

UKAS Environmental Management Systems Advisory Committee	
Date	Tuesday, 12 April 2011 1300 – 1700Hrs
Location	Board Room, UKAS, 21-47 High Street, Feltham, Middlesex TW13 4UN

MINUTES

1. **Welcome and Apologies** **ACTION**
Attendance - see Annex 1.

2. **Issues from previous meeting** **UKAS**
EA-7/04
Some members recalled making comments in response to a UKAS consultation on EA-7/04 following the last meeting in 2009. Members asked if the responses could be reported to the committee. UKAS agreed to check the files for responses. Since the last meeting, members had noted more emphasis from EMS auditors on legal compliance evaluation.

BS 8901 Sustainable events management

Members were aware that unaccredited certification was taking place against this standard.

UKAS Environmental Policy

There had been some meetings to develop this policy, but there had been no recent activity.

Standards

ISO 14005 (Staged approach to EMS) had been published, but had not been accepted by CEN. It would not be adopted in the UK as a British standard.

Proposals for revision to ISO 14001 and ISO 9001 would mean that in the longer term they and other management systems standards would have a common format that was likely to be different from the present. However it was unlikely that the actual requirements of ISO 14001 would change substantially. There will be an opportunity to comment through the BSI Standards committee process.

3. **UKAS Revised Committee Structure**

UKAS has reviewed the Advisory Committees that exist to support the accreditation activities in the area of Management System Certification and has decided to replace QMSAC and EMSAC with a single technical advisory committee to support the accreditation of management system certification bodies. The scope of the new committee will be broader and will cover all the activities that are accredited under ISO/IEC 17021. The committee will also establish specific task groups and sub committees where necessary to support specific management system areas where there is a need to focus on issues unique to that particular area of management system certification, for example EMS and EMAS.

The new Technical Advisory Committee will be established in accordance with UKAS procedures and UKAS will ensure that we have adequate

technical expertise within the group as well as a balanced representation of interested parties. UKAS is currently in the process of drafting the Terms of reference for the Committee and determining the membership.

It is anticipated that most of EMSAC's new work items, current activities and membership will be transferred in to the new committee structure as a sub-committee. The role of the new main committee will be to focus on generic ISO/IEC 17021 issues of which the current EMSAC membership will also have an interest.

UKAS very much appreciates the support that the existing EMSAC has provided UKAS over the past years and hopes very much that this can continue within the new committee structure.

EMSAC members asked to be informed about the timescales for the above changes, and wished to see the constitution and terms of reference in order for them to make comments before the new arrangements are finalised.

Lorraine Turner

If current EMSAC members have any comments or concerns in advance of the launch of the new structure please address them to Lorraine Turner, Divisional Director (Technical) lorraine.turner@ukas.com

Overseas activities update

The main development had been the Accreditation Regulation 765/2008. Members were interested in the likely financial impact UKAS.

5. Transition to ISO/IEC 17021: 2011

All

This project is being managed within UKAS by the Technical Department. UKAS is in the process of completing a gap analysis and determining training requirements. Certification Bodies will shortly receive a request to complete and submit their own gap analysis in advance of UKAS assessments, which will take place during routine surveillance/ reassessment visits due after Autumn 2011. This should allow sufficient time for the transition to be completed in advance of the 2 year deadline set by IAF (Feb 2013)

6. UKAS EMS activity since the ISO 17021: 2006 transition, including trends from assessment visits

All

The main issues noted by UKAS EMS assessors concerned competence of auditors, particularly relating to the sector specific activities of the client, and to auditing of the requirement for legal compliance evaluation. There were also issues relating to reporting and planning. It was considered that ISO 17021: 2011 would help to address some of these issues. UKAS assessment had focused on these issues.

Members considered that EMS audits should focus on the big environmental issues, and not just on the most recent legislation, which could result in non-conformities being missed.

Unaccredited certification was still a problem, and there was a general feeling that all parties need to raised and maintain awareness of accredited certification.

7. EMAS Regulation No. 1221 / 2009 (EMAS 3) All

UKAS and IEMA have been confirmed as the UK accreditation body and competent body respectively under the revised Regulation. The UK would not be accrediting individual verifiers, and would not be accepting registrations from outside the EU. No requests for either had so far been made.

Verifiers and registered organisations had experienced difficulty in reporting on the core indicators, and it was felt that this was discouraging participation in the scheme. It was however felt that sectoral guidance, when available from the Commission, would help with interpretation. Benchmarking guidance was in development for the retail, public administration, construction and tourism sectors. As this guidance would be publicly available it was hoped that it would help cross fertilisation between EMS and EMAS. There is a further Commission priority list of sectors, including agriculture.

DEFRA was working on UK guidance, of example regarding biodiversity.

8. De-regulation and the role of 3rd party assurance;

BIS was looking at alternatives to regulation, such as certification to standards. It was undertaking a gap analysis to see where there were currently no appropriate standards, and also considering whether there should be alternatives to certification.

EA, UKAS and IEMA were working on a development project ("EMS Plus") which would involve an additional protocol or checklist of issues that the regulator wanted auditors to address for permitted sites. The incentive for organisations to participate would be reduced visits from the regulator, but the certification audit duration would need to increase, which would lead to increased certification charges. The scheme would be voluntary, and would only apply to organisations with a good compliance record.

The aim is for the pilot scheme to be complete by April 2012. Issues to be addressed included competence of auditors, impartiality and confidentiality.

Members considered that the above schemes were exciting opportunities and asked for progress to be reported at the next meeting.

9. UKAS EMS resources

Andrew Marlow and Martyn Cheesbrough had left as UKAS full-time employees during 2010, and Janet Gascoigne had recently moved to the Development Department. However, three new full-time EMS assessment managers had been recruited and were being trained. UKAS also has a number of external EMS resources.

10. UKAS update on relevant projects in development

Projects of relevance to the committee included:

- PAS 141 Reuse of WEEE.
- Green Deal (installation of energy efficient products)

- CRC
- Tyre derived rubber materials
- Environmental Technologies Verification pre-programme

UKAS welcomes input from members on potential schemes

11. **Any Other Business** **All**
There was no AOB.
12. **Next Meeting** **All**
Members would be asked for availability during September 2011.
Members expressed a preference for a central London venue, and Phil Case had offered the PWC offices.

ATTENDANCE LIST

PRESENT

Name	Organisation	e-mail
Martin Baxter	IEMA	m.baxter@iema.net
David Hayward	UKAS	David.hayward@ukas.com
Matthew Payne	Rolls-Royce Plc	matthew.payne@rolls-royce.com
Anne-Marie Warris	Lloyds Register and ISO TC 207	Anne-marie.warris@lr.org
Steve Nolan	Halo Sustainability	Steve.nolan@halosustainability.com
Tom Bramley	CESM	sustainablehelp@dim3.co
Noel Bell	NIEA	Noel.bell@doeni.gov.uk
Martin Hockaday	NQA/ABCB	Martin.hockaday@nqa.com
Sackey Bennin	DEFRA	Sackey.ea.bennin@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Richard Lawson	BIS	Richard.lawson@bis.gov.uk
Janet Gascoigne	UKAS	Janet.gascoigne@ukas.com

APOLOGIES

Name	Organisation	Comments
Catherine Golds	Ascertiva (NQA)/ABCB	Represented by Martin Hockaday
Lorraine Turner	UKAS	
Roger Venables	Crane Environmental	
Phil Case	PWC	

NO REPLY

Adele Wiseman		Has now left Kirklees
Jeremy Stephens	Env Agency	