

OECD survey of conformity assessment bodies (CABs)

ILAC has been asked by the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) to bring to the attention of its members a current OECD survey of conformity assessment barriers in international trade, and to ask them to encourage ILAC-accredited laboratories to respond via Internet. The OECD¹ is an inter-governmental organisation representing the major economies of the world.

The goal of the approach to ILAC is to optimise responses in the final phase of the survey. Many CABs may already have heard of the survey through other channels such as national accreditation bodies. International response has been good to date, with much substantive data. The larger the total response, the higher the reliability of the final analysis will be.

The survey is accessible on Internet, and will be of interest to CABs who have an interest in international acceptance of their reports, test results, or certificates. It takes no more than 20 minutes to complete, and can be found on:

<http://fs10.formsite.com/ConformityAssessment/form115721948/index.html>

It will be open for response until July 2005.

The survey is one of two currently being conducted by the OECD. The second is aimed at exporters of manufactured goods, and is receiving support from a number of major industry associations. The goals of both surveys are 1) to collect hard, up-to-date information on the downstream effects on international trade of efforts to reduce conformity assessment barriers, and 2) to identify, classify and prioritise barriers perceived in the market today, ten years after the entry into force of the WTO TBT Agreement.

¹ www.oecd.org