

PROCESS FOR SUBSEQUENT BILATERAL KEY COMPARISONS

NOTES

1. Subsequent bilateral key comparisons are normally carried out for one of the following reasons:
 - a) After completing a key comparison, an institute that considers its result unrepresentative of its standards may request a subsequent bilateral comparison with one of the other participants.
 - b) An institute that was not ready to participate at the time a key comparison was conducted may request a subsequent bilateral comparison with one of the participants.
2. The results of subsequent key comparisons may be added to the data for the previous key comparison in the KCDB, with a note specifying that these results correspond to the subsequent comparison. When the CCs choose this option, no KCRV is computed for these new results and they are not used to modify the KCRV obtained from the results of the original participants. In those cases, degrees of equivalence are computed for the participants in the subsequent comparison with respect to all other participants and to the previous KCRV.
3. The results of subsequent key comparisons may be assigned a separate identifier at the request of a consultative committee. This identifier will usually be the name of the previous comparison plus a suffix. The complete results of the linked key and subsequent comparisons are shown in exactly the same form in the page of the previous key comparison and that of the subsequent comparison. However, the link for "Participants" in the page for the subsequent comparison lists only the laboratories that participated in this exercise.
4. Bilateral comparisons are no longer assigned the special identifier "BK" for registration in the KCDB. This allows potential additional participants to join in the comparison without the need to modify the identifier. The few previous bilaterals identified as such in the KCDB and approved for provisional equivalence will be archived as new comparison results become available.
5. As indicated in the Guidelines for Key Comparisons, bilateral comparisons of standards with long-term stability, normally carried out by the BIPM in the areas of length, electricity and ionizing radiation, as well as the regular calculation of the atomic time scales, are conducted according to special arrangements that are not covered by this document.
6. **Bilateral Supplementary Comparisons** should follow the same procedure as multilateral supplementary comparisons, explained in Document JCRB-8/19b_rev "[Flowchart of the supplementary comparison process](#)"

FLOWCHART FOR SUBSEQUENT BILATERAL KCs

