

TN 6.0: GAC Technical Note 6

Policy on the Use of the GAC logo, GAC endorsement and references to accreditation

1. Purpose:

This document describes the conditions for the use of the GAC logo, GAC endorsement and references to accreditation, this document also provide policy for governing the protection & use of accreditation symbol in relation GAC accreditation.

2. References:

- ISO/IEC 17011 Conformity assessment — Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies.
- ILAC-P8: ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement: Supplementary Requirements and Guidelines for the Use of Accreditation Symbols and for Claims of Accreditation Status by Accredited Laboratories and Inspection Bodies.
- ILAC-R4: Use of the ILAC Logo and Tagline.
- ILAC-R7: Rules for the Use of the ILAC MRA Mark.
- IAF PL 8: Rules for the Use of the IAF Logo.
- IAF ML 2: General Principles on the Use of the IAF MLA Mark.
- AC 12.0 Suspension, Reinstatement, Reduction and Withdrawal of Accreditation

3. Introduction:

The requirements of this document are to be met by the CAB when it uses the GAC accreditation symbol or makes any reference to it.

An accreditation symbol or an accreditation claim is not used in any manner which gives the impression that GAC accepts responsibility for conformity assessment results, or for any opinion or interpretation derived from those results, or that GAC approves a tested, calibrated or inspected or certified product or item, or reference material.

GAC accredited facilities are strongly encouraged to promote their accreditation by issuing GAC endorsed reports and certificates by using the “GAC Accredited” symbol. It is each facility’s responsibility to ensure that it describes its accreditation status in a manner that does not imply that accreditation is held in areas that are outside the scope of accreditation, for other facilities that are not included in the accreditation or for products or services that GAC accreditation does not cover.

One of the strongest points made on the use of accreditation symbols is stated at the conclusion of ILAC P8:

“The integrity of accreditation depends on accreditation bodies and their accredited CABs taking joint responsibility for the proper claims of accreditation status and use of accreditation symbols, and for improving the reputation and value of accreditation for the benefit of all accredited CABs, their customers and other users of conformity assessment results.”

Any questions about this document and requests for review and approval of proposed marketing and advertising materials should be directed to the GAC staff.

4. Requirements:

4.1. General Use:

All requirements related to use of the “GAC Accredited” symbol also apply to any other reference to GAC accreditation.

Whilst GAC does not mandate the issuing of GAC endorsed reports/certificates under the accreditation schemes covered in its ILAC MRA, however, only those reports that bear an appropriate GAC endorsement can benefit from the acceptance established through mutual recognition arrangements (and other similar agreements). It is also important to note that only calibration certificates bearing the GAC endorsement (or that otherwise make reference to accredited status by a specific, recognized accreditation body) can be confirmed.

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For product certification bodies ISO/IEC 17065 its required to use the accreditation symbol or make reference to the accreditation (IAF Resolution 2018-13, timeline to comply with is 31st October 2021), for personnel certification bodies ISO/IEC 17024 and for management system certification bodies ISO/IEC 17021-1 are required to claim or use accreditation symbol for the activities covered in their scope of accreditation with GAC.

The “GAC” logo is to be used by GAC only. Accredited organizations may use the “GAC Accredited” symbol and/or may make a narrative reference to their GAC accreditation, but may not use the “GAC logo” in such references. Where the GAC name (not to be confused with the “GAC” logo) is used by accredited organizations in a narrative reference to accredited status, it shall always be accompanied by at least the word “accredited”.

The following forms of GAC Logo are exclusively used by GAC:



The following “GAC Accredited” Symbols are to be used by GAC-accredited Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) according to their granted accreditation scopes:



General rules and Guidance:

as meeting GAC’s traceability criteria (see GAC Technical note 2 - Traceability of measurements).

GAC doesn’t obligates or enforces any requirements on size, though the CAB shall ensure that the adjusted size of the symbol will not affect the legibility and that the contents associated with the symbol must be clearly readable as well as the coloured symbol should not fade to a level that colour proximity is significantly changed.

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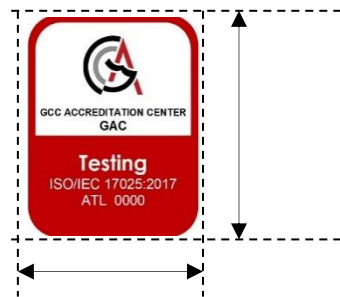
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The GAC symbol used on reports/certificates should not be more prominent than the logo of the CAB, the CAB logo and GAC symbol can be used concurrently.

The position placement of the GAC symbol shall be adequate that it doesn't compromise visibility, it can be placed on top of the page (header) and or at bottom of the page (footer).

In all cases, the text shall be always readable. These symbols could be reproduced in black and white.

Embossed, relief, or die-stamped versions are allowable.



Colour Codes:



R: 215, G: 32, B: 39
Hex: #D72027
CMYK: 9, 100, 100, 2



R: 110, G: 111, B: 114
CMYK: 58, 49, 46, 15
Hex: #6E6F72



Hex: #000000
CMYK: 75, 68, 67, 90
R: 0, G: 0, B: 0

Accreditation claims shall be made only:

- With respect to the name by which the organization holds GAC accreditation (as displayed on the Scope of Accreditation).
- With respect to the activities that are covered under the organization's valid scope(s) of Accreditation.
- With respect to the specific accredited location that is listed on the organization's scope(s) of Accreditation.
- When accompanied by the organization's GAC Certificate Number.

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GAC understands that there will inevitably be circumstances where an exception to these requirements may be appropriate. The accredited CAB shall get approval from GAC when an exception is to be warranted for specific cases.

Accreditation claims shall not be made:

- An applicant for accreditation (accreditation not yet granted)
- Physically on any products or items that have been subjected to conformity assessment (Calibration and inspection labels are permitted if the criteria in Section 4.4 below are met.)
- In any manner that would imply personnel certification or GAC approval or endorsement of a product or presented results.
- In any manner that would imply GAC responsibility for any results presented including claim of statement of conformities, claimed accuracies or precisions etc.
- On materials (e.g., labels, reports/certificates, proposal/quotations, etc.) when none of the work described within these materials is part of the organization's Scope(s) of Accreditation. (Note: If both accredited and non-accredited work is presented, then accreditation claims may be included as long as the non-accredited work is clearly distinguished from the accredited work.) When results from a non-accredited subcontractor are used on an accredited organization's report/certificate, the requirements of this paragraph apply.

The use of the symbol or claims of accreditation by the accredited organization shall not misrepresent the organization's accreditation status or bring the accreditation process into disrepute. (Note: GAC serves as the final arbiter in any discussion on the appropriate use of the symbol or reference to GAC accredited status and so accredited organizations are invited and encouraged to contact GAC for prior review of any planned promotion or reference to GAC accredited status.)

Accredited facilities are required to reproduce only "GAC Accredited" Symbols that are provided by GAC Staff and ensure to follow the illustrations given on pages 2, 3, 6 and 7.

Laboratories accredited by GAC to ISO/IEC 17025 may mention that it operates a quality management system on its reports and certificates using the following statement:

"This laboratory is accredited in accordance with the recognized International Standard ISO/IEC 17025. This accreditation demonstrates technical competence for a defined scope and the operation of a laboratory quality management system (refer to joint ISO/ILAC-IAF Communiqué dated April 2017)"

If an accredited laboratory choosing to use the above statement on its reports or certificates should also either supply, or provide access to (via a website), the Joint ISO-ILAC-IAF Communiqué as part of the package for its customers.

Medical laboratories accredited by GAC to ISO 15189 may use an equivalent statement quoting ISO 15189 as the accreditation standard and referring to the joint ISO-ILAC-IAF Communiqué dated January 2015.

Inspection bodies accredited by GAC to ISO/IEC 17020 may use an equivalent statement quoting ISO/IEC 17020 as the accreditation standard and referring to the joint ISO/ILAC-IAF Communiqué dated September 2013.

All the joint ISO-ILAC-IAF Communiqués are available on ILAC website:

<https://ilac.org/about-ilac/partnerships/international-partners/iso/>

4.2. Opinions and Interpretations:

Where statements of opinions and interpretations are included on an organization's endorsed report or certificate, such statements must be based on results from work for which the organization is accredited; otherwise the accredited organization is required to include a disclaimer such as the following in the certificate or report: "The opinions/interpretations identified/expressed in this report are outside the scope of this organization's GAC Accreditation." (Note: It is preferable to express opinions and interpretations that are

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outside the Scope of Accreditation on a separate letter which is not part of the endorsed certificate or report and that does not carry the "GAC Accredited" symbol or other reference to GAC accreditation.)

4.3. Sub-Contracted Activities:

An accredited organization may include results of subcontracted work on its endorsed reports or certificates (meaning, those containing the "GAC Accredited" symbol or other reference to GAC accredited status), only if (in addition to the relevant ISO Standard requirements related to subcontracting):

- The subcontracted work appears on the accredited organization's own GAC Scope of Accreditation.
- The accredited organization assumes all responsibility for the subcontracted work.
- The accredited organization obtains prior approval from their subcontractor to report excerpts from the subcontractor's original report/certificate.
- The subcontractor itself is accredited by GAC (or one of GAC's Mutual Recognition Arrangement/MLA partners) for the work done and the results were provided on an endorsed report/certificate from the subcontractor.
- Where applicable, the results of the subcontracted activities are appropriately identified within the report or certificate issued by the contracting CAB to its client.

4.4. Labels, Advertising and Publicity

GAC accredited calibration laboratories may affix calibration labels containing the "GAC Accredited" symbol to only the equipment that has been calibrated by the accredited calibration provider under their Scope of Accreditation in relation to their ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation with GAC.

Inspection labels containing the "GAC Accredited" symbol may be affixed only to the specific items that have been inspected by an accredited inspection body under their Scope of Accreditation (relevant to the GAC ISO/IEC 17020 Inspection Body Accreditation Program). The label must clearly indicate that the item has been inspected (e.g., "inspected by", "inspected on", etc.).

Calibration/inspection labels containing the "GAC Accredited" symbol shall include at least the following information:

- The name of the accredited organization.
- The accredited organization's GAC certificate number.
- The instrument/product identification.
- The date of the current calibration/inspection.
- Cross-reference to the accredited calibration/inspection certificate issued with respect to this calibration/inspection, (if traceability to the certificate is not achievable through the above information).

Calibration or inspection labels containing the GAC accreditation symbol shall not give the impression that the GAC has approved or calibrated the equipment or inspected the item.

The "GAC accredited" symbol or reference to accreditation must not be affixed to a material, item or product (including packaging and accompanying documentation) or used to imply that an item or product has been certified. It is not allowed to fix the accreditation symbol alone on inspected items or items calibrated.

Advertising and Publicity

The use of GAC accreditation symbols & accreditation advertisement can enhance reputation and value of accreditation for all the stakeholders, therefore GAC allows that its accredited CAB can make reference to GAC's

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endorsement “GAC accreditation symbol” in its marketing & advertising (publicity) materials ensuring it’s not misleading, misrepresenting and that it doesn’t bring GAC into disrepute, the accredited CAB ensures compliance with requirements of this document.

“GAC accredited” symbols or accreditation statements included in literature or on websites should appear adjacent to the reference to the GAC accredited facility that has performed the testing or related service. The “GAC accredited” symbol or reference to accreditation can be made on the business cards however in a way that it must not imply as personal certification.

Where GAC accreditation symbol is printed on letterhead and/or other corporate papers, such materials are not used for work proposals or quotes if none of the activity is within the accredited scope with GAC, nor for reporting of conformity assessment results if none of them are within the accredited scope with GAC, nor for certifying a product or item.

4.5. Suspension, cancellation, withdrawal of accreditation:

Facilities that have had their accreditation suspended or discontinued (withdrawn or cancelled), with immediate effect cannot use the endorsement, the “GAC accredited” symbol or include any reference to accreditation on reports or certificate and including any advertising materials.

Where the suspension or discontinuation covers only a part of the scope of accreditation, reports or certificates issued that include results of tests or related services affected and not affected by the suspension or discontinuation may include the endorsement provided that the results of tests or related services affected by the suspension or discontinuation are clearly and unambiguously identified as such.

4.6. Misuse of the “GAC accredited” symbol or GAC endorsement or misrepresentation of GAC accreditation:

GAC will take action on proven inappropriate use of the “GAC accredited” symbol, use of the GAC logo or claim of accreditation or misrepresentation of the scope or status of accreditation by an accredited CAB or applicant CAB or the CAB whose accreditation is affected (e.g. suspended or withdrawn whether partly or in full). This may include a request for corrective action, suspension or cancellation of accreditation or legal action.

GAC will also take action on unaccredited organisations that misrepresent themselves as holding GAC accreditation or that use inappropriate references to accreditation. Depending on the nature of the misrepresentation, this may be a request for corrective action such as removal of the inappropriate reference, issuing a correction/clarification or legal action.

4.7. The Combined “ILAC MRA or IAF MLA – GAC Accredited” Symbols:

The accredited CABs covered under GAC recognition scope with ILAC MRA can use the combined ILAC-GAC mark “ILAC MRA – GAC Accredited” symbols in order to demonstrate accreditation by a signatory of the ILAC after signing the ILAC-MRA Mark License Agreement covered in GAC TN-6 and ILAC MRA Mark is registered in the economy where the accredited CAB is located or where an application for registration has been lodged and registration is pending (same applies when GAC become IAF MLA signatory).

Due to the requirements imposed upon GAC by ILAC and IAF for use of these marks, additional requirements are in place for use of the combined symbol, as outlined below.

The use of combined “ILAC MRA – GAC Accredited” symbol is not authorized by GAC unless the agreement given in annex 1 is signed by GAC and the accredited CAB.

After GAC becomes signatory to:

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- The IAF Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) and signs the IAF-MLA Mark License Agreement For "IAF MLA – GAC Accredited" symbol, the annex 2 of IAF ML 2 shall be signed between the two parties. The annex-2 will be made available in this document once GAC becomes IAF MLA signatory.

Accredited organizations authorized to use the Combined MRA and MLA Marks shall adhere to the requirements of ILAC R7 and IAF ML 2.

All requirements of Sections 4.1 to 4.6 of this document are also applicable to use of the combined marks. Accredited facilities are required to reproduce only the combined "ILAC - GAC Accredited" Symbols or "IAF – GAC Accredited" Symbols that are provided by GAC Staff.

NOTE: The CABs are reminded to retain a copy of this signed agreement in their records as evidence during future GAC assessments of their approval to use the combined symbol.

➤ For ILAC:

Facilities whose accreditation is covered by the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement may use the ILAC Combined MRA Mark as follows:



ONLY APPLICABLE WHEN THE GAC ACHIEVES SIGNATORY STATUS WITH THE ILAC



The ILAC MRA Mark may be reproduced in black and white or in the following prescribed colors:

- Process (CMYK) Color Breakdown (C100 M56 Y0 K0),

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- Pantone (PMS) Color Breakdown (Pantone 293c, blue),
- Website (RGB) Color Breakdown (R0 G0 B229).

➤ For IAF:

Conformity assessment bodies whose accreditation is covered by the IAF Multilateral Arrangement may use the IAF Combined MLA Mark as follows:



ONLY APPLICABLE WHEN THE GAC ACHIEVES SIGNATORY STATUS WITH THE IAF

The IAF Combined MLA Mark may be reproduced in the prescribed colors or in black and white.

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ANNEX 1: AGREEMENT FOR THE USE OF THE GAC ACCREDITED CAB COMBINED ILAC MRA MARKS

THIS AGREEMENT IS EFFECTIVE BETWEEN:

GCC Accreditation Center ("GAC") and its accredited CAB as referenced in the below table:

Name of Organization (CAB):	
Accreditation scheme <i>(e.g. ISO/IEC 17025, 17020 or ISO 15189):</i>	
GAC Accreditation No: <i>(ref. to accreditation certificate)</i>	
Address of the CAB:	

2. BACKGROUND:

ILAC is the owner of the ILAC MRA Mark and has licensed the use of the ILAC MRA Mark to GAC in accordance with the terms of the ILAC MRA Mark Agreement, pursuant to which GAC has developed the GAC Accredited CAB Combined ILAC MRA Marks.

As part of its accreditation, GAC wishes to permit the accredited CAB to use the GAC Accredited CAB Combined ILAC MRA Mark(s), in accordance with the provisions of this agreement. These provisions are in close and direct relationship with ILAC R7-F1 which is the Agreement for the use of the ILAC MRA Mark; This agreement is by and between ILAC and GAC proving that is a signatory to the ILAC MRA for a given scope.

3. GRANT:

In consideration of the obligations of the accredited CAB under this agreement, GAC grants the accredited CAB a non-exclusive license to use the GAC Accredited CAB Combined ILAC MRA Mark strictly in accordance with the provisions of this agreement, GAC Technical Note TN 6.0 and the ILAC document ILAC-R7: the ILAC-R7 Rules for the Use of the ILAC MRA Mark.

4. ACCREDITED CAB'S OBLIGATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

- a) The accredited CAB shall ensure it holds permission from GAC, through this signed Agreement, before using the GAC Accredited CAB Combined ILAC MRA Mark.
- b) The accredited CAB shall only use the Restricted Marks in territories in which where the ILAC MRA Mark is a registered trade mark (or equivalent), or where an application for registration has been lodged and registration is pending. The accredited CAB undertakes not to use the Restricted Marks in any other territory.
- c) The accredited CAB shall ensure that, at all times, its use of the GAC Accredited CAB Combined ILAC MRA Mark:
 - does not breach any requirements set out in the Rules for Use; and
 - will not cause GAC to breach the terms of the MRA.
- d) The accredited CAB agrees to adhere to the rules for use of the GAC Accredited CAB Combined ILAC MRA Mark at all times.
- e) The GAC Accredited CAB Combined ILAC MRA Mark shall only be reproduced in the manner prescribed in Sections 4.7 of the GAC Technical Note 6.0.
- f) The accredited CAB will indemnify GAC against all liabilities, costs, expenses, damages and losses (including, but not limited to any direct, indirect or consequential losses, loss of profit, loss or reputation and all interest, penalties and legal costs, calculated on a full indemnity basis) due to the accredited CAB's:
 - exercise of its rights under this agreement; or

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- misuse of any of the Restricted Marks, including breach or negligent performance or non-performance of this agreement.

GAC will give the accredited CAB a written notice of any intended action under this clause 4(f), to which the accredited CAB has three weeks to answer before GAC shall be entitled to take proceedings against the accredited CAB. During this time, the accredited CAB must take all reasonable steps to restore the situation to compliance with this agreement, working in close cooperation with GAC.

g) The accredited CAB will not:

- use the ILAC MRA Mark in any form other than as part of a GAC Accredited CAB Combined ILAC MRA Mark;
- use in its business any other trade mark is similar to any of the Restricted Marks and could cause confusion;
- in any territory, apply for, or obtain registration of any of the Restricted Marks or of any trade or service mark which consists of, comprises or is confusingly similar to any of the Restricted Marks;
- grant to any third party any license of any of the Restricted Marks;
- challenge in any way, whether directly or indirectly, the ownership by either GAC or ILAC of any of the Restricted Marks.

5. GOODWILL:

Any goodwill derived from the use by the accredited CAB of the GAC Accredited CAB Combined ILAC MRA Mark shall accrue to GAC (or such other third party as GAC may direct). GAC may, at any time, call for a confirmatory assignment of that goodwill and the accredited CAB shall immediately execute it.

6. SUSPENSION AND TERMINATION:

a) The accredited CAB's rights under this agreement shall automatically and immediately be suspended during any period where the accredited CAB either voluntarily suspends its accreditation or has such a suspension imposed by GAC. The accredited CAB's rights under this agreement shall be automatically reinstated when the suspension of the accredited CAB's accreditation is lifted and the relevant accreditation reinstated. For the avoidance of doubt, the accredited CAB shall not use the GAC Accredited CAB Combined ILAC MRA Mark during any period of suspension.

b) GAC reserves the right to terminate this Agreement by giving notice in writing if the accredited CAB is in default of its obligations under this Agreement.

c) This Agreement will terminate automatically and immediately without the need for prior notification if:

- the accredited CAB becomes insolvent, or if an order is made or a resolution is passed for the winding up of the accredited CAB, or if an administrator, administrative receiver or receiver is appointed in respect of the whole or any part of the accredited CAB's assets or business, or if the accredited CAB makes any composition with its creditors or takes or suffers any similar or analogous action in consequence of debt;
- the accredited CAB has its accreditation withdrawn by GAC;
- the accredited CAB resigns its accreditation;

or on the occasion that:

- GAC is suspended from the ILAC MRA;
- GAC ILAC membership or the MRA is terminated;
- The registration of the ILAC MRA Mark is cancelled by trademark authorities or is not renewed.

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d) Upon the termination of this Agreement, the accredited CAB no longer has the right to use the GAC Accredited CAB Combined ILAC MRA Mark and the accredited CAB shall cease all such use.

6. LAW and JURISDICTION:

This Agreement shall be governed and construed in accordance with Saudi law and the Parties irrevocably agree that the Saudi courts are to have jurisdiction to settle any disputes and to entertain any suit, action or proceedings arising out of or in connection with this Agreement or relating to any non-contractual obligations arising from or in connection with this Agreement.

7. DECLARATION:

I declare that I am authorized, on behalf of the accredited CAB, to submit this application, and that GAC accreditation is held by the accredited CAB for the following disciplines in which the accredited CAB is applying to use the GAC Accredited CAB Combined ILAC MRA Marks.

Testing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Calibration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medical	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inspection	<input type="checkbox"/>
RMP	<input type="checkbox"/>
PTP	<input type="checkbox"/>

This Agreement has been entered into on the date of signature of both parties.

Signed on behalf of the accredited CAB

Signed on behalf of GAC

.....

.....

Name:

Name:

Position:

Position: **Accreditation Services Manager**

Date:

Date: