RECOMMENDATION ADOPTED BY THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

RECOMMENDATION 1 (CI-2004):
On the relationship between national metrology institutes (NMIs) and
nationally recognised accreditation bodies (NABs)

The International Committee for Weights and Measures,

considering that the 22nd General Conference on Weights and Measures,
in its Resolution 11, welcomed the recent CIPM-ILAC Memorandum of
Understanding between the International Committee for Weights and
Measures and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation
(ILAC), and

called upon all accreditation organizations to recognize that NMIs and
accredited calibration laboratories together provide an indispensable route
to traceability to the SI and hence to reliability in measurements and
worldwide comparability of measurement results for the whole economy
and society and that they should work closely together, and

recommended

• that Member Governments of the Metre Convention ensure that an
appropriate relationship exists between NMIs and NABs, and

• that this relationship fosters collaboration on matters concerning
traceability of measurement results and ensures effective and
complementary actions under the CIPM MRA and the ILAC
arrangement,

noting

• that NMIs provide the essential technical information to ensure the
existence of effective national measurement systems as the route to
traceability to the SI,

• that recent developments, including those in documentary standards,
are leading to an undue separation of some NMIs and some NABs,
recommends that

- NMIs and NABs work closely together to ensure that this essential technical exchange takes place, and

- appropriate safeguards are put in place to ensure impartiality,

and further notes that nothing in this recommendation or in Resolution 11 of the 22nd General Conference on Weights and Measures implies a particular model for a relationship between an NMI and an NAB.