

**ASSESSMENTS AND RECOGNITION OF SIGNATORIES TO
THE LOW VOLTAGE AGREEMENT GROUP (LOVAG)
AGREEMENT**

0. OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this document is to specify the criteria and conditions which a Certification Body (and its own or employed testing laboratories) must satisfy before signing the Low Voltage Agreement Group (LOVAG) Agreement and to define the following assessments for building of mutual confidence.

1. BASIC DOCUMENTS

The assessment and recognition of signatories to the Low Voltage Agreement Group (LOVAG) Agreement is based on valid standards from ISO/IEC 17000 series to be inserted the following documents

ISO/IEC 17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.

ISO/IEC 17040 Conformity assessment - General requirements for peer assessment of conformity assessment bodies and accreditation bodies

ISO/IEC 17011 General criteria for laboratory Accreditation Bodies

EN 45011 General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems. (ISO/IEC Guide 65)

2. GOVERNING BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE LOVAG OPERATION

2.1 The functions of a Signatory body are assessed by the Low Voltage Agreement Group (LOVAG) Management Committee which is the governing board for the LOVAG Agreement.

2.2 The LOVAG Technical Committee produces LOVAG General Instructions (LTI G and LGD) to harmonise the activities of the signatories which are submitted to the LOVAG Management Committee for approval before they are issued.

3. FUNDAMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

3.1 The LOVAG Agreement is signed and operated by Certification Bodies that shall conform to EN 45011.

3.2 The candidate Certification Body shall operate a well-established certification scheme of its own for a number of categories of equipment covered by the LOVAG Agreement and shall have a structure that permits the choosing of members of its governing board from among those interests involved in the process of certification without any single interest predominating. A structure that safeguards impartiality and enables

participation from all parties concerned, regarding the content and functioning of a certification system will be deemed to satisfy this criterion

- 3.3 When the Certification Body runs its own testing laboratories, they shall conform to ISO/IEC 17025.
- 3.4 Where testing is carried out on behalf of the Certification Body by external laboratories, the Certification Body shall ensure that these laboratories conform to ISO/IEC 17025.

4. APPLICATION

- 4.1 A candidate Certification Body shall make application to the Secretariat of LOVAG who informs the Chairman of the LOVAG Management Committee. In the same way extensions of the number of testing laboratories or the scope thereof shall be handled.
- 4.2 In its application, the Certification Body shall provide evidence that it complies with EN 45011.
- 4.3 For testing laboratories, whether own or external, the Certification Body shall provide evidence in its application that they comply with to ISO/IEC 17025
- 4.4 The Certification Body and its laboratories shall be located in signatory countries. The use of a laboratory outside the signatory countries may be decided by the Management Committee on a case by case basis.

5. ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 When an application has been received in accordance with clause 4 the Secretariat of LOVAG will propose an assessment team of experts which shall be confirmed by the LOVAG Management Committee. The assessment team shall make a full and complete assessment of the applicant in accordance with the procedures laid down in ISO/IEC 17040 to ensure that the applicant complies with EN 45011 and all the relevant parts of ISO/IEC 17000 and the LOVAG rules and procedures.
- 5.2 The assessment team will assess, beside what is required by this LOVAG Agreement whether or not the Certification body complies with EN 45011.
- 5.3 The assessment team shall take into account any national accreditation that may have been obtained.
- 5.4 The findings of the assessment team will be reported to the LOVAG Management Committee who may agree that
 - The Certification Body should become a signatory to the LOVAG Agreement
 - own or employed testing laboratory or laboratories should be recognised.

5.5 After signing the LOVAG Agreement, for each new signatory there shall be a period during which his competence and integrity is confirmed by witnessing testing and reviewing certificates in a sufficient number of cases by a monitor appointed by the LOVAG Management Committee. The number of cases for each new signatory shall be fixed by the LOVAG Management Committee.

The witnessing testing shall follow the following schedule:

- 1st year after signing the Agreement – questionnaire
- 2nd year after signing the Agreement – routine audit.
- 3rd year after signing the Agreement – questionnaire.
- 4th year after signing the Agreement – full re-assessment.

If there is a national accreditation corresponding to the scope of LOVAG of the new member, following the rules of ILAC and IAF, where the CBs and test laboratories have to prove the compliance with EN 45011 and ISO/IEC 17025 at intervals of not more than two years, the LOVAG Management Committee can decide to abandon the scheduled routine audit and 2nd questionnaire upon the recommendation of the assessors of the initial audit.

6. BUILDING OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE

6.1 In order to build and to maintain mutual confidence between the signatories including their own or employed testing laboratories the relevant provisions of ISO/IEC 17025, and EN 45011 shall be implemented.

6.2 Consultations between officers of relevant bodies or laboratories shall be held in cases of different results or interpretations which are found during the certification process by means of LOVAG Working Groups. Matters of principle emerging from such consultations shall be brought to the attention of the signatories via the LOVAG Management Committee.

6.3 At intervals of no more than two years following the rules for accreditation and IAF/ILAC, the recognised Certification Bodies and testing laboratories shall provide evidence that each of them complies with the relevant provisions of ISO/IEC 17025, and EN 45011. The LOVAG Management Committee shall consider whether the shown evidences are satisfactory or whether an assessment team shall be established to check the compliance with the relevant provisions. The findings shall be reported to the LOVAG Management Committee with the recommendation for extending or suspending the recognition. At intervals of no more than four years a Peers' re-assessment of each signatory certification body shall be made and the findings reported to the LOVAG Management Committee with the recommendation for extending or suspending the recognition.

This amendment 3 to the LOVAG Agreement (March 2004) gives the new LOVAG M 2, issue 9, which was approved by the LOVAG Management Committee on March 29th, 2007. Changes in comparison to issue 8 are marked by a line at the left side

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Michel Brenon, Chairman of LOVAG