



To:
Whom it may concern

Direct line: +44(0) 20 8917 8420
Direct fax: +44(0) 20 8917 8500
Email: tony.vernel@ukas.com
Your reference: MLA-UKAS/RvA
Our reference: EA MLA
Date: 01 August 2007

Dear Sir/Madam

MLA – UKAS/RvA Enquiry

Thank you for your enquiry.

The European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA) is a European Association of accreditation bodies and other interested stakeholders that aims to facilitate European trade by working to remove barriers that may result from marketplace demands for specific tests and/or calibrations. To accomplish this objective, the EA has established a Multilateral Arrangement or Agreement, referred to as the EA MLA, among its accreditation body members. The purpose of the EA MLA is to ensure that accreditations and the certificates issued by testing/calibration laboratories accredited by EA MLA signatories are the result of competently conducted assessments.

Each EA MLA signatory recognises the outcomes of the other accreditation bodies as equivalent to its own, and recommends and promotes the acceptance of the test/calibration certificates/reports within the recognised scopes from the testing/calibration laboratories accredited by the EA MLA signatories as being on an equal basis with those of its own accredited bodies. Both UKAS and RvA are signatories to the EA MLA.

Additional information on EA, the EA MLA, as well as a list of EA MLA Signatories is available at: <http://www.european-accreditation.org/> or from the UKAS website <http://www.ukas.com/> UKAS and RvA participate in the EA MLA for the accreditation of testing/calibration laboratories. As EA MLA signatories, accreditation bodies and the testing/calibration laboratories they accredit are required to operate in a competent manner and in accordance with appropriate international standards. Testing/calibration laboratories accredited by UKAS, RvA and the other EA MLA signatories must be competent to conduct assessments of organisations in accordance with the applicable international standard, ISO/IEC 17025:2005 - General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories. As a consequence of the above we recognise the accreditation results of the other EA MLA signatories as being equivalent to our own results.

I trust that this helps to clarify the situation

Yours faithfully

Tony Vernel
UKAS Business Information Manager