

**Reconnaissance mutuelle**  
des étalons nationaux de mesure  
et des certificats d'étalonnage et de mesurage  
émis par les laboratoires nationaux de métrologie

Paris, le 14 octobre 1999



**Mutual recognition**  
of national measurement standards  
and of calibration and measurement certificates  
issued by national metrology institutes

Paris, 14 October 1999

Comité international des poids et mesures

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Bureau  
International  
des poids  
et mesures

Organisation  
Intergouvernementale  
de la Convention  
du Mètre

**RECONNAISSANCE MUTUELLE**  
**DES ÉTALONS NATIONAUX DE MESURE**  
**ET DES CERTIFICATS D'ÉTALONNAGE ET DE MESURAGE**  
**ÉMIS PAR LES LABORATOIRES NATIONAUX DE MÉTROLOGIE**

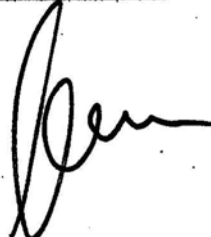
Arrangement rédigé par le Comité international des poids et mesures (CIPM) en vertu de l'autorité qui lui est conférée par les États membres de la Convention du Mètre

**MUTUAL RECOGNITION**  
**OF NATIONAL MEASUREMENT STANDARDS**  
**AND OF CALIBRATION AND MEASUREMENT CERTIFICATES**  
**ISSUED BY NATIONAL METROLOGY INSTITUTES**

Arrangement drawn up by the International Committee of Weights and Measures under the authority given to it in the Metre Convention

Ce document sera soumis à la signature des directeurs des laboratoires nationaux de métrologie (LNM) des États membres de la Convention du Mètre, à partir du 14 octobre 1999, date de leur réunion à l'occasion de la 21<sup>e</sup> Conférence générale des poids et mesures.

*This document will be open for signature by directors of the national metrology institutes (NMIs) of the Member States of the Metre Convention starting from 14th October 1999, at a meeting of directors that will take place on the occasion of the 21st General Conference of Weights and Measures.*

Nom/Name Signature	LNM/NMI*	État/State	BIPM Signature
<i>P. Hedberg</i>	<i>NMI - IRELAND</i>	<i>IRELAND</i>	

\*Tous les laboratoires et instituts mentionnés dans cette colonne participent à cet arrangement.  
*This arrangement covers all the institutes listed here.*

## The essential points of the BIPM Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)

The MRA has been drawn up by the International Committee of Weights and Measures (CIPM), under the authority given to it in the Metre Convention, for signature by directors of the NMIs of Member States of the Convention and Associates of the CGPM.

### Objectives

- to establish the degree of equivalence of national measurement standards maintained by NMIs;
- to provide for the mutual recognition of calibration and measurement certificates issued by NMIs;
- thereby to provide governments and other parties with a secure technical foundation for wider agreements related to international trade, commerce and regulatory affairs.

### Process

- international comparisons of measurements, to be known as key comparisons;
- supplementary international comparisons of measurements;
- quality systems (to ISO 17025) and demonstrations of competence by NMIs.

### Outcome

- statements of the measurement capabilities of each NMI in a [database](#) maintained by the BIPM and publicly available on the Web.

### Engagement

NMI directors sign the MRA with the approval of the appropriate authorities in their own country and thereby:

- accept the process specified in the MRA for establishing the database;
- recognize the results of key and supplementary comparisons as stated in the database;
- recognize the calibration and measurement capabilities of other participating NMIs as stated in the database.

### Exclusions

- signature of the MRA engages NMIs but not necessarily any other agency in their country;
- responsibility for the results of calibrations and measurements rests wholly with the NMI that makes them and is not, through the MRA, extended to any other participating NMI.

### [Organizational structure](#)

- overall coordination is by the BIPM under the authority of the CIPM, which is itself under the authority of the Member States of the Metre Convention;
- the Consultative Committees of the CIPM, the Regional Metrology Organizations and the BIPM are responsible for carrying out the key and supplementary comparisons;
- a Joint Committee of the Regional Metrology Organizations and the BIPM (the [JCRB](#)) is responsible for analysing and transmitting entries into the database for the calibration and measurement capabilities declared by the NMIs.