



Greetings Accredited Laboratory Staff:

It is with great pleasure that I inform you that the Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) voted affirmatively last week that AIHA Laboratory Accreditation Programs, LLC be a signatory of the IAAC Multi Lateral Arrangement (MLA), which means that we have finally attained international recognition under the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA). We signed the IAAC Agreement on August 27, and we expect to sign the official ILAC MRA within the next 10 days.

This recognition means that AIHA-accredited laboratories will have greater access to business with certain regulators, including the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and other agencies that work exclusively with laboratories accredited by accreditation bodies under the ILAC MRA. Our laboratories will also be able to use the ILAC MRA mark on their promotional materials and have access to the same array of opportunities as their counterparts accredited by organizations under the ILAC umbrella.

A special thanks to the entire accreditation LLC team and our volunteer leadership (Dave Sandusky, Chris Powell, Pam Kastle and Chris Kearney), who collaborated and worked tirelessly with me to make this recognition possible. We are especially grateful to past Chief Site Assessors Ron Peters and Maureen Hamilton who worked with TAP member Linda Neimor to draft the new measurement uncertainty and traceability policies and conduct training for the volunteers and assessors, as well as outreach to the laboratories. Finally, we want to thank those 6 site assessors and laboratories (8 in all) who agreed to participate in the witnessing process associated with our APLAC/IAAC evaluation. Please join me in thanking and congratulating all the critical players who made this recognition possible.

More information about the signing of the ILAC MRA and the steps you will need to take to use the ILAC mark will be shared with you soon. In the meantime, should you have any questions or need more information about this recognition, please contact Margie Breida or Heather Thompson.

Regards,

Cheryl O. Morton  
Director, AIHA Laboratory Accreditation Programs, LLC