

CIRCULAR TO ALL ILAC MEMBERS

ACTION REQUIRED BY ILAC MEMBERS ON ILAC GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS

TOPIC: Change in Terminology Relating to Best Measurement Capability (BMC) and Calibration Measurement Capability (CMC)

DATE: 20 August 2009

The ILAC General Assembly in Sydney 2007 and in Stockholm 2008, made the following resolutions:

ILAC Resolution GA 12.23

ILAC reaffirms its commitment to the agreement (ILAC resolution GA 11.20) between ILAC and BIPM by implementing a terminology change from BMC to CMC as soon as practicable. The General Assembly notes that other issues have been identified during the development of this agreement and these will be addressed in the new measurement uncertainty document currently under preparation.

It is important that action on the above resolution is taken as soon as possible. This will be addressed under the section of this agenda associated with Working Group 2.

ILAC Resolution GA 11.20

The ILAC General Assembly accepts the ILAC/BIPM joint paper on Calibration & Measurement Capabilities (CMC) as a significant step forward in the coordination of this concept between ILAC and BIPM.

ILAC will take this joint paper into account when preparing future documents on measurement uncertainty, in collaboration with the BIPM.

These resolutions were the result of extensive liaison and agreement by ILAC and BIPM, that a change in terminology from BMC (Best Measurement Capability) to CMC (Calibration Measurement Capability) was appropriate and desirable.

The background to these discussions may be found on the ILAC website under Publications and Resources, by scrolling down to Calibration and Measurement Capabilities (CMC) and clicking on CMC in the last sentence. The paper is entitled “Calibration and Measurement Capabilities – A Paper by the Joint BIPM/ILAC working group”.

The following points are to be noted.

1. References to “BMC” in scopes of accreditation for calibration facilities should be amended to read “CMC”. This change is considered to be a terminology change only, as BMC and CMC have been agreed to be equivalent.
2. The timeframe for the terminology change has been set at two years from the date of this circular.

The means whereby this change should be made has not been defined but ILAC Members are invited to review the scopes of accreditation of calibration facilities during the next relevant scheduled visit and make the relevant change in terminology from BMC to CMC. This should be undertaken in line with a review of the CMCs of the NMI which provides the calibration laboratory with its

metrological traceability. (The CMCs of NMIs can be found on the CIPM-database.)

3. Progress by ABs in implementing this terminology change will be reviewed at the next evaluation of the AB that occurs two years from the date of this circular.
4. It is recognised that further work is required by ILAC and BIPM to clarify and harmonise matters around CMC. This work is ongoing and further relevant information will be provided at an appropriate time.
5. The intention of this terminology harmonisation is to improve the dissemination of metrological traceability. The adoption of the same terminology in relation to accredited calibration facilities and NMIs will greatly assist in this process and provide clarity in the market place.

The ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee has also been asked to prepare suitable material for ABs to distribute that defines the benefits of this terminology change for end users.