



THE STRUCTURE, SCOPE AND CRITERIA FOR EXTENDING THE i-NAF MLA



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i-NAF MLA**

Issue No 1

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1 PURPOSE

1.1 This document describes the structure of the International Natural Accreditation Forum (i-NAF) Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (i-NAF MLA) .

1.2 This document also defines the procedures that the i-NAF uses to extend the MLA among natural accreditation bodies that are signatories to the i-NAF Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

2 REFERENCES

i-NAF NML 2 - i-NAF Policies and Procedures for a Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (i-NAF MLA) among Natural Accreditation Bodies

i-NAF NPG 3 - i-NAF Documentation Control Procedure

IAF PR 4- Structure of the IAF MLA and List of Endorsed Normative Documents

IHAF Procedure Documents

3 INTRODUCTION

3.1 The International Natural Accreditation Forum (i-NAF) is comprised of natural accreditation bodies that natural product certification bodies. To serve its membership, i-NAF has established a Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (i-NAF MLA), based on the demonstrated outcomes of member accreditation bodies' operations.

3.2 The aim of the MLA is to facilitate international trade by encouraging worldwide acceptance of valid accredited natural certificates, and thus reducing the need for multiple audits.

3.3 The MLA recognizes the competence of signatories to conduct operations specified within the scope of the MLA and serves to increase national and international confidence in the natural accreditations issued by those signatories. The MLA establishes formal links among competent natural accreditation bodies in other countries / economies and promotes closer technological ties among those countries / economies.

4 STRUCTURE OF THE i-NAF MLA

4.1 The i-NAF MLA is structured to enable seamless integration with the IAF MLA structure which uses five (5) levels.

Level 1 ISO/IEC 17011 specifies the criteria for an accreditation body and OIC/SMIIC 3 Conformity Assessment - Requirements for Halal Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Halal Conformity Assessment Bodies

Level 2 Provides a generic description of the accreditation activity.

Level 3 Identifies the framework accreditation criteria that the conformity assessment body must comply with to be considered equally reliable.

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- Level 4** Identifies the endorsed scheme level accreditation criteria that the conformity assessment body must comply with to be equivalent.
- Level 5** i-NAF endorsed NSO-NAP series and OIC/SMIIC 1 natural/other conformity assessment standards. If this standard is a normative requirement of an endorsed scheme then all accredited natural certifications within this MLA are considered equivalent.

5 CRITERIA FOR EXTENDING THE SCOPE OF THE I-NAF MLA

5.1 The general criteria for evaluating suitability for inclusion of a scheme, standard or other normative documents under the i-NAF MLA for main scope and/or sub-scope includes:

- a) Significant relevance to the accreditation of natural conformity assessment bodies under the scope of the i-NAF activities;
- b) Sufficient substance to enhance the recognition of professional competence;
- c) Fulfills appropriate needs on an international and/or regional basis;
- d) Absence or exclusion which poses threats to i-NAF leadership in natural accreditation;
- e) Complementary to or supportive of any of the other natural standards being currently used;
- f) Does not dilute the substance of any existing natural standards under the i-NAF MLA;
- g) Standard and/or scheme shall be publicly available.

5.2 A precondition for extending the i-NAF MLA shall be that an international natural standard for accreditation of natural conformity assessment bodies has been developed and published which contains requirements applicable to the types of natural conformity assessment bodies other than those covered by the existing main scopes.

6 PROCESS FOR EXTENDING THE SCOPE OF THE I-NAF MLA

6.1 Any i-NAF member that wishes to extend the i-NAF MLA shall complete (Annex 1) the Application to Extend the MLA form (Annex 2) and submit it to the i-NAF Secretariat. A new proposal to extend the i-NAF MLA shall have the support of at least three natural accreditation bodies. The application shall be reviewed by the MLA Committee and discussed by the MLA Group. The MLA Group shall evaluate the suitability of the proposal against this document. If the MLA Group decides not to endorse the proposal, it may request further supplementary information, or reject the proposal outright.

6.2 Based on the approval and resolutions for the new MLA main/subscope extension from the MLA Group meeting, the Executive Committee shall take appropriate action. The Natural Accreditation Committee shall request the Technical Committee and MLA Committee to study the need for developing any specific application documents and additional documents for peer evaluation if needed. Technical Committee and MLA Committee may establish WG to develop the required documentation/tools. The Technical Committee and MLA Committee should also consider jointly the



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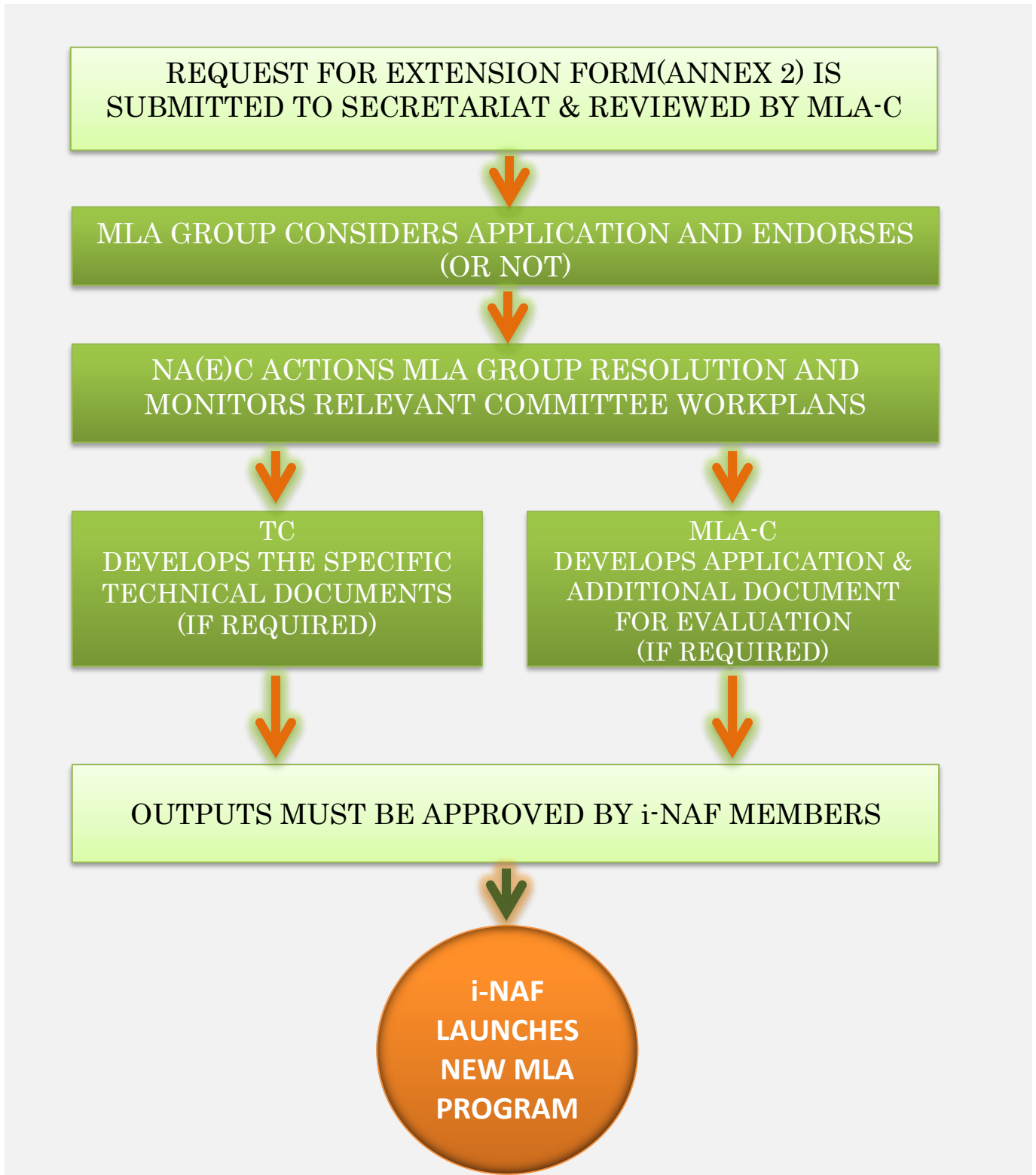
need for training on application documents, the competence of peer evaluators and the process to be undertaken by the MLA Committee in response to applications for an extension; e.g. onsite evaluation and witnessing

6.3 Outputs from the Technical Committee and MLA Committee for expanding the i-NAF MLA, which may include a main scope and/or sub-scope, shall be approved in accordance with i-NAF NPG 3.

6.4 Once all the documentation and training has been developed, the extension to the MLA may be launched.

ANNEX 1

FLOWCHART FOR EXTENSION OF i-NAF MLA





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ANNEX 2

APPLICATION TO EXTEND THE i-NAF MLA

BODY SUBMITTING THIS PROPOSAL	
NAME OF THE NATURAL BODY	
NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE	
DATE OF SUBMISSION	

BRIEF EXPLANATION OF REASON(S) FOR EXTENSION)

APPLICABLE NATURAL STANDARD(S) AND/OR SCHEMES TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED EXTENSION	
LEVEL 1 CRITERIA <i>e.g., ISO/IEC17011, OIC/SMIIC 3 etc.</i>	
LEVEL 3 CRITERIA <i>e.g., ISO/IEC 17065 or OIC/SMIIC 2</i>	
LEVEL 5 CRITERIA <i>e.g., NSO-NAP 1, OIC/SMIIC 1 etc.</i>	

i-NAF MEMBERS OPERATING THE PROPOSED NATURAL STANDARD AND/OR SCHEME	
NUMBER OF i-NAF MEMBERS	
NAME OF i-NAF MEMBERS	



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REQUESTED IMPLEMENTATION TIME FRAME	
PROPOSED LAUNCH DATE	

SUPPORTERS OF THE SCHEME (*)	
NAME OF SUPPORTER NATURAL BODY 1	
NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE	
NAME OF SUPPORTER NATURAL BODY 2	
NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE	
(*): If the applicant is an NAB it must have the support of one(1) additional NABs. If the applicant is not an NAB, it must have the support of two(2) NABs.	

ENDORSEMENT BY MLA GROUP (STEP 1)	
MLA GROUP	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
IF NOT ENDORSED, REASON FOR REJECTION	
DATE	
IMPLEMENTATION TIME-FRAME	

ENDORSEMENT BY MEMBERS (STEP 2)	
MEMBERS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
IF NOT ENDORSED, REASON FOR REJECTION	
DATE	
IMPLEMENTATION TIME-FRAME	