

## COVID-19 statement

The current COVID-19 situation is causing unprecedented levels of uncertainty for consumers, businesses, regulators and governments.

TIC Council members provide assurance through testing, inspections and certifications that products and services offered by their customers meet fundamental safety and health requirements.

It is critically important to recognize that conformity assessment bodies have a significant role to play for the continued assurance of safe products and services, in particular in safe medical products and services, personal protective equipment, food supply as well as the critical infrastructure. It is crucial that their operations be maintained.

TIC Council members are committed to protect the health and safety of all those involved in the delivery of the assurance services they provide, whether customers or employees.

TIC Council members will continue to provide the best quality of service possible, helping its customers maintain their operations and delivering assurance with the same rigor and confidence they always have.

The industry welcomes the guidance and communications issued by the international accreditation organizations, IAF and ILAC, as follows:

A rapid response mechanism has been created at the Executive Committee level, in the form of the IAF EC Task Force which is tasked with developing IAF FAQs in response to general enquiries regarding the COVID-19 crisis. The Task Force has finalized a second set of FAQ's (<https://iaffaq.com>) and will continue to update it as needed.

The IAF Statement on COVID-19 was published on the IAF web-site on March 4 2019, regarding how IAF member ABs and their accredited CABs are to respond to this situation, i.e. the general mechanism established by IAF in IAF ID3 to respond to extraordinary circumstances affecting ABs, CABs, and Certified Organizations has been activated and the use of IAF MD4:2018. Read the statement at [https://www.iaf.nu/articles/IAF\\_Statement\\_on\\_COVID19/636](https://www.iaf.nu/articles/IAF_Statement_on_COVID19/636)

Backing up the wide range of other standards and policies, these documents help ensure the robustness of the alternative methods that might need to be used by TIC Council members under these exceptional circumstances.

In addition, a joint IAF/ILAC statement on 'Possible delayed peer evaluations and impact on transition to ISO/IEC 17011:2017' due to COVID-19 was developed under the leadership of the JMC Co-Chairs and is available in both the ILAC and IAF sites. It was [published on the IAF website](#) on March 11 2019.

Our fundamental commitment remains strong in maintaining health & safety of those involved in delivering these assurance services and maintaining the levels of rigor and confidence all customers and stakeholders demand.