

# European co-operation for Accreditation

WHO WE ARE



# CONTENT

1. About EA
2. Organisational Structure
3. EA's role in Europe
4. The EA Multilateral Agreement (EA MLA)
5. EA in the Global Network
6. Benefits of Accreditation

# European co-operation for Accreditation

## 1. ABOUT EA

# ABOUT EA

EA is an **association of National Accreditation Bodies** in Europe.

EA's members are officially recognised by their national Governments to assess and verify **Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs)**.

**CABs** are organisations that carry out evaluation services such as certification, verification, inspection, testing and calibration.

EA is responsible for harmonising accreditation within Europe, aiming to reduce trade barriers and protect **health, safety and the environment**.

# ABOUT EA – BASIC FACTS

**Recognised by the European Commission as the European accreditation infrastructure;**

**Not-for-profit** association of nationally recognised Accreditation Bodies;

**Established** in 1997 and registered in NL in 2000;

**49 Members;**

43 of them are signatories to the EA MLA;

Permanent **Secretariat** of 9 persons.

# ABOUT EA EA'S MISSION

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**The EA Strategy 2025 defines EA's mission as follows :**

*“To ensure confidence in accredited conformity assessments results through harmonized operation of accreditation activities in support of European and global economies”.*



# ABOUT EA – EA'S MISSION

Defining, **harmonizing and building consistency in accreditation in Europe**, by ensuring common interpretation and application of the standards used by its members;

**Ensuring transparency** of the operations (including assessments) performed and results provided by its members;

Maintaining a **multilateral agreement on mutual recognition** between accreditation activities and reciprocal acceptance of accredited conformity assessment services and results;



# ABOUT EA – EA'S MISSION

**Managing a peer-evaluation system** consistent with international practices;

Acting as a technical resource on matters related to the **implementation and operation of the European policies on accreditation**;

Cooperate with the **European Commission** and other European and international stakeholders;

Develop accreditation criteria and guidelines supporting **harmonisation of practices**.



# ABOUT EA – EA’S VISION

The **EA Strategy 2025** defines EA’s vision as being “*a reference in the world for accreditation that enables an open and global market for competitive business and providing reassurance to consumers in a sustainable society*”.

To achieve EA’s vision, **3 strategic objectives** are set out in the Strategy:

Good governance to deliver consistent and sustainable results;

Close cooperation with regulators and stakeholders to strengthen accreditation at the European and international level;

Continue to develop accreditation to support innovation and growth in existing and new areas.

# EA'S VALUES

## We are harmonized

- By being transparent in our rules and actions
- By being coordinated in word and deed
- By being accessible both internally and externally
- By having and promoting a common understanding of NABs promise to the market and society

## We are responsible

- By involving and listening to regulators, industry and other stakeholders
- By being loyal and dedicated and work for the public interest
- By being proactive
- By maintaining our integrity

## We provide confidence

- By establishing consistent deliverables
- By being open, impartial and independent
- By being non-discriminating
- By practicing what we preach
- By being democratic

## We are competent

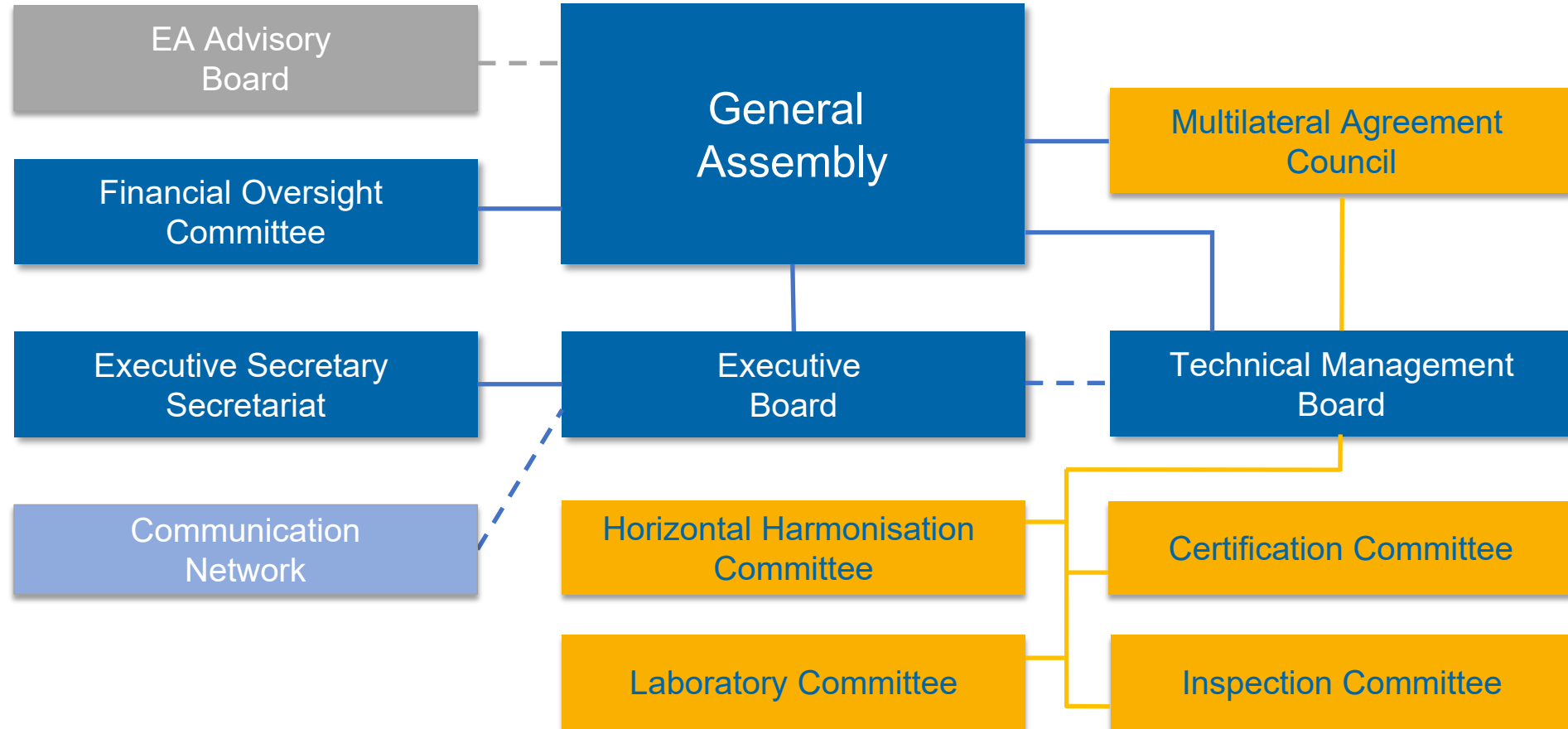
- By being efficient and professional
- By using our resources
- By exercising leadership
- By supporting development and innovation
- By continuously improving

EA's core values are developed out of EA's mission and vision, highlighting the expected behaviours and skills on which all work of EA is based. The core values support the implementation of the strategy and the basis of EA, enabling the membership organization to speak with one voice and to reach the desired position in 2025.

# European co-operation for Accreditation

## 2. ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



# EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Executive Board is responsible for implementing EA governance and financial policies and managing the organisation between the meetings of the General Assembly and as directed by the General Assembly.

Members of the Executive Board (term of office 2023-2024):

**Maureen Logghe**  
President

**Inger Cecilie Laake**  
Vice-President

**Leopoldo Cortez**

**Jesper Høy**

**Roeland Nieuweboer**

**Karine Vincent**

# TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT BOARD

The Technical Management Board (TMB) is responsible for coordinating the technical activities of EA.

Members of the TMB (term of office 2023-2024):

**Inger Cecilie Laake**  
TMB Chair

**Casper Van Erp**  
CC Chair

**Marek Wilgos**  
IC Chair

**Maria Papatzikou**  
MAC Chair

**Sergio Guzzi**  
LC Chair

**Gabriel Zrenner**  
HHC Chair

# EA ADVISORY BOARD (EAAB)

EAAB constitutes the primary organ within EA to ensure the **effective and balanced involvement of all interested parties** in European accreditation regarding policy and strategy issues.

EAAB shall serve as the **main stakeholder forum for EA** to deal with issues pursuant to:

the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 and

the relevant provisions of the “General Guidelines for the cooperation between EA and the EC, EFTA and the competent national authorities”.

# EA ADVISORY BOARD (EAAB)

The EAAB composition constitutes a **well-balanced representation** of the parties which rely on and contribute to the European accreditation system:





# SECRETARIAT



1<sup>st</sup> row, from left to right

**Andreas Steinhorst**, Executive Secretary

**Sandy Adonel**, General Administration, Administration of Peer Evaluators EA Trainings

**Martine Blum**, Head of Administration

**Amandine Combe**, Communications and Marketing Manager,

2<sup>nd</sup> row, from left to right

**Samantha Haddar**, Secretary of the Horizontal and Harmonization Committee and Laboratory Committee

**Daniela Ionescu**, Secretary of the Multilateral Agreement Council, Manager of Peer Evaluations

**Frédérique Laudinet**, Secretary of the Certification Committee, Inspection Committee and EA Advisory Board, Relations with EA Recognized Stakeholders, EA Reporting, Assistant to the Executive Secretary

**Yannick Nol**, Finances Manager

# ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

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Learn more about the structure  
of EA on our website:

<https://european-accreditation.org/about-ea/ea-structure/>



# European co-operation for Accreditation

## 3 . EA'S ROLE IN EUROPE

# EA'S ROLE IN EUROPE

As the **official guardian of the European accreditation infrastructure**, EA has the overall strategic objective to **safeguard the value and credibility** of accreditation and conformity assessment services delivered by its Members and accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies within the European market.

EA's role in **supporting** the effective operation of the **Single Market** is recognised by:

- **Regulation (EC) No 765/2008**,
- the **General Guidelines** for cooperation between EC, EFTA and EA ,
- The **Framework Partnership Agreement** signed with the European Commission and EFTA.



# EA AS THE EUROPEAN ACCREDITATION INFRASTRUCTURE

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EA has been **formally recognised** as the body responsible for the European accreditation infrastructure in Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 on accreditation, Article 14, paragraph 6.

# EA AS THE EUROPEAN ACCREDITATION INFRASTRUCTURE

In accordance with Article 14, paragraph 2 of Regulation (EC) No 765/2008, an agreement has been concluded between EA and the European Commission (EC) and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) to specify, inter alia, EA's detailed tasks as well as funding and supervision provisions.

# REGULATION (EC) NO 765/2008

Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 provides a **legal framework** for the provision of accreditation services across Europe

The Regulation – applicable within the European Economic Area (EEA)<sup>1</sup>:

- strengthens EA's role in both **voluntary and regulated sectors**,
- places an **obligation** on EEA Member States **to accept results** issued by the conformity assessment bodies accredited by (EEA) EA MLA signatories,
- strengthens the use of accreditation as a **basis for notification**.

<sup>1</sup>EEA, including Switzerland and Türkiye

# THE EUROPEAN ACCREDITATION MODEL

- Accreditation is a service of general interest
- A NAB acts as Public Authority
- Accreditation is the last level of control in the conformity assessment chain
- CABs shall apply for accreditation to its NAB, in voluntary or mandatory sectors
- NABs are mandated by their government
- Accreditation is in full compliance with applicable rules
- Accountability to stakeholders
- No predominance of any single interest group
- NABs are non-profit organisations
- No competition between NABs



# COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

EA is enhancing its communications with the European Commission:

- EA is permanent observer at the **Expert Group on the Internal Market for Product (IMP) on accreditation and conformity assessment**
- DG GROW is EA major contact in the European Commission (EC)
- For certain specific activities, EA is collaborating directly with the following **EC Departments (DGs)**: AGRI, CLIMA, Connect, ENER, ENV, NEAR, FISMA, SANTE, INTPA, JRC, JUST, MOVE, TRADE
- EA provides information to **ENISA, the EU Agency for Network and Information Security**, about accreditation and the European Accreditation Infrastructure to support the preparation of the EU Cybersecurity Certification Framework
- EA collaborates with the **European Union Agency for Railways (ERA)** concerning railway safety

# CETA

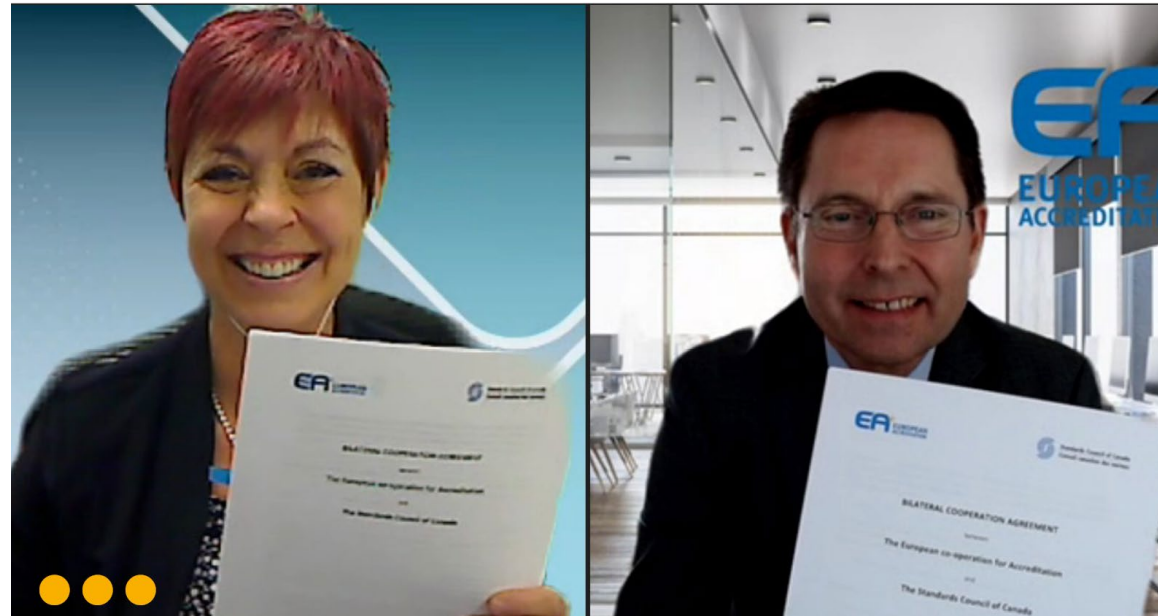
Signed at the EU-Canada Summit on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2016, the **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** is a trade agreement, designed to strengthen economic relations and develop business between the European Union and Canada.

CETA includes a **Protocol on the Mutual Acceptance of the Results of Conformity Assessment (the CA Protocol)**. This Protocol provides mutual recognition of European and Canadian ABs and CABs results based on acceptance of each other's accredited certificates.



# CETA

To support the implementation of the Protocol, a **Bilateral Cooperation Agreement (BCA)** between the **European co-operation for Accreditation (EA)** and the **Standards Council of Canada (SCC)** has been established.





## CETA

### The BCA covers inter alia:

- exchange of relevant information on matters regarding the CA Protocol, including standards, technical regulations, and conformity assessment procedures, as well as information on the application and interpretation of criteria for the assessment of conformity assessment bodies;
- exchange of experts for on-site assessments to conformity assessment bodies; mutual information on the progress of work related to activities and the development of the cooperation.

# European co-operation for Accreditation

## 4 . THE EA MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT (EA MLA)

# EA MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT

EA Multilateral Agreement (EA MLA) is a **signed agreement** between the National Accreditation Bodies, which have been successfully peer evaluated by EA.

The signatories **recognise and accept:**

**the equivalence of the accreditation systems** operated by the signing members;

and the **reliability of the conformity assessment results** provided by Conformity Assessment Bodies accredited by the signing members.

**Note:** [Article 11 of Regulation \(EC\) No 765/2008](#)

*National authorities shall recognise the equivalence of the services delivered by those national accreditation bodies which have successfully undergone peer evaluation by EA, and thereby accept the accreditation certificates of those bodies and the attestations issued by the conformity assessment bodies accredited by them.*

# BENEFITS OF THE EA MLA

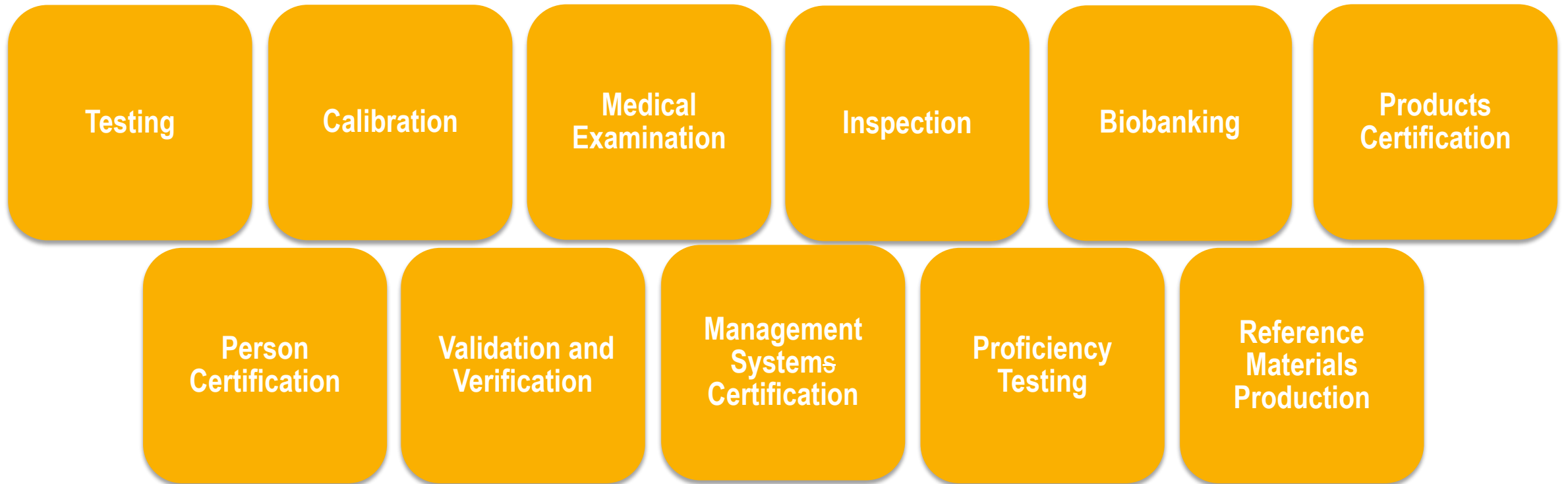
The MLA provides a framework to realize the objective '***Accredited once, accepted everywhere***'.

The **MLA** creates **confidence** in certificates and reports issued by accredited conformity assessment bodies.

The MLA **eliminates the need** for suppliers **to be certified in each country** where they sell their products or services.

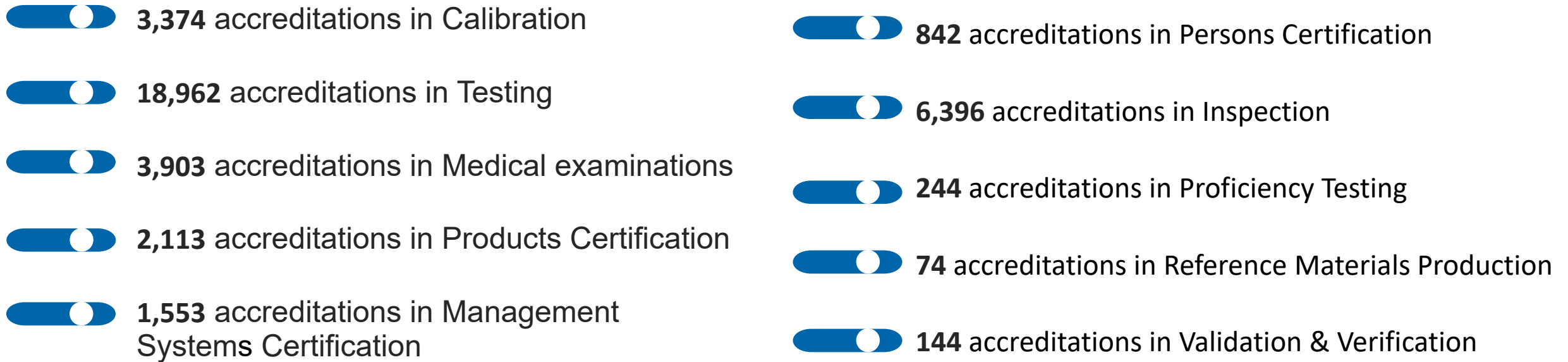
# SCOPE OF THE EA MLA

The scope of the EA MLA covers the following conformity assessment **activities**:





# NUMBER OF ACCREDITATIONS DELIVERED BY EA MEMBERS UNDER THE EA MLA AT 31.12.2022



# SEARCH FACILITY

A search system enables everyone to seek out information about accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) directly on the websites of EA Members.

It is available from the EA webpage listing “**Directory of EA Members and MLA Signatories**”.

Customers to CABs or third parties can click on “Scopes” on the NAB window of a specific country and see the accreditation activity (blue and yellow boxes) offered by this NAB under the EA MLA. The accreditation activity is linked to the accredited CABs concerned.

# EA MLA SIGNATORIES AT AUGUST 2023

## 43 EA MLA signatories

Full list of all MLA signatories  
and scopes on [EA's website](#)



# EA MLA SIGNATORIES AT AUGUST 2023

EA and its member National Accreditation Bodies invest significant effort and resource to maintain the integrity and robustness of the EA MLA through a peer evaluation process.

The on-site evaluation is conducted by a peer-evaluation team entrusted with the task to determine accreditation bodies' compliance with the requirements laid down in:

## **ISO/IEC 17011**

internationally accepted  
standard for accreditation  
bodies

**Relevant standards for  
conformity assessment  
bodies** including any  
additional requirements  
(e.g. by the EC)

**Regulation (EC)  
No 765/2008**

Click [here](#) to learn more about the process of EA's Peer Evaluation.

# European co-operation for Accreditation

## 5 . EA IN THE GLOBAL NETWORK

# INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

**EA Members** may also be members of the two organisations with worldwide representation:



– IAF - [International Accreditation Forum](#)



– ILAC - [International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation](#)

EA is a **recognised region in ILAC and IAF** and a signatory to their mutual recognition arrangements.

# GLOBAL NETWORK AT 15.01.2023



IAF

- 96 AB Members and 82 MLA signatories
- 28 Association Members
- 6 Recognised Regional Accreditation Groups (AFRAC, APAC, ARAC, EA, IAAC, and SADCA)
- 6 Regional Accreditation Groups (AFRAC, ARAC, APAC, EA, IAAC, SADCA)



ILAC

- 109 AB Full Members (signatories to the ILAC MRA)
- 18 AB Associate Members
- 6 Regional Cooperation Bodies (AFRAC, APAC, ARAC, EA, IAAC, and SADCA)
- 22 Stakeholder Members

# ILAC AND IAF MULTILATERAL AGREEMENTS

EA MLA signatories and the accreditations they grant are **internationally recognised** through the **ILAC and IAF Multilateral Agreements**.

The MLA/MRA marks can be used to demonstrate international recognition.



Click [here](#) to find more information on IAF/ILAC Recognition on EA's website.



# European co-operation for Accreditation

## 6. BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION

# WHAT IS ACCREDITATION ?

The **accreditation process** determines the technical competence and integrity of organisations that offer testing, examination, verification, inspection, calibration and certification services (collectively known as **conformity assessment**).

Accreditation operates in the **public interest** across all market sectors, providing a **transparent and impartial assessment** of these services against internationally recognised standards and other national or sectoral requirements.

# GENERAL BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION

## Delivers Public Confidence

- Despite a complex global marketplace, accredited conformity assessment services give us confidence through ensuring consistently high standards in the quality of products or services purchased.

## Minimises product failure or recalls

- Product testing carried out by a reliable independent organisation will minimise products failing or potential recalls.

## Facilitates cross border trade

- Accreditation is of major importance for the development of Europe's internal market, as this facilitates cross border trade and eliminates barriers to trade.

# BENEFITS FOR BUSINESSES

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**Accurate** calibration, measurement, and testing, performed in accordance with best practice, can:

- limit errors and product failure;
- control production costs;
- and contribute to an innovative environment.

**Essential tool** for decision-making, risk management, and supplier selection.

Provides a **competitive advantage** in domestic markets through access to public sector contracts, and also overseas with greater acceptance in export markets.



# BENEFITS FOR GOVERNMENTS AND REGULATORS

## Accreditation...

- is the preferred **mechanism for identifying competent bodies** to implement government policies and regulations aimed at safeguarding the public and building public confidence in activities that impact on such fields as health, welfare, security, the environment, education, and financial services.



[EA Brochure – Accreditation, a tool to support regulators](#)



A woman with brown hair, wearing a dark blue top and a white bag, is looking at products on a shelf in a grocery store. The scene is overlaid with a large, semi-transparent white circle containing text.

## BENEFITS FOR CONSUMERS

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### Accreditation...

- helps to increase access to goods and services of **consistent and reliable quality and safety**,
- increases confidence in certified products and services, tests, examinations, and measurements.

# EUROPEAN CO-OPERATION FOR ACCREDITATION

Do you want to learn more about EA and accreditation?

Visit our website and check our [promotional materials](#).





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