SECTION 1: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

(Note: This summary was presented to RvA on 12.11.2021 following conclusion of the evaluation. The original signed copy is maintained by EA Secretariat.)

(a) Whether the EA MLA signatory status of RvA for the accreditation of testing laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025) including medical laboratories (ISO 15189), calibration laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025), inspection bodies (ISO/IEC 17020), reference material producers (ISO 17034), proficiency testing providers (ISO/IEC 17043), managements system certification bodies (ISO/IEC 17021-1), product certification bodies (ISO/IEC 17065), certification bodies of persons (ISO/IEC 17024), validation and verification bodies (ISO 14065) should be maintained.

The evaluation was conducted in accordance with, and against the requirements specified in EA-2/02.

The evaluation team has the pleasure to confirm that the overall operation of RvA is in accordance with the requirements of EA-2/02. In particular:

(a) RvA operates its testing laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025) including medical laboratories (ISO 15189), calibration laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025), inspection bodies (ISO/IEC 17020), reference material producers (ISO 17034), proficiency testing providers (ISO/IEC 17043), managements system certification bodies (ISO/IEC 17021-1), product certification bodies (ISO/IEC 17065), certification bodies of persons (ISO/IEC 17024), validation and verification bodies (ISO 14065) accreditation programme(s) substantially in accordance with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17011:2017

(b) Laboratories accredited by RvA have been assessed against and found to comply with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025;

(c) Medical testing laboratories accredited by RvA have been assessed against and found to comply with the requirements of ISO 15189;

(d) Inspection bodies accredited by RvA have been assessed against and found to comply with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17020 and ILAC P15;

(e) Reference material producers accredited by RvA have been assessed against and found to comply with the requirements of ISO 17034;

(f) Proficiency testing providers accredited by RvA have been assessed against and found to comply with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043;

(g) Management System Certification Bodies accredited by RvA have been assessed against and found to comply with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021-1, the relevant standards for each scope of certification and the relevant IAF Mandatory Applications (IAF MD);

(h) Product Certification Bodies accredited by RvA have been assessed against and found to comply with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065;

(i) Certification Bodies of Persons accredited by RvA have been assessed against and found to comply with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17024;

(j) Validation and verification bodies accredited by RvA have been assessed against and found to comply with the requirements of ISO 14065 and relevant EA/IAF mandatory Applications;

(k) RvA adopts and substantially implements the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) policy on traceability of measurement results (ILAC-P10), and a satisfactory measurement support can be provided to RvA accredited laboratories, inspection bodies, reference material producers, and proficiency testing providers in the basic physical units;

(l) RvA adopts and substantially implements the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) supplementary requirements and guidelines for the use of accreditation symbols and for claims of accreditation status (ILAC-P8);

(m) RvA permanent staff are skilled and satisfactorily technically qualified for the functions they perform, and the organisation has accreditation experience. RvA has access to a sufficient number of well qualified, experienced and competent external Technical Assessors and Experts;

(n) RvA has a well-established accreditation process which is applied consistently to the accreditation of its laboratories, inspection bodies, reference material producers, proficiency testing providers, management system certification bodies for QMS, EMS, FSMS, ISMS, MDMS, EnMS, OHSMS, FAMI QS, FSSC 22000, product certification bodies, certification bodies of persons, GHG validation and verification bodies;

(o) RvA has the necessary commitment, financial and other resources to continue to operate an independent (suite of) accreditation programme(s);

(p) RvA and its accredited calibration laboratories meet the ILAC P14 requirements for uncertainty in calibration.

(q) RvA and its accredited laboratories meet, as far as practicable, the ILAC-P9 requirements for proficiency testing activity and has participated in a number of PT programmes if applicable. The performance of their accredited laboratories since 22 – 27 January 2018 and 15-18 May 2018 EA peer evaluation has been generally satisfactory, and outliers have been investigated.

(r) RvA has documented and implemented an appropriate cross- frontier accreditation policy taking into account ILAC-G21

(s) RvA fulfils its MLA obligations under EA-1/06 and the ILAC MRA document ILAC-P5, and; IAF MLA document IAF ML 4, and;

(t) RvA has implemented the General principles on use of the IAF MLA Mark (IAF ML2) and the Rules for the Use of the ILAC MRA Mark (ILAC R7);

(u) The assessment and surveillance activities of RvA provide a degree of assurance such that the results and data obtained by RvA accredited organisations are equivalent to those issued by organisations accredited by other EA MLA partners.

In addition, the evaluation team has verified the implementation of the actions taken by RvA to address the findings of the previous evaluation and found that they were generally addressed satisfactorily.

During this remote evaluation the RvA offices in Utrecht, the Netherlands were not visited, and the team witnessed 2 assessments remotely as detailed in Section 2.4.

All the assessments witnessed were, without exception, of a high standard in terms of their scope and depth.

The evaluation team was impressed with the expertise and commitment of staff and assessment teams; the quality and thoroughness of assessments; active participation in international organisations (EA, IAF, ILAC); knowledge of and adherence to procedures; and ability to navigate around the management/record systems.

13 non-conformities and 12 comments were raised by the evaluation team. The 13 non-conformities relate to process requirements (6 NCs), management system requirements (3 NCs), resource requirements (2 NCs), general requirements (1 NC) and information requirements (1 NC).
Full details of all non-conformities and comments are given in Annex 1 to this report.

RvA is required to provide a Corrective Action and Response Report to the Team Leader within 1 month of receipt of this Report before the evaluation team can:

(i) forward any recommendation to the Regional Body Decision Making Body (EA MAC) on reaffirming its signatory status for existing EA MLA scope.

The Corrective Action and Response Report must include details of the cause analysis, including the extent of the non-conformity (ies) and its impact, and the appropriate action (correction and/or corrective action).

The AB must provide the peer evaluation team with evidence of the cause analysis and an action plan and time schedule for implementation of the action. Based on the risk associated with a finding, the AB may also be required to provide evidence of the effective implementation of the action. Wherever possible, the need for the provision of such evidence will be stated in the report.

RvA is also encouraged to respond to the Comments.

The evaluation team would like to thank RvA and its staff for their co-operation in the arrangements for and conduct of the evaluation. The evaluation team would also like to thank the RvA external assessors, and the accredited and applicant organisations involved in the witnessing of assessments for their co-operation.

[redacted], Team Leader

[redacted], Deputy Team Leader &Team Member, Product Certification

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[redacted], Team Member, Calibration

[redacted], Team Member, Medical testing

[redacted], Team Member, Testing

[redacted], Team Member, Inspection

[redacted], Team Member, Proficiency Testing Providers

[redacted], Team Member, Reference Material Producers

[redacted], Team Member, Management System Certification

[redacted], Team Member, Certification of Persons

[redacted], Team Member, Validation & Verification

12.11.2021