COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC AND TRADE AGREEMENT (CETA): SEIZING THE OPPORTUNITIES

- Mutual recognition of conformity assessment in CETA

Dr Andreas Steinhorst
EA Executive Secretary
1. About EA
2. Bilateral Cooperation Agreement (BCA)
3. Implementation of the BCA
1. About EA
EA is an association of national accreditation bodies (NABs) in Europe.

EA’s members are officially recognised by their national Governments to assess and verify conformity assessment bodies (CABs).

EA is responsible for harmonising accreditation within Europe, with the aim of reducing barriers to trade and protecting health, safety and the environment.
ABOUT EA - BASIC FACTS

- Appointed by the EC to manage the accreditation infrastructure within the EU, EFTA and candidate countries.
- Not-for-profit association of nationally recognised accreditation bodies
- 36 Full members
- 13 Associate members
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### ABOUT EA – ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

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<td>EGAC, Egypt</td>
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EA MLA SIGNATORIES

- 34 EA MLA signatories
- 4 EA BLA signatories

(August 2016)

Full list of all MLA & BLA signatories and scopes on EA’s website:
http://www.european-accreditation.org/mla-and-bla-signatories
EA has been **formally appointed** as the body responsible for the European accreditation infrastructure in [Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 July 2008](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/765/oj) setting out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance relating to the marketing of products, Article 14, paragraph 6.
Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 provides a legal framework for the provision of accreditation services across Europe.

The Regulation

- strengthens EA’s role in both voluntary and regulated sectors
- places an obligation on EU Member States to accept results issued by the conformity assessment bodies accredited by any of the EA MLA signatories
- strengthens the use of accreditation and the EA MLA as a basis for notification
2. Bilateral Cooperation Agreement
Differences may exist between the Parties’ standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures. Where such differences exist, the recognizing Party may seek to assure itself that a nominated accreditation body is competent to accredit conformity assessment bodies as competent to assess conformity with relevant technical regulations of the recognizing Party. The recognizing Party may assure itself based on:

(a) a cooperation arrangement between the European and Canadian accreditation systems;

Or, in the absence of such an arrangement;

(b) a cooperation arrangement between the nominated accreditation body and an accreditation body competent by the recognizing Party.
Bilateral Cooperation Agreement (BCA) between EA and SCC was signed June 2016
The BCA is the means to establish mutual confidence between EA and SCC.

The aim is to allow recognition of European and Canadian Conformity Assessment Bodies for certain product categories.
The CA Protocol will allow for the acceptance by Canada and the EU of test results and product certifications by recognized bodies in the other party.

Mutual acceptance will be based on the following principles:

- According the CA Protocol Article 4, conformity assessment bodies should seek accreditation from an accreditation body that is in the territory in which the conformity assessment body is established.

- If there is no accreditation body in the territory of a Party that is recognized, the conformity assessment body may seek accreditation by another recognized accreditation body that is not in the territory in which the conformity assessment body is established.
Exchange of relevant information on matters related to the CETA protocol, notably regarding the applicable standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures.

Exchange of information on application and interpretation of criteria for the assessment and accreditation of conformity assessment bodies seeking designation under the CETA protocol.

Exchange of experts for on-site assessments or surveillance visits to conformity assessment bodies, in furtherance of the goal of establishing mutual confidence between EA and SCC in their respective accreditation processes.
Exchange of mutual information about progress of work related to activities of common interest.

Informing their respective memberships/partners on developments in the Cooperation Agreement.

Inviting representatives to each other’s relevant (committee) meetings.

Establishing and maintaining procedures regarding challenges to the Recognition of Accreditation Bodies (Article 14 of the CA protocol).
High level Steering Group, comprised of 3 persons each from EA and SCC, established with the following tasks:

- To monitor the implementation of this agreement,
- To cooperate with and support the European and Canadian authorities regarding all relevant issues pertaining to the CA protocol,
- To cooperate with the recognized Accreditation Bodies,
- To deal with challenges according Article 14 of the CETA protocol,
- To establish Task Force Groups for specific issues relevant for the implementation of the CA protocol,
- To report regularly to EA and SCC members/partners.
3. Implementation
Action plan has been agreed

Communication activities are planned for spring/summer 2017

Preparation of a first pilot project
- Evaluating European and Canadian procedures and requirements for the assessment of CABs in certain product sectors
- Mutual observations of assessments of CABs
ATEX / HAZLOC has been selected for the pilot project
Expert team has been established for the evaluation of the ATEX / HAZLOC systems
Assessment of CAB(s) (Notified Body), observed by SCC
Assessment of CAB(s), observed by EA
Pilot project should be concluded 2017
CONTACT

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Thank you