



ICEC Report for IEC meeting on 7 May 2021

1. ICEC online meetings

An online ICEC meeting was held on 4th September 2020 with draft notes and actions circulated on 20th February 2021. The next online ICEC meeting is planned for 25th June 2021 and is planned to be as an on-line meeting.

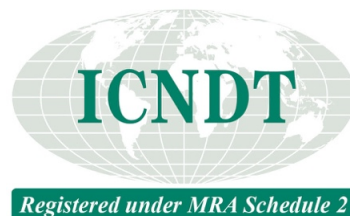
2. Multilateral Recognition Agreement (OP19)

2.1 Status of MRA Schedule 1

- There are 47 signatories to Schedule 1: The latest schedule (dated 07 September 2020) is on the ICNDT website.

2.2 Status of MRA Schedule 2

- There are 20 registrations for Schedule 2. The latest schedule (dated 28 February 2021)
- In the last 12 months; TAF- Chinese Taiwan, National Certification Body for NDT - Sri Lanka and TWI -UK have become schedule 2 members.
- Due to Covid 19 the ICEC have introduced a temporary easing of the re-registration requirements. For those organisations finding difficulty obtaining audits we are allowing the OP19 Form C annual continuity form to be applied. The annual continuity check does not require an audit provided there are no major changes to the scope of the accreditation. This temporary easement was applied in 2020 and due to the ongoing COVID situation is continuing but it has not been required in 2021.
- There are no OP19 renewals due in 2021. China is undergoing the OP20 renewal route this year.
- Revision of OP19 to include an annual continuity returns from PCBs
- OP19 now includes a clarified requirement for an annual continuation of MRA and was applied successfully in 2020.



3. PCB Conformity Assessment (OP20)

3.1 Status

- Currently China is in the process of completing the PCB conformity assessment.

4. Examination Question Bank (OP 23)

4.1 Status

- The ICEC discussed at length the support for the EQB. There were many points raised by the committee.
- The committee concluded that the overwhelming situation is that the cost of developing and running the EQB is considerably higher than the income raised by selling the EQB. Much of the cost would be incurred in maintaining a secure web delivery service which has to be balanced against the low demand for the service.
- The ICNDT status as a charity further complicates the situation. Our finances are run from Austria and under Austrian Law charity and receiving income from a product blurs the distinction under Austrian law making the accounts of ICEC difficult to justify.
- It was decided by the ICEC to 'mothball' the EQB until such time that above mentioned issues could be realistically addressed since I maintain my opinion that this remains a viable commercial opportunity for profit generating entity, especially within the ICNDT.

5. ICNDT Register of PCBs

- The ICNDT register of PCBs has been extended to include MRA membership and all known PCBs have been contacted to supply data. ICEC has recommended that only PCBs which have provided new data should be listed in the public register. The revised register has been published on the ICNDT website. <http://www.icndt.org/What-is-ICNDT/Documents/Document-Store/EntryId/10158>

Colin Bird On behalf of the ICNDT CEC

4 May 2021