



Forum: Metrology – Trade Facilitator
Offer of support by:



Comité International des Poids et Mesures
 (CIPM, *International Committee for Weights and Measures*)

Bureau International des Poids et Mesures
 (BIPM, *International Bureau of Weights and Measures*)

What can be offered:

Participation in the **Mutual Recognition Arrangement of the CIPM** (CIPM MRA)

The CIPM MRA creates the framework within which participating national metrology institutes (NMIs) can establish the degrees of equivalence of their national measurement standards as well as the mutual recognition of their calibration and measurement certificates. As at June 2004, the MRA has been signed by representatives of 59 institutes, which represent 44 Member States of the Metre Convention, 13 Associates of the General Conference on Weights and Measures, CGPM, and two international organizations. In addition, 85 other institutes are brought into the MRA because they are designated by the signatories as providing services that they themselves do not provide. Areas covered by the MRA include physics and engineering as well as chemistry with applications in environmental, food and medical analysis, among others.

The objectives of the CIPM MRA are:

- To provide greater confidence in, and knowledge of the measurement capabilities of NMIs, particularly for the **regulatory and accreditation** communities.
- To provide international recognition of, and to improve the realization of national standards by NMIs, **particularly for newer NMIs**.
- To provide the technical underpinning for acceptance between countries of measurements **used as the basis for traded goods and services** - "equivalent" calibration certificates which can be accepted world-wide without retesting or re-measuring.
- To **reduce Technical Barriers to Trade** arising from lack of traceability and equivalence.

What are the prerequisites and conditions:

The CIPM MRA is open to Member States of the Metre Convention and Associates of the CGPM.

To participate in the CIPM MRA, signatories and those on whose behalf they have signed the MRA commit to three conditions:

- Participate in the 'key comparisons' organized by the CIPM's Consultative Committees, which are chosen to typify the main activities and calibration services in a particular technical area.
- To declare the uncertainties associated with their calibration and measurement services and to have these validated by the relevant international experts.
- To install a quality management system that meets the criteria set out in the MRA and in its explanatory documentation. In all declarations currently made, the base international standard is ISO/IEC 17025 or ISO Guide 34 for producers of certified reference materials.

This has been a major activity for participants, and many have learned much about their techniques for realizing national standards and the International System of Units.

Whom to address:

During the Forum:

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