

	ACCREDITATION FEDERATION Membership Guide	Document No:	AF-G.002
		Release Date:	21-01-2023
		Rev Date / No:	0

1. Scope

This document is a guide explaining the working style, duties and responsibilities of AF members.

2. Classes of Membership

Members are drawn from all over the world and may hold either of classes of Membership:

- Global Accreditation Groups
- Accreditation Organization
- Conformity Assessment Body
- Institutions
- Organizations
- Scheme Owners
- Individual Members
- Multilateral Recognition Membership (MR Membership)

2.1 Federation Membership:

Accreditation bodies, institutes, conformity assessment bodies, organizations, scheme owners, individual members that are interested in accreditation and quality systems and want to become a member of the AF, and legal entities who declare that they will comply with all obligations and rules specified in “*AF-G.001 Constitution*”. Federation membership includes many sub-group membership options, these sub-membership options are listed on accredit.org. The most up-to-date information is available on the website here.

Federation membership types:

- Global Accreditation Groups
- Accreditation Organization
- Conformity Assessment Body
- Institutions
- Organizations
- Scheme Owners
- Individual Members

2.2 Multilateral Recognition Membership (MR Membership):

AF Federation Membership who meet the AF Multilateral Recognition (hereinafter referred to as MR) criteria and successfully complete the AF MR evaluations are called AF MR Membership. In order to become a MR Multilateral Member, it is necessary to first apply for AF Federation Membership.

	ACCREDITATION FEDERATION Membership Guide	Document No:	AF-G.002
		Release Date:	21-01-2023
		Rev Date / No:	0

2.3. Multilateral Recognition (MR) Delegation Framework

The Accreditation Federation (AF) operates under a structured delegation model for Multilateral Recognition (MR) assignments, ensuring scalability and consistency while preserving oversight and governance.

Once a Global Accreditation Group (GAG) is granted MR status by the AF, it gains the authority to recommend MR assignments to qualified Accreditation Bodies (ABs) operating under its umbrella. These ABs, in turn, can assign MR status to eligible Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs).

Furthermore, both ABs and CABs recognized under the MR framework may extend MR recognition to organizations, institutions, and entities across all sectors—ranging from diverse industry players to educational and professional institutions—provided they meet the established conformity assessment and technical competency criteria.

This cascading model allows **GAG → AB → CAB → Sectoral Members (Institutes, Organizations, Scheme Owners, etc.)** to facilitate recognition under controlled delegation. However, every MR designation—whether direct or through delegation—**must be formally reviewed and approved by the AF Board of Directors and its Committees.**

This governance ensures all recognitions align with international conformity standards and AF's core values of impartiality, credibility, and integrity.

3. Obligations of Members:

- All members agree to work together worldwide to achieve the common goal of facilitating trade.
- To support the key role of accreditation bodies operating within the international accreditation and quality infrastructure.
- All members shall consist of, and undertake to comply with, organizations or bodies that meet the classification requirements defined herein and such other requirements as may be determined from time to time by the Members.
- All members are obliged to pay the membership fee determined and decided by the AF Executive Committee.
- Federation Membership and MR Membership undertake to attend and vote in the AF General Assembly (hereinafter referred to as GA).
- All AF members declare and accept that they will comply with the decisions taken by the AF General Assembly (GA) and the AF Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as EC).

4. Application of Membership

You can initiate your pre-application for membership by visiting our official website at <https://www.accredit.org/join-us> or by downloading and completing the "AF-F.001 Membership Application Form" and "AF-F.014 Individual Membership Application Form" in PDF format. Once completed, please submit the forms to us via email (membership@accredit.org) for further processing.

	ACCREDITATION FEDERATION Membership Guide	Document No:	AF-G.002
		Release Date:	21-01-2023
		Rev Date / No:	0

5. AF Membership Application Process

After the AF application form is submitted to the AF secretariat, the application form is discussed and decided by the AF board of directors.

The decision taken by the AF board of directors regarding membership is forwarded to the AF secretariat to be conveyed to the candidate member.

The AF secretariat transmits the decision regarding the candidacy to the candidate member to the applicant by e-mail.

6. Published of Members

All AF members are published on the AF's official website www.accredit.org