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Supplement 1 to EA-1/17 Rules of Procedures Criteria for Membership

PURPOSE

This document specifies the criteria to be fulfilled by the Members of the European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) as defined in the Articles of Association or as decided by the EA General Assembly.

Authorship

This document has been prepared by the EA Executive Committee.

Official language

The text may be translated into other languages as required. The English language version remains the definitive version.

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Further information

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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The European Regulation (EC) 765/2008, setting out the requirements for accreditation and market surveillance of products, created a new legal framework for the operation of accreditation in Europe, enhancing the responsibilities of EA and of national accreditation bodies.
- 1.2 In order to safeguard accreditation as a public authority activity and enable legal recognition by national authorities of the Member States, specific criteria were established for national accreditation bodies.
- 1.3 These specific criteria incorporate not only the ISO/IEC 17011 requirements, but also specific interpretations and additions.
- 1.4 This document details the criteria for membership generically established in the Articles of Association or as decided by the EA General Assembly.

2 CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 The table below lists the specific criteria with which Full Members and Associate Members have to comply, and how and when EA will check the compliance.

Membership Specific Criteria	Applicable to:		To be checked at:	
	Full Members	Assoc. Members*	Membership Application	Peer-evaluation
1. Appointed by the Member State as the single national accreditation body	YES	YES*	YES, by documentary evidence	YES
2. Operate accreditation as a public authority activity with formal recognition by the Member State	YES	YES*	YES, by documentary evidence	YES
3. Have clearly distinguished tasks and responsibilities from other national authorities	YES	YES	YES, by declaration	YES
4. Operate on a not-for-profit basis	YES	YES	YES, by declaration	YES
5. Not own shares in or otherwise have a financial or managerial interest in a conformity assessment body	YES	YES	YES, by declaration	YES
6. Not providing proficiency testing (PT) services (see Note 2)	YES	YES	YES	YES
7. Not competing with other national accreditation bodies in accordance with the applicable legal, EA, IAF and ILAC rules	YES	YES	YES, by declaration	YES
8. Only operate across national borders, within the territory of another Member State, when the circumstances set out in the applicable legal, EA, IAF and ILAC documents are met	YES	YES*	YES, by declaration	YES

Membership Specific Criteria	Applicable to:		To be checked at:	
	Full Members	Assoc. Members*	Membership Application	Peer-evaluation
9. When operating across border, under the exceptions foreseen, it shall inform the national accreditation body of that Member State and offer him to participate as observer	YES	YES	YES, by declaration	YES
10. Publish audited annual accounts prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles)	YES	YES	NO	YES
11. Make publicly available information on the outcome of the peer-evaluations	YES	YES	NO	YES when applicable

**Note 1: for Associate Members, read 'country or economy' instead of 'Member State' in the criteria/requirement*

Note 2: Measurement audit activities that are conducted as part of a specific accreditation assessment are not considered as conformity assessment activities if being an integral component of the on-site assessment.

- 2.2 Regulation (EC) 765/2008 has other requirements for national accreditation bodies that are considered to be explicitly required by ISO/IEC 17011, and therefore are not included in the table above.