

Designated NMIs and designated institutes

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July 2002

The following note is an explanation of the text of the CIPM MRA insofar as it concerns designated NMIs and designated institutes, covering also the results of key comparisons and CMCs from these institutes and their entry into Appendices B and C of the MRA

1. Each Member State has one or more institutes that have been designated by its government as a national metrology institute (NMI) responsible for national measurement standards; in the case where a Member State has designated more than one NMI, one of these has signed the CIPM MRA on behalf of all (MRA para 1.4). All designated institutes appear in the List of Signatories of the MRA on the BIPM website, both directly and in Appendix A of the MRA accessible through the BIPM key comparison database (KCDB).
2. In addition, as many NMIs do not cover all areas of metrology, Appendix A of the MRA (MRA para 1.4) lists the names of other institutes that have been designated as responsible for certain national standards. These other designated institutes are not necessarily known as NMIs, although they may be.
3. We interpret the MRA to mean that only institutes listed in Appendix A are allowed to enter the results of key comparisons and CMCs in Appendices B and C of the MRA.
4. Participation in key comparisons is open to institutes that are nominated by the designated NMI (para 6.1) as being responsible for the relevant national measurement standards, although in some cases the nominated institute may not be an NMI. At the time of its participation in the key comparison, the name of the institute does not necessarily have to appear in Appendix A. However, if at a future date the institute wishes to enter the results of the comparison and subsequent CMCs in Appendices B and C, then in accordance with point 3 its name must first be listed in Appendix A.
5. Designation of an institute for Appendix A can be by letter addressed to the Director of the BIPM from either the Director of the signatory NMI of that country or an appropriate national government or other official authority (para 1.4).
6. The responsibilities of NMIs and of designated institutes that appear in Appendix A of the MRA are the same with regard to the rules and procedures of the MRA and in respect of the content of Appendices B and C (paras 2.1 and 2.2).
7. Withdrawal from the Arrangement is allowed for in paragraph 11.2; this applies equally to NMIs and to designated institutes. Withdrawal is presumed to be within the prerogative of the same authority (or its successor) that originally approved the entry of the institute or NMI into the MRA.