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Reference*

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Supplement 1 to EA-1/17 Rules of Procedure

Criteria for membership

PURPOSE

This document specifies the criteria to be fulfilled by the Members of the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) as defined in the Articles of Association or as decided by the EA General Assembly.

Authorship

This document has been prepared by the Executive Board.

Official language

The text may be translated into other languages as required. The English language version remains the definitive version.

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Further information

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** The European Regulation (EC) 765/2008, setting out the requirements for accreditation, created a new legal framework for the operation of accreditation in Europe, enhancing the responsibilities of EA and of national accreditation bodies.
- 1.2** In order to safeguard accreditation as a public authority activity and enable legal recognition by national authorities of the Member States, specific criteria were established for national accreditation bodies.
- 1.3** These specific criteria incorporate not only the ISO/IEC 17011 requirements, but also specific interpretations and additions.
- 1.4** This document details the criteria for membership generically established in the Articles of Association or as decided by the EA General Assembly.

2 CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1** The table below lists the specific criteria with which Members have to comply, and how and when EA will check the compliance.

Membership Specific Criteria	Applicable to: Members	To be checked at:	
		Membership Application	Peer-evaluation
1. Appointed by the Member State / country as the single national accreditation body.	YES	YES, by documental evidence	YES
2. Operate accreditation as a public authority activity with formal recognition by the Member State / country.	YES	YES, by documental evidence	YES
3. Have clearly distinguished tasks and responsibilities from other national authorities.	YES	YES, by declaration	YES
4. Operate on a not-for-profit basis.	YES	YES, by declaration	YES
5. Not own shares in or otherwise have a financial or managerial interest in a conformity assessment body.	YES	YES, by declaration	YES
6. Not providing proficiency testing (PT) services (see Note 1).	YES	YES	YES

Membership Specific Criteria	Applicable to: Members	To be checked at:	
		Membership Application	Peer-evaluation
7. Not competing with other national accreditation bodies in accordance with the applicable legal, EA, IAF and ILAC rules.	YES	YES, by declaration	YES
8. Only operate across national borders, within the territory of another Member State / country, when the circumstances set out in the applicable legal, EA, IAF and ILAC documents are met.	YES	YES, by declaration	YES
9. When operating across border, under the exceptions foreseen, it shall inform the national accreditation body of that Member State / country and offer him to participate as observer.	YES	YES, by declaration	YES
10. Publish audited annual accounts prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.	YES	NO	YES
11. Make publicly available information on the outcome of the peer-evaluations.	YES	NO	YES, when applicable

Note 1: Measurement audit activities that are conducted as part of a specific accreditation assessment are not considered as conformity assessment activities if being an integral component of the on-site assessment.

2.2 Regulation (EC) 765/2008 has other requirements for national accreditation bodies that are considered to be explicitly required by ISO/IEC 17011, and therefore are not included in the table above.