

The Role of ILAC and APLAC



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Issues



- The Role of Accreditation
- What is ILAC?
- What is APLAC?
- Regional MRAs and the ILAC MRA
- Role of APLAC in ILAC

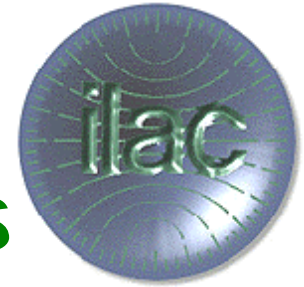
Accreditation - Definition



ISO/IEC 17000

Accreditation (of conformity assessment bodies)

...third party attestation that a conformity assessment body fulfills specified requirements and is competent to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks”...



Accreditation - the Key Words

Competent

Specific Tasks

Accreditation - the Key Purpose

Confidence

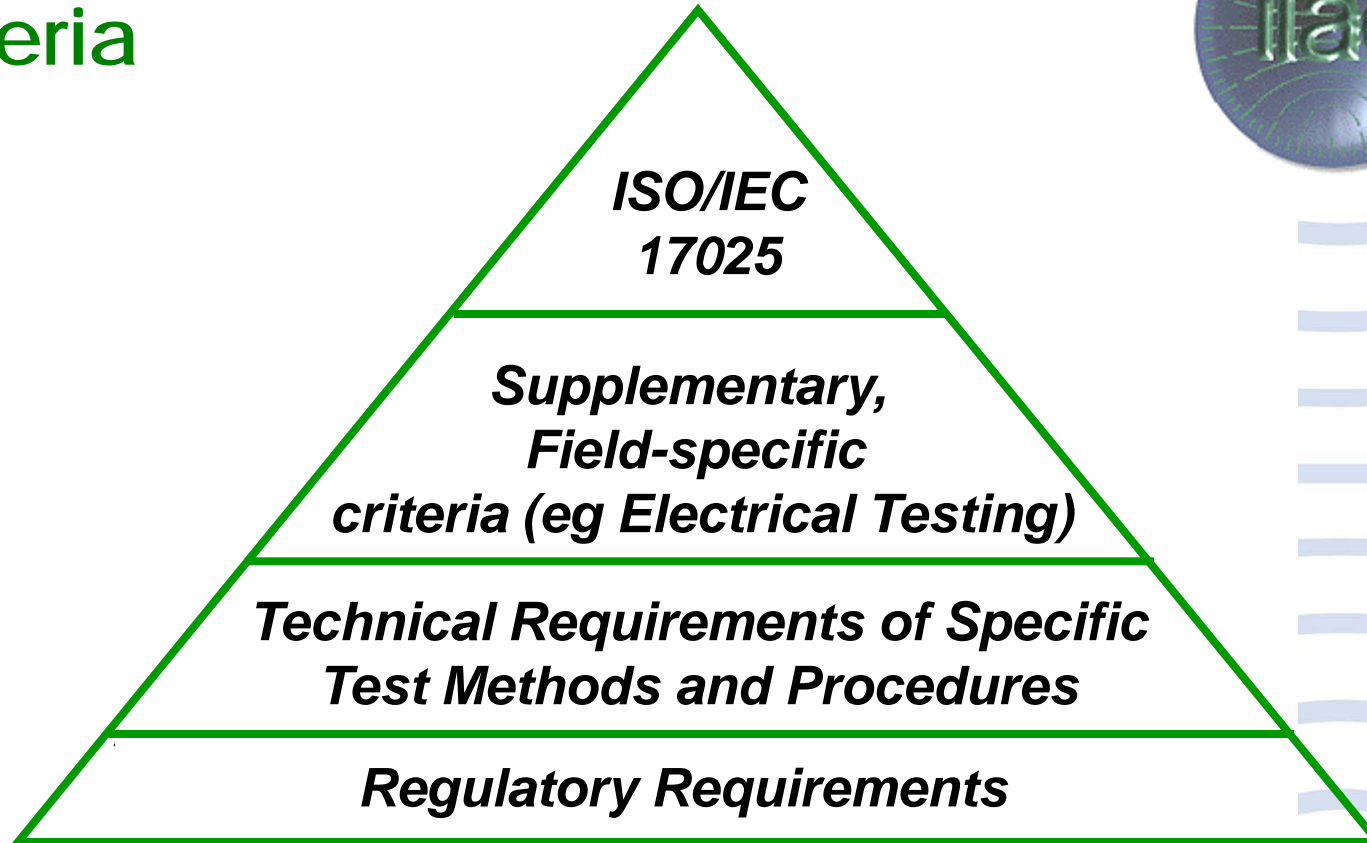
Laboratory Accreditation



Demonstrated Competence

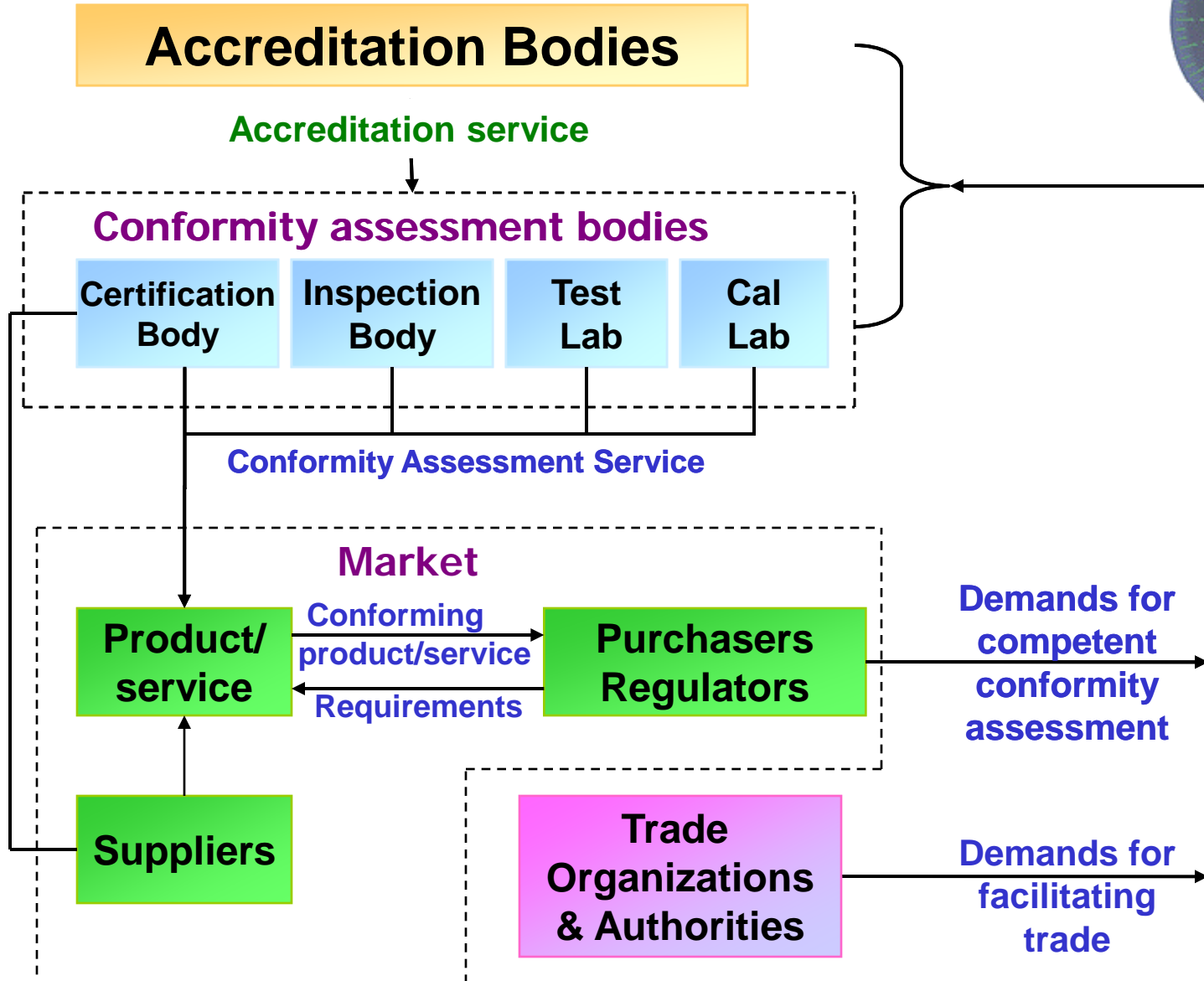
- specific tests
- defined measurements
- types of calibrations
- particular testing techniques

Laboratory Accreditation Hierarchy of Criteria



1. General technical competence and systems compliance criteria
2. Additional field-specific criteria, eg for emc testing laboratories
3. Additional test method criteria (eg CISPR, IEC)
4. Additional, regulator-specific criteria (eg reporting formats, labelling etc)

Accreditation in the Market



ILAC

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation



- Established in 1977 to promote communication among laboratory accreditation bodies of the world
- Formalized as a cooperation in 1996 with 44 bodies signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- On 2 November 2000, a mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) among those members which had successfully completed a peer evaluation was signed

ILAC's Global Role



Principal international forum for:

- recognition of competent test, calibration and inspection labs world-wide through its Arrangement
- development and appropriate harmonization of laboratory accreditation practice
- promotion of laboratory accreditation as a trade facilitation tool
- assistance with developing laboratory accreditation systems

ILAC Goals



- Strengthen/deepen the existing MRA, promote the use of accredited labs & appropriately link this activity to inter-governmental trade activity
- Continually promote the clear distinction between certification & accreditation to help reduce the confusion in the marketplace

ILAC Goals



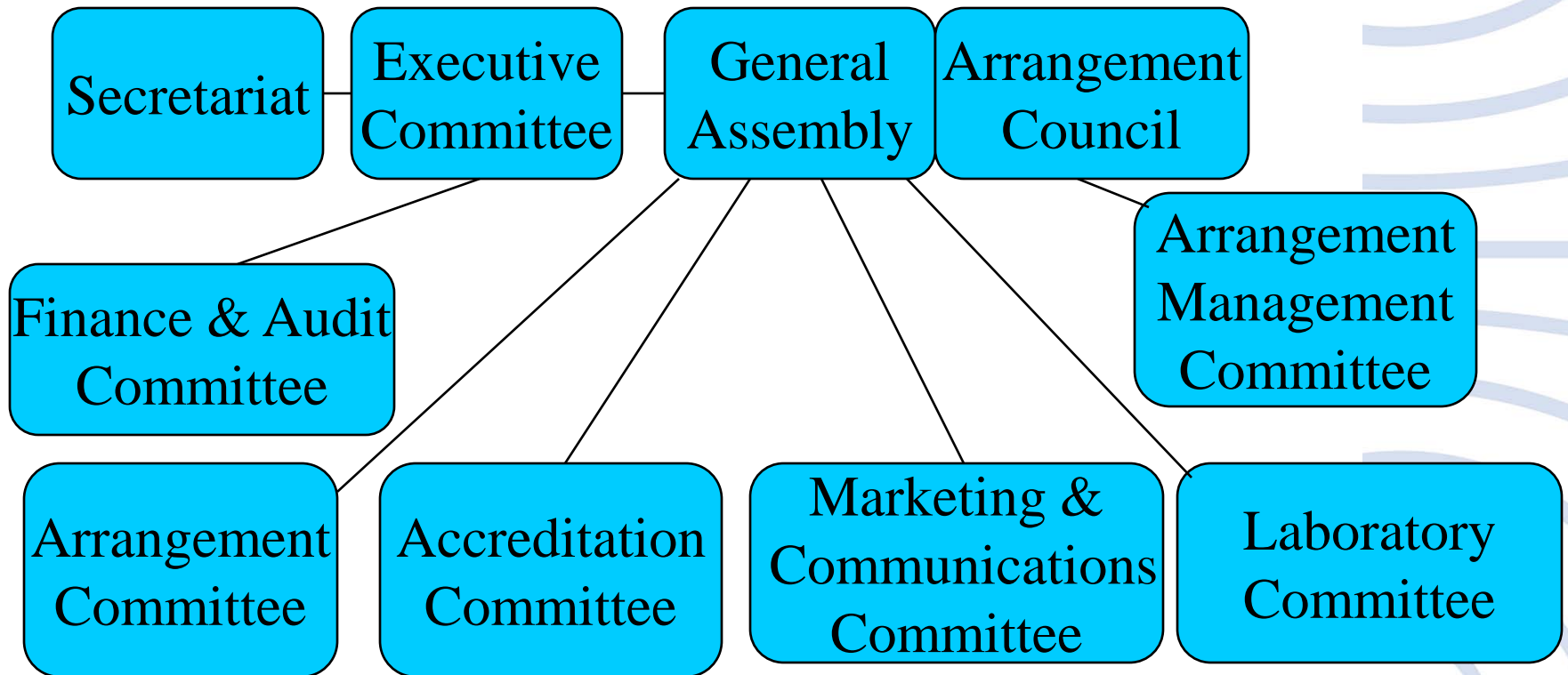
- Provide assistance to developing countries by providing appropriate pre-MRA support to new accreditation systems
- Increase cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, i.e., labs, regulators, industry groups, standard writing bodies and governments

How is ILAC Structured?



- General Assembly: highest decision making body consisting of one representative from each membership category
- General Assembly: meets yearly with a major international conference held every two years
- All classes of membership and other interested parties are allowed to contribute to ILAC's work and direction.

ILAC Organization



Status of ILAC MRA



- 47 members representing 38 economies are signatories to the Arrangement
- 3 unaffiliated bodies, 19 APLAC MRA signatories, and 24 EA MLA signatories
- On 20 January 2003, ILAC incorporated in the Netherlands
- 4 additional applications from ABs and 1 application from a Regional Cooperation Body (IAAC) for recognition.

MRA Between Accreditation Bodies

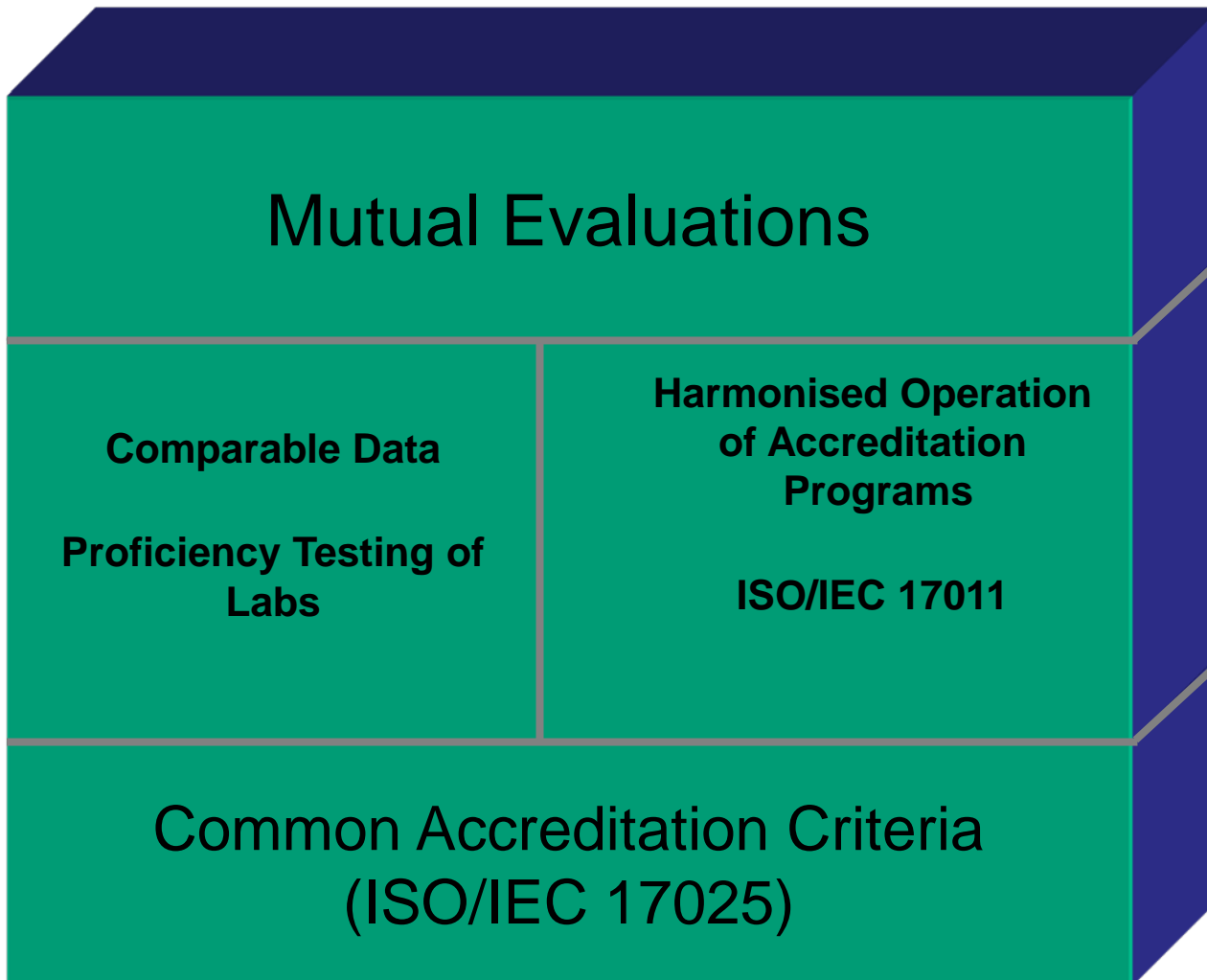


The Fundamental Purpose -

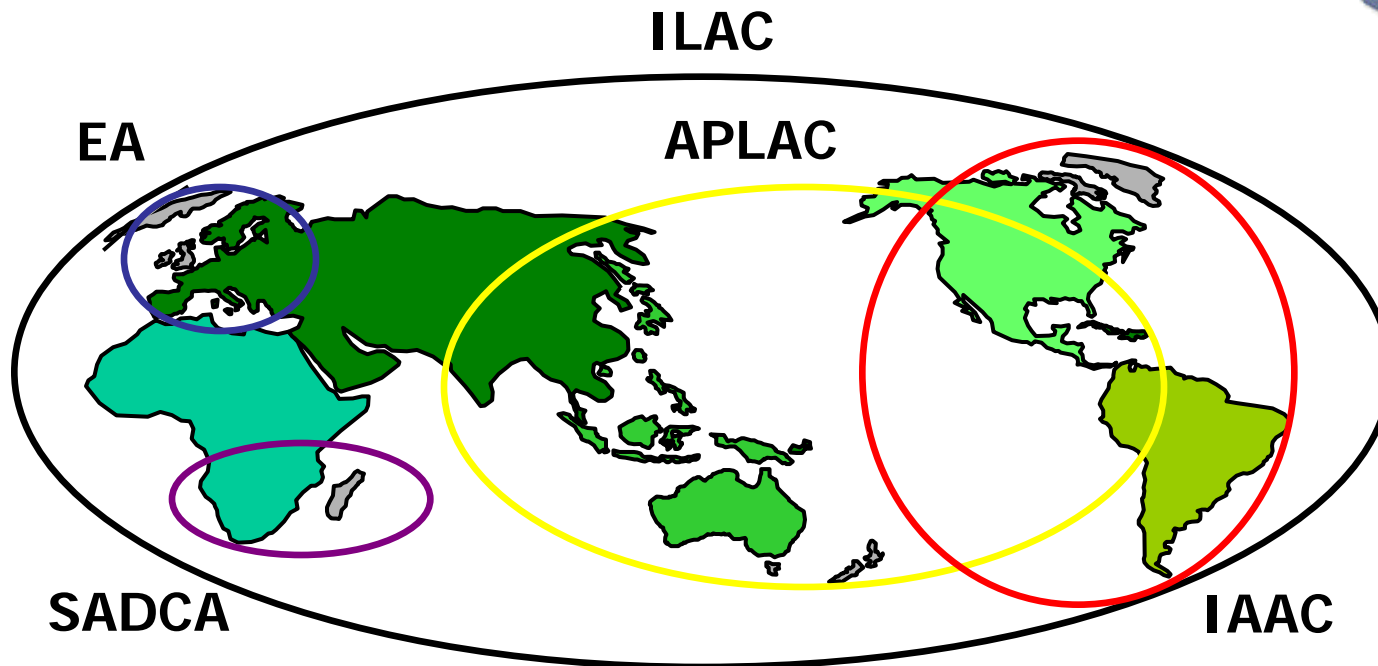
Laboratory accredited by one partner
has equivalent competence to
Laboratory accredited by the other(s)

Mutual Recognition

The Building Blocks of Confidence

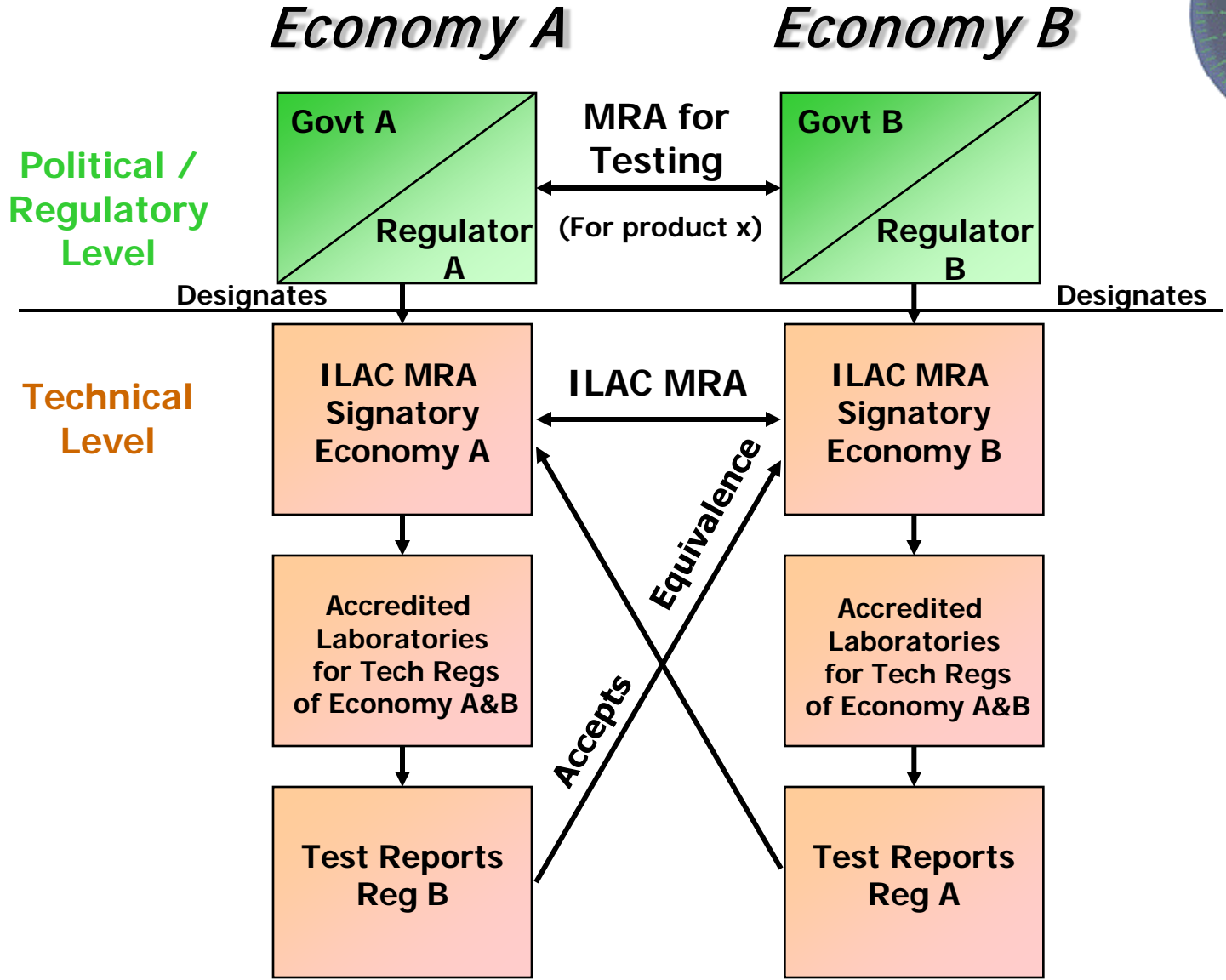


The International Picture



- EA** European co-operation for Accreditation
- APLAC** Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
- IAAC** Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation
- SADCA** Southern African Accreditation Cooperation

Government MRAs Supported by Voluntary Sector MRAs



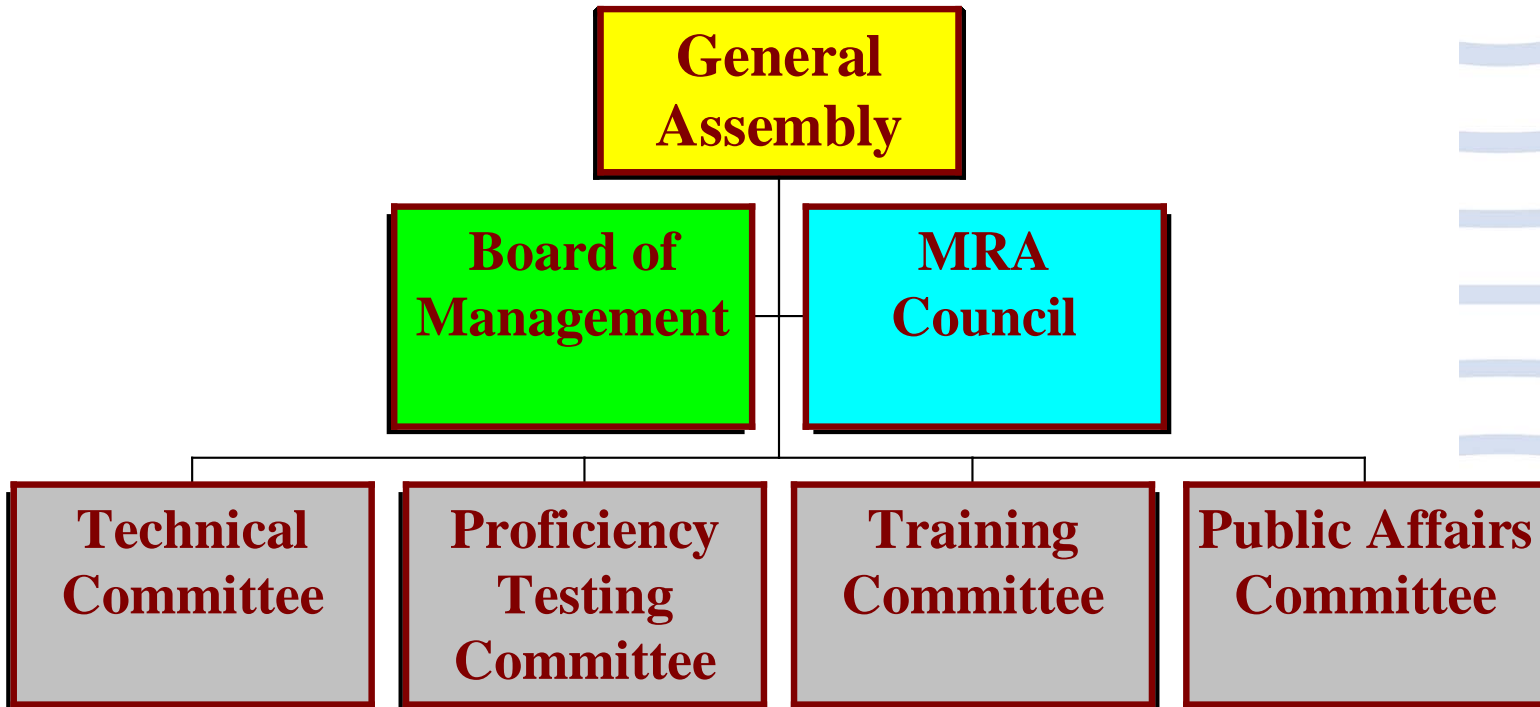


What is APLAC?

The Asia-Pacific Laboratory Accreditation
Cooperation

Regional Equivalent of ILAC

APLAC Organization



MRAs in the Voluntary Sector - The APLAC Example



APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)

- Single multilateral MRA, 1997
- Replaced network of bilateral MRAs
- Regional component of global ILAC MRA, November 2000
- 20 signatories, September 2004

Existing Acknowledgment of APLAC MRA in APEC



- APLAC - a Specialist Regional Body of SCSC
- Joint Ministerial Statement at APEC Vancouver (1997)
- APEC Electrical and Electronic Equipment MRA
- APEC TEL MRA - Use of MRA accreditation bodies
- Some APEC economies using APLAC MRA

APLAC Role in Support of ILAC



- Ensure the integrity of the APLAC MRA
- Support inter-economy proficiency testing programs
- Understand and promote use of the MRA to support regulatory and industry needs
- Contribute its fair share of senior peer evaluators to assist ILAC in carrying out peer evaluations of other regions and unaffiliated bodies
- Support development of accreditation infrastructure where it is lacking
- Support development of the body of knowledge

ILAC MRA Mark



For more information . . .

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