



# Global ACI The New Era of International Accreditation

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# About PJLA

## **Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc. (PJLA)**

Established in 1999 by Mr. Perry L. Johnson

Headquartered in Troy, Michigan.

More than 2200 accreditations globally in 32 countries.

## **Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation NP, Inc. (PJLANP)**

Michigan nonprofit organization established in 2016.



Perry L. Johnson

Member and signatory of APAC, ILAC MRAs



# PJLA's Global Network



*Perry Johnson Laboratory Accreditation, Inc.*

# PJLA Accreditation Programs

## ISO/IEC 17025

### Testing/Calibration Labs

- FCC OET Equipment Authorization
- FDA ASCA
- ENERGY STAR
- Cannabis Testing
- Hemp Testing
- Horseracing Laboratories Program
- CPSC
- AS6171A Testing
- Food, Feeds, and Pharmaceutical:  
*AOAC, AAFCO, LAAF*
- Environmental Testing: *TNI-NEFAP, DoD ELAP, DOECAP-AP, EPA NLLAP*  
TNI-EL: *MNELAP, CA ELAP, LELAP*

**ISO/IEC 17020** – Inspection Bodies

**ISO/IEC 17065** – Product Certification Bodies

**ISO/IEC 17043** – Proficiency Testing Providers

**ISO 17034** – Reference Material Producers

**ISO 15189** – Medical Laboratories

**ISO/IEC 17024** – Personnel Certification Bodies

**ASTM E2659**– Training Providers



# Introduction–Why This Matters

**Accreditation** is a fundamental pillar of global trade, ensuring **trust** in **Conformity Assessment** (testing, inspection, and certification) results across borders.

The transition to **Global ACI** represents a structural consolidation that directly affects recognition mechanisms, regulatory acceptance, and the credibility of conformity assessment outputs.

**This is an operational and legal transformation impacting all accredited bodies.**



# Pre-Merger System

The global accreditation system historically operated under two separate organizations:

- The **International Accreditation Forum (IAF)**, responsible for *certification (product, persons)* and *validation/verification* activities, and
- The **International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC)**, responsible for *laboratories, inspection bodies, and proficiency testing providers*.



**Each operated its own recognition system (MLA and MRA), resulting in duplication, complexity, and parallel governance structures.**

# Limitations of the Dual System

The **dual structure** led to:

- fragmentation in governance,
- duplication of peer evaluations and technical committees, and
- inconsistent interpretations of requirements across regions.

**Conformity Assessment Bodies** operating across multiple scopes often faced:

- increased compliance burden,
- multiple audit expectations, and
- complexity in managing recognition across markets.

**IAF and ILAC operated its own recognition system (MLA and MRA), resulting in duplication, complexity, and parallel governance structures.**



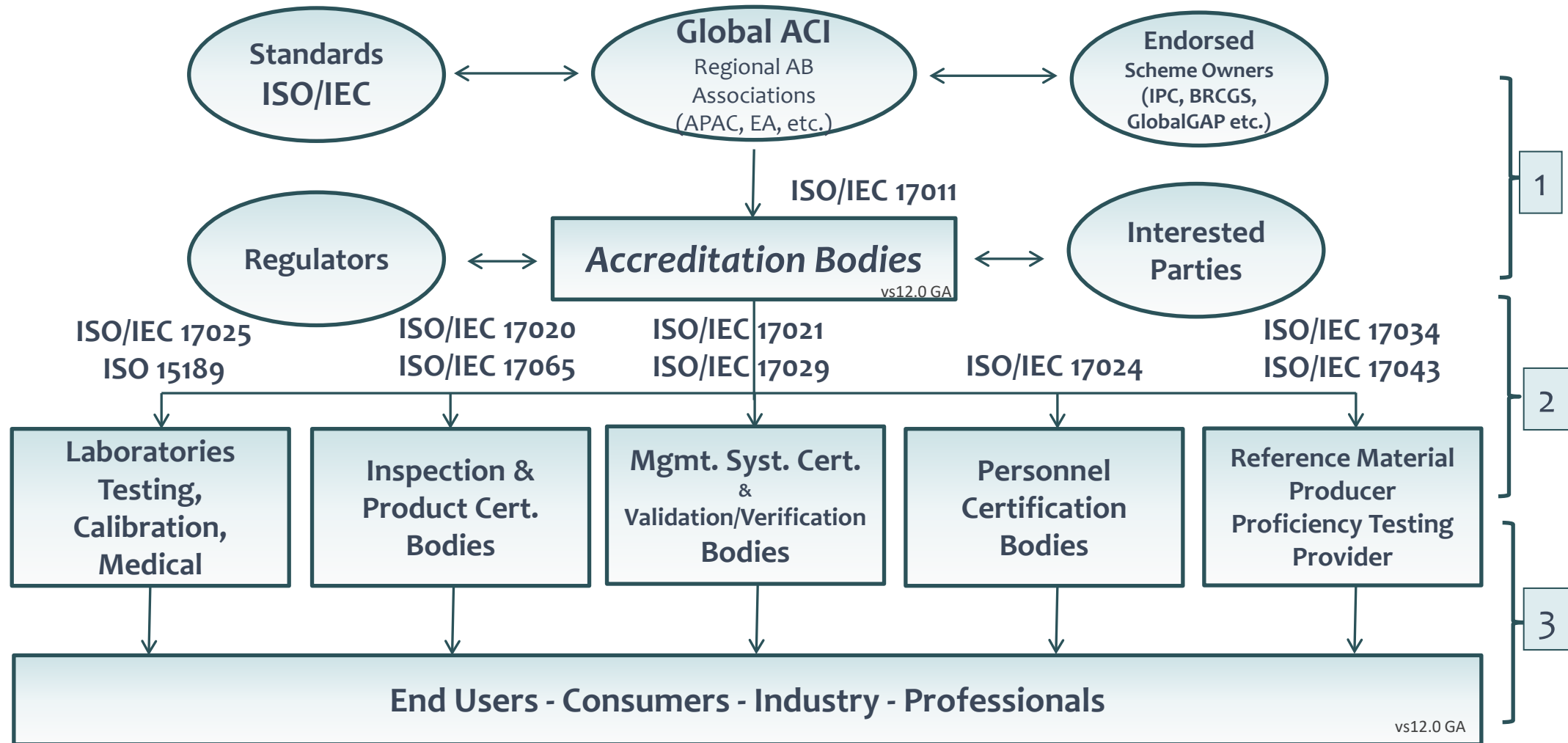
# Creation of Global ACI



The establishment of **Global ACI** introduces a **unified global accreditation framework** with a single *Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MRA)*.

This replaces the separate **IAF MLA** and **ILAC MRA** systems, aiming to *streamline governance, improve consistency, and enhance global recognition* of accredited results.

# International Conformity Assessment Structure



# Critical Shift: Control of Marks

A fundamental aspect of this transition is the centralization of control over accreditation marks.

**Global ACI** has become the owner of the *ILAC MRA Mark* and the licensee of the *IAF MLA Mark*, while introducing a new **Global ACI MRA Mark**.

This shift signifies that recognition is now expressed through a **single, globally controlled framework**.



# Transition Principle

The transition is governed by a strict principle:

*“There are no new or relaxed technical conditions. All existing requirements remain fully applicable, ensuring continuity of competence and trust.”*

The transformation is structural and administrative, not a reduction in accreditation rigor!

During the transition period:

- ABs and CABs may continue using the IAF MLA and ILAC MRA Marks under existing agreements and rules.
- No new agreements are required, and all existing conditions (IAF ML2, ILAC-R7, ILAC-P8) remain in force.

This ensures continuity and avoids disruption to existing accredited outputs.



# Transition Mechanism

The transition to the **Global ACI MRA Mark** is not yet a fixed global date.

It will occur only when the mark is **legally** available and **formal notification** will be issued by the Global ACI Secretariat.

Once the transition will be triggered, CABs will be informed to stop using the IAF MLA and ILAC MRA Marks on any new, renewed, or updated outputs.

Documents issued before the transition remain valid and may continue to be used until they are revised or replaced. However, any new or updated document must use the Global ACI MRA Mark once it becomes available. This ensures legal continuity while enabling gradual transition.



# Mandatory Agreement Structure

The use of the Global ACI MRA Mark is governed by formal agreements.

**Global ACI MRA-006** *“Use of the MRA Mark by Accreditation Bodies and Conformity Assessment Bodies, and Claims of Accreditation Status by Conformity Assessment Bodies defines the agreement between Global ACI and Accreditation Bodies, granting controlled license rights”*

defines the agreement between *Global ACI AND Accreditation Bodies* and CABs, establishing conditions for mark use, responsibilities, and compliance requirements.

[https://global-aci.org/en/global\\_aci-documents/](https://global-aci.org/en/global_aci-documents/)



# ABs and CABs Responsibilities

**Accreditation Bodies** are responsible for controlling the use of the MRA Mark, authorizing CABs, monitoring compliance, maintaining records, and taking corrective action in case of misuse.

They act as the central control point ensuring that the integrity of the accreditation system is preserved globally.

**Conformity Assessment Bodies** must use the mark only within their accredited scope, obtain prior approval, maintain records of usage, and ensure that all representations of accreditation are accurate and not misleading.

CABs must also ensure that the mark is not used by third parties or in ways that imply product certification.



# Permitted Uses of the Mark

The **Global ACI MRA Mark** must always be used in combination with the Accreditation Body's symbol, forming the **Combined MRA Mark**.

It cannot be used independently by CABs.

This ensures a clear hierarchy of recognition and prevents misinterpretation of the source of accreditation.

The **Combined MRA Mark** may be used on *accredited reports, certificates, websites, marketing materials, and quotations*, provided that such use is within the accredited scope and complies with strict rules regarding format, placement, and clarity.

**Any misleading or ambiguous use is prohibited.**



# Critical Compliance Requirements

**CABs** must **not** use accreditation marks on products or in a way that implies product approval.

They must clearly distinguish between *accredited* and *non-accredited* results, including explicit disclaimers when necessary.

Misrepresentation of accreditation status is strictly prohibited and subject to enforcement actions.

**Accreditation Bodies** and **Global ACI** will actively monitor the use of the **MRA Mark**.

Misuse may result in corrective actions, **suspension**, **withdrawal** of accreditation and/or legal consequences.



# Top Nonconformities CABs May Face

- Use of IAF/ILAC marks after transition trigger (On new or renewed reports)
- Use of Global ACI MRA Mark without signed agreement (FMRA-006 not in place)
- Use of MRA Mark outside accredited scope (Misleading representation of competence)
- Use of MRA Mark in isolation (Without Accreditation Body symbol)
- Incorrect or unapproved mark design/format (Violation of reproduction rules)
- Failure to distinguish accredited vs non-accredited results (Missing disclaimers)
- Use of mark on products or implying product approval (Strictly prohibited)
- Third-party misuse of CAB accreditation mark (Clients using mark improperly)
- Lack of documented control of mark usage (No records, no traceability)
- Failure to update documents post-transition (Old marks used on revised outputs)



# Conclusion

- The transition to **Global ACI** represents a *unified, controlled, and harmonized* global accreditation system.
- While it offers *improved consistency and recognition*, it also introduces *stricter governance, clearer legal obligations, and higher expectations* for compliance.
- Conformity Assessment Bodies must prepare *proactively* to ensure a *smooth and compliant* transition.

**CABs**

**STAY TUNED**

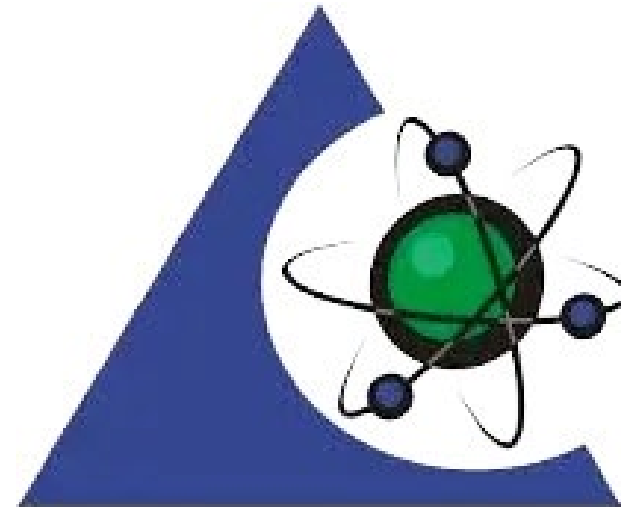
**with your  
Accreditation  
Body**



# Thank You!

- Questions
- Discussion

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