members** – organisations with a demonstrable interest in accreditation as per the General Rules (GOV-002) section 4.6(3):
 - (a) Associations of Conformity Assessment Bodies, or
 - (b) Associations of users (industries or consumer associations), or
 - (c) Standardisation Organisations, or
 - (d) Metrology Organisations, or
 - (e) Regulators, or
 - (f) Scheme owners with a wide representation in their membership at an international, regional or national level, or
 - (g) Associations of scheme owners, or similar bodies, or
 - (h) Representatives of regulatory schemes.
4. **Regional Cooperation Bodies** – organisations representing groups of accreditation bodies in specific geographic regions.

As of 1 January 2026, members include entities that were previously members of IAF or ILAC and that applied for and were accepted into Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated under the new membership framework.

Last Update: October 10, 2025.

3.03 How will Stakeholders be involved in Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated

Current IAF and ILAC stakeholder members are eligible to join the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated.

Balanced participation is achieved through the following mechanisms:

- **Their own dedicated forum** (Stakeholders' Committee) within the structure of the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated;
- **Defined representation rules** in governance bodies to ensure both accreditation bodies and stakeholders are included;
- **Separate membership categories** with limited voting rights for Stakeholder members of up to 20% of the total Accreditation Body votes, as defined in the General Rules (GOV-002). Stakeholders are not entitled to vote on MRA issues;
- **Open and inclusive nomination processes** for officers and committee positions; and
- **Regional representation** through cooperation bodies participating in designated roles.

These principles are embedded in the Constitution (GOV-001) and detailed in the General Rules (GOV-002), ensuring fair representation across accreditation bodies, stakeholders, and regions.

Last Update: October 10, 2025.

3.04 What is the role of Regional Groups under Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated?

Regional Cooperation Bodies (RCBs) (previously known as Regional Accreditation Groups in IAF) will maintain the same roles as in IAF and ILAC. RCBs will be evaluated every four years by Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated for compliance with documented requirements.

RCBs play an essential role in supporting Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated by contributing to the multilateral recognition framework and peer evaluation processes.

Their roles include:

- Carrying out **peer evaluations** of accreditation bodies in their regions in alignment with Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated policies;
- Contributing to the peer evaluations of other RCBs by providing experienced evaluators to Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated;
- Offering **regional input** to technical and policy development;
- Facilitating coordination between **regional and global accreditation systems**; and
- Participating in **governance processes** where appropriate, such as serving on technical or advisory groups.

As noted in the **General Rules (GOV-002) Section 4.3**, Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated recognises the important contributions of RCBs and encourages their involvement in supporting its global objectives. Accreditation bodies are also required to be members of the relevant RCB if such membership is available.

Last Update: October 10, 2025.

Section 4 – Role of International Partner organisations.

4.01 How will Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated interact with international organisations?

Both IAF and ILAC have previously signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with several international organisations. These MoUs reflect both organisations' commitment to forge stronger links and strategic partnerships with key players operating in their sphere of work. Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated plans to renegotiate these existing international MoUs as a means of advancing our common interests.

Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated will also pursue strategic cooperation with other informal liaison partners, such as international and intergovernmental organisations, to promote confidence in accreditation and support cross-border acceptance of conformity assessment results.

Interactions with international bodies may include:

- **Liaison and cooperation agreements** with international standards bodies (e.g., ISO, IEC);
- **Observer or partner roles** in regulatory and trade forums;
- **Collaboration with United Nations agencies**, international trade organisations, and development partners;
- **Participation in working groups** and technical committees; and
- **Technical input or endorsement** of frameworks aligned with Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated's mission.

These activities will be coordinated under policies established by the **Executive Committee** and **General Assembly**, in line with the organisation's broader objective to promote international recognition of accreditation outcomes. While not detailed in the General Rules (GOV-002), these functions are consistent with Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated's purpose as defined in the Constitution and its strategic development.

Last Update: October 10, 2025.

4.02 Will Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated accept IAF endorsed sector schemes?

Yes, Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated will recognise and maintain the endorsement of the IAF endorsed sector schemes with no need for a new scheme evaluation when transferred to Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated.

Existing IAF endorsed schemes and applications for scheme endorsement that are currently under review by IAF will be transferred to Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated on 31 December 2025, to continue the review process.

After 1 January 2026, applications submitted for new scheme endorsement will follow the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated rules for scheme endorsement.

For further details, please contact the Secretariat at secretariat@global-accreditation.nz.

Last Update: September 30, 2025.

Section 5 – Joining Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated

5.01 How can IAF and ILAC members join Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated?

Membership in Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated is not automatic for existing IAF and ILAC members. They must formally apply for membership under the new legal and governance framework.

- Existing IAF and ILAC members have been invited to submit a membership application to join Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated in 2025. There is no application fee for existing members to join the new organisation.
- Their applications are subject to the independent approval process of Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated, as administered by its General Assembly.
- Membership criteria were developed during the first half of 2025, including requirements to comply with applicable laws, such as sanctions legislation under New Zealand jurisdiction.

Other organisations that are not currently members of IAF or ILAC may formally request the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated application form via the Secretariat at secretariat@global-accreditation.nz. Applications from new organisations will be accepted from 1 January 2026.

Applicants are expected to:

- Select the appropriate membership category (Full, Associate (Non-MLA/MRA signatory), Stakeholder, or Regional Cooperation Body);
- Submit an application; and
- Accept obligations under the Constitution (GOV-001), General Rules (GOV-002), and related procedures.

Last Update: October 10, 2025.

5.02 Will existing IAF MLA and/or ILAC MRA Accreditation Body signatories retain their recognition under Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated?

Yes, if they become members of Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated. Provided that the signatory is a Full Member or a recognised Regional Cooperation Body of the IAF MLA and/or the ILAC MRA they shall be accepted as signatories of the Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated Arrangement, in accordance with the scopes and dates of approval currently endorsed by the IAF MLA Committee and the ILAC Arrangement Council.

Last Update: October 10, 2025.

5.03 Can an organisation belong to more than one membership category in Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated?

No. An organisation may apply under the single membership category that best aligns with its legal structure and accreditation-related activities. The Executive Committee reviews and approves the applicant's category eligibility in accordance with the General Rules.

Last Update: September 30, 2025.