

Implementation of TEL MRAs

United States Designating Authority Report

MIC MRA International Workshop

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United States

Topics

- ▶ 1. Introduction and NIST Role
- ▶ 2. Best Practices for Effective TEL MRA Implementation
- ▶ 3. Status of US CAB Designations to EU and Japan

1. Introduction and NIST Role



NIST

- ▶ National Institute of Standards and Technology
 - ▶ Part of the United States Department of Commerce
- ▶ Non-regulatory agency
- ▶ U.S. National Metrology Institute (NMI)
- ▶ Promotes U.S. innovation and industrial competitiveness
- ▶ Supports research and programs to help U.S. industry
 - ▶ Since 1998 - serves as the U.S. Designating Authority (DA) for US government Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) for the conformity assessment (CA) of telecommunications equipment (TEL MRAs)

US TEL MRAs

- ▶ US-EU
 - ▶ All Member States
- ▶ US-EEA EFTA States
 - ▶ Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway
- ▶ US-APEC TEL
 - ▶ Australia, Canada, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore*, Vietnam



- ▶ US-Japan
- ▶ US-Israel
- ▶ US-Mexico
- ▶ US-UK

FCC and NIST - Separate TEL MRA Roles

- ▶ **FCC - Regulatory Authority (RA)**
 - ▶ Establish Equipment Authorization Rules
 - ▶ Recognize US and foreign conformity assessment bodies (CABs) for FCC testing and certification requirements
- ▶ **NIST - Designation Authority (DA)**
 - ▶ Designate US CABS to foreign TEL MRA Partners
 - ▶ Designate US Telecommunication Certification Bodies (TCBs) to FCC

NIST - Designating US CABS to MRA Partners

- ▶ Fulfill the Designating Authority (DA) Role cited is TEL MRA Texts
 - ▶ Accept and review application materials from US CABS
 - ▶ Designate qualified US CABS to MRA Partner telecom regulators
 - ▶ Process MRA Partner recognition letters
 - ▶ Facilitate information exchanges between US CABS, US ABs, and regulators
 - ▶ Manage complaints
 - ▶ Withdrawn designations under certain conditions
 - ▶ Disseminate regulatory/TEL MRA information to stakeholders

NIST - Designating US TCBs to the FCC

- ▶ NIST is also the Designating Authority of US located TCBs to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
 - ▶ [47 CFR 2.962](#)
- ▶ Accept and review applications, and designate TCBs to FCC
- ▶ Maintain TCBs accreditation information up to date.
- ▶ Process TCB changes (location, supporting labs, name, accreditation body)
- ▶ Maintain FCC Key Employees in FCC Database
- ▶ Manage complaints (working with FCC, ABs, and TCBs)

NIST Designation Services for US CABs

Mutual Recognition Agreements for Conformity Assessment of Telecommunications Equipment

Mutual recognition agreements expedite international trade of telecommunications equipment



[Requirements for NIST Designation of U.S. Conformity Assessment Bodies](#)



[U.S. Conformity Assessment Bodies Recognized by MRA Partners](#)



[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Introduction

Mutual Recognition Agreements/Arrangements (MRAs) for conformity assessment are government-to-government agreements to facilitate trade of telecommunications equipment. MRAs establish procedures enabling the Parties to recognize each other's competent conformity assessment bodies (CABs - such as testing laboratories or certification bodies) and to accept the conformity assessment results of those CABs for regulatory purposes.

2. Best Practices for Effective Implementation of TEL MRAs

About The Best Practices

- ▶ For the Scheme Owner (Regulatory Authority)
 - ▶ Successful implementation of the TEL MRAs
 - ▶ Clear requirements
 - ▶ Competent CABs
 - ▶ Greater selection of CABs for use by manufacturers
 - ▶ Compliant products placed on the market

2023 - Four Best Practices for Effective MRA Implementation Introduced



1. Transparency

Documenting the Scheme Requirements



2. CAB Competency

Providing Assessment Checklists



3. Transition Times

Building in Transitions Periods for Changes in Requirements



4. Ongoing Training

Participating in Regular Information Sharing/Training Opportunities

2024: Four More Best Practices for Effective Implementation



5. Review CAB Results

Review CAB results and provide timely feedback for improved performance of all CABs



6. System for Inquiries

Establish a system for responding to CAB and other stakeholder technical inquiries and interpretation requests in a timely and consistent manner



7. Lists of CABs

Publish accurate list of recognized CABs and maintain the lists up-to-date



8. Notify Changes

Notify anticipated changes to the scheme and technical requirements to stakeholders using the WTO ePing system

Examples of These Best Practices



5. Review CAB Results

Japan/MIC reviewed test reports and provides RCBs with feedback

Canada/ISED provides CBs with feedback on issues found in certification reports and accepted test reports



6. System for Inquiries

US/FCC Knowledge Database Base - [Submit an Inquiry](#)



7. Lists of CABs

See US TEL MRA Partner Lists [here](#)



8. Notify Changes

See Japan ePing notifications for the revisions to the Radio Act [here](#).

See Canada/ISED ePing notifications for revised TEL MRA scheme documents [here](#)

3. Status of US Designations to EU (RED) and Japan

EU (RED)

EU - US RED Notified Bodies (NBs)

- ▶ 18 RED NBs located in the US
- ▶ NIST Requirements for NB Designation
- ▶ ISO/IEC 17065 accreditation

EU - US RED Notified Bodies (NBs)

- ▶ Current NIST (Notifying Authority) focus:
 - ▶ NBs accredited and notified by specific Essential Requirements (ERs)
 - ▶ Original: RED Articles 3.1a, 3.1b, 3.2, 3.3g (R&TTED legacy)
 - ▶ Added later:
 - ▶ RED Articles 3.3g (mobile phones/E112), 3.4 (common charger)
 - ▶ NB assessments happening
 - ▶ RED Articles 3.3 d/e/f (cybersecurity)
 - ▶ No assessment occurring yet in US

Locating RED NBs by ER (NANDO/SMCS)

Search options

Country
United States (MRA) ▼

Body type
All types ▼

Notification status
Active ▼

Legislation
2014/53/EU Radio equipment ▼

Procedure / article or annex
All procedures ▼

Products
Article 3.4 ▼

Search results (6)

COUNTRY United States ✕

NOTIFICATION STATUS Active

LEGISLATION 2014/53/EU Radio equipment ✕

PRODUCTS Article 3.4 ✕

Body type ↓↑	Body Name ↓↑	Country ↓↑
NB 0976	CKC Certification Services, LLC	United States (MRA)
NB 0981	Element Materials Technology Portland - Evergreen Inc.	United States (MRA)
NB 1177	Timco Engineering, Inc.	United States (MRA)
NB 1588	ACB, Inc.	United States (MRA)
NB 2280	MiCOM LABS	United States (MRA)
NB 2907	Sporton International (USA) Inc.	United States (MRA)



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EU - Status of NB notifications for cyber ERs

- ▶ Several EU Member States have notified RED NBs for cyber ERs
- ▶ Legal validity for EU TECs for cybersecurity ERs: As of Aug 1, 2025
- ▶ Harmonized standards still under development with CEN/CENELEC
- ▶ NB Competency
 - ▶ Each Member State determines its approach for NB assessment
 - ▶ Radio Equipment Directive Compliance Association REDCA
 - ▶ REDCA posted draft checklist
 - ▶ Rely on existing cybersecurity standards and guidance and practices
 - ▶ Emphasis on competency of NB cybersecurity personnel

Japan

The background features a complex, abstract design of overlapping blue triangles and polygons. The colors range from a light, pale blue to a deep, dark navy blue. The shapes are layered, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall composition is modern and minimalist.

Japan - US Located RCBs

- ▶ 9 US located MIC recognized Registered (Foreign) Certification Bodies (RCBs)
- ▶ Successful implementation of many best practices:
 - ▶ Scheme Document: MIC Certification Manual Spring 2023 Edition ([direct link](#))
 - ▶ Posted on [MIC Radio Use Website](#)
 - ▶ Providing Feedback to Improve Compliance: In January 2024, MIC provided RCBs with individual list of issues/questions identified during MIC test report reviews.
 - ▶ RCBs required to respond by February 9, 2024.
- ▶ Proposed changes notified on e-Ping

Summary

- ▶ NIST is the Designating Authority of US CABs in the United States. NIST shares implementation of the TEL MRA responsibilities with the US regulatory authority, the FCC.
- ▶ There have been many lessons learned during 25 years of TEL MRA implementation. Some of the best practices for successful MRA programs were reviewed and some Economy specific examples were provided.
- ▶ NIST continues to track the regulatory changes in the EU and Japan, and work with the regulatory authorities and US conformity assessment bodies to ensure continued successful implementation of MRAs.

Thank you

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