

## **Announcement of ILO Seafarers' Identity Documents Biometric Interoperability Test Number 4 (ISBIT-4)**

The International Labour Organization (ILO is a Specialized Agency of the United Nations (UN). In June 2003, the ILO adopted the [Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention \(Revised\), 2003 \(Convention No. 185\)](#). A companion technical document, [ILO SID-0002 Finger Minutiae-Based Biometric Profile for Seafarers' Identity Documents](#), defines a two fingerprint minutiae template to be stored on a two dimensional barcode contained in each SID. In order to successfully implement ILO Convention No. 185, Seafarers' Identity Documents (SIDs) issued in each ratifying State must be able to be used for verifying a seafarer's identity in every other State to which that seafarer travels in the course of his or her duties. This is done using fingerprint matching based on the two fingerprint minutiae template and constitutes the world's first globally interoperable biometric verification system.

As more and more countries deploy ILO SID systems, there is a continuing need to ensure that all of the biometric technologies they employ are interoperable. Three biometric conformance and interoperability tests have been carried out. In each test a number of biometric products, each consisting of a fingerprint enrolment and verification algorithm coupled with a specific fingerprint sensor, have been evaluated for conformance to the technical standards specified in ILO SID-0002 and for interoperability with one another. The ILO publishes an approved products list that includes only those products that are fully conformant and can obtain an average equal error rate of 1% when they match fingerprints using templates from all other qualified products and when all other qualified products match fingerprints using templates that they have produced. So far, in the three previous tests, a total of nine products have achieved this goal.

With new technologies becoming available and more companies from different parts of the world entering the market, there is now a need for a fourth ILO SID Biometric Interoperability Test (ISBIT-4). Companies participating in this test will benefit from the feedback provided on their conformance and interoperability results and, if they are successful in meeting the interoperable performance criterion, from the ability to sell products for the ILO SID market and to position their products for other markets requiring fingerprint interoperability with ISO standardized minutiae templates. Since there is an interactive tuning period before the formal test begins, vendors will be given an opportunity to improve their products to enhance interoperability if required. Once the data acquisition begins, however, the products may not be modified as fingerprint capture software tends to be one of the most important contributors towards fingerprint quality and thus interoperable performance.

The timeline for this test is as shown below:

Commitment of participation required	July 31, 2008
Each vendor provides 5 algorithm licenses and 2 acquisition sensors for their product(s) configured to work with the ISBIT API. Full payment is also due at this time.	August 7, 2008
Integration of vendor projects, conformance testing and feedback with vendors	August 8, 2008 – September 5, 2008
Live capture of fingerprints from test subjects	September 8, 2008 – October 10, 2008
Offline processing and analysis complete	November 7, 2008
Draft report submitted to ISO/IEC JTC-1 SC 37 for review and comments	November 21, 2008
Final report sent to ILO	December 31, 2008

Companies interested in submitting a product to be tested should confirm with the point of contact as soon as possible, but definitely no later than July 31, 2008.

Please note the following:

- The names of the participating vendors will be provided on request to the International Labour Organization but will not otherwise be disclosed unless the vendor achieves the necessary performance to become a qualified product. This means that the test report will anonymize the vendors.
- The hardware and software for every product must be submitted to Bion. At the end of the testing, if a product is not found to be in compliance with the ILO requirements, then all copies will be returned. If a product is found to be compliant, then the hardware and software will be retained for so long as necessary to facilitate any future tests.