



***CIPM MRA Guidelines for
Authorship of Key, Supplementary and
Pilot Study Comparison Reports***

CIPM MRA-G-04

VERSION 1



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1. Introduction

It is noted that the number of authors of reports of Key, Supplementary and Pilot Study Comparisons, produced under the aegis of the CIPM MRA, and published in the KCDB and/or METROLOGIA and its electronic supplement, varies strongly from one to fifty.

It is also noted that the conditions to qualify for authorship in the scope of the CIPM MRA have not been defined, which leads to misunderstanding and wrong (over- or under-) appraisal of the real contribution and the quality of that contribution to the report by the different co-authors.

It is recognized that publications are measurable outputs of the work by the NMI/DI and of the contributions by the different participants in the (research and/or comparison) project carried out. In many cases the performance of the institute and of the individual scientist is measured by considering the number of publications produced.

It has also to be remarked that most of the Key, Supplementary and Pilot Study Comparisons reports, although containing scientific interesting and important information, do not contain original research and method development information and thus are not meant to be seen as publications that can qualify for publication in peer reviewed scientific journals.

As a consequence it is recommended to publish **original** scientific research and method development results, also as part of the execution of Key, Supplementary and Pilot Study Comparisons, in a separate article in reviewed scientific journals, by that also reaching out to a wider community.

Several NMIs/DIs have formulated internal rules and criteria for authorship of an article. The requirements for authorship of comparison reports in the scope of the CIPM MRA, as formulated below in this document, are based on authorship criteria applied by NIST, NRC and PTB.

This document is not intended to overrule the internal rules and criteria which apply in the different NMIs/DIs.

2. Requirements for authorship of reports in the scope of the CIPM MRA

In order to qualify as an author of the project/comparison report every individual shall have made at least a substantial intellectual contribution in at least one of the following activities:

- conception, experimental design and evolution of the project/comparison;
- scientific performance of the research, having executed at least one or more significant aspects of the project/comparison;
- creative analysis, interpretation and calculations of the measurement data;
- creative writing up of the manuscript and documenting the project with all its data and results.

Applying these criteria means that there will not be just one sole author, but that from every participating NMI/DI at least one person will qualify as a co-author, inasmuch as at least one person has carried out the measurements and by that has contributed substantially in the execution of the comparison.

General supervision of the project/comparison (e.g. by laboratory managers) does not qualify for authorship.

Authors should be able to present, explain and defend their contribution to the project/comparison self-reliant to outside experts and at scientific/technical conferences and workshops.

All co-authors should have been able to review the content of the article and give consent. They are jointly responsible for the quality and content of the publication.

Authors need to have the authority from their managers to act as an (co-)author.

If desirable, in a separate chapter of the article acknowledgement can be given to those persons also having contributed to the project/comparison, for example with important technical assistance, data collection, review of the manuscript and funding of the project/comparison (this may include heads of laboratories having made available the necessary means and having approved the execution of the project/comparison).

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3. Revision History

Version number	Date of Issue/Review	Summary of change
1	2011-10-14	Initial version approved by JCRB as JCRB 27/10 Approved by CIPM as CIPM 2011-10