

**Minutes of the  
UKAS Environmental Management Systems Advisory Committee Meeting  
held on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at UKAS, Feltham**

**Present:**

Martin Baxter	IEMA (Chairman)
Andrew Marlow	UKAS (Technical Secretary)
Tom Bramley	Centre for Sustainability and Environmental Management
Phil Case	PricewaterhouseCoopers
Martyn Cheesbrough	UKAS
Janet Gascoigne	UKAS
Catherine Golds	Association of British Certification Bodies
Matthew Payne	Rolls-Royce
Jeremy Stephens	Environment Agency
Anne-Marie Warris	International Independent Organization for Certification (UK)
Adele Wiseman	Kirklees Council

**Apologies**

David Hayward	UKAS
Nigel Marsh	Rolls-Royce
Clay McCarthy	DBERR
Lorraine Turner	UKAS
Chris Thomas	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Graham Talbot	UKAS

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairman welcomed the Committee and apologised for the postponement of the earlier meeting scheduled for 14 November 2008.

It was proposed to establish the meeting programme for 2009 to ensure the optimum attendance of the Committee membership.

**2. Minutes of 8 April 2008 Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting was agreed without amendments and so accepted by the Committee as the formal record of the meeting.

**3. Matters Arising**

UKAS has received a formal written confirmation that the Defra representative can represent BERR

The Chairman requested whether UKAS had representation for EU-ETS, PAS 2050:2008 and other associated Green House Gas Schemes.

Changes in the structure of Defra will result in a replacement Defra Representative and Chris Thomas was thanked for his sustained contributions over many years.

The recognition of EA 7/04 within the Environment Agency's EMS Position Statement was subject to a consultation initiated by the Environment Agency with SEPA and NI DoE. The final results would be sent by the Environment Agency to the Technical secretary after all responses have been received.

An open offer was made by UKAS to provide enhanced understanding of accreditation and its outcomes in relation to the outcomes identified in the Environment Agency's EMS Position Statement.

The Chairman raised the issue of EMS in relation to non-regulated organisation within the Environment Agency's EMS Position Statement and was supported by Catherine Golds as her former role as an Environment Agency Area Campaigns Officers.

Jeremy Stephens asked the status of the equivalence of the phases of the different BS 8555:2003 Inspection Schemes, such as Acorn, STEMS and Green Dragon. Janet Gascoigne replied that any phase less than 5 is not equivalent to ISO 14001:2004 certification.

Discussions in relation to the Type A, B and C Inspection Bodies, the evaluation of environmental outcomes, the differences between Inspection and Certification Bodies, the developments in the Netherlands,

### **ISO 14005**

The development of ISO 14005 has had a difficult ride and it is anticipated that a DIS will be released later in December 2008 with a five month consultation. Failure to be adopted by CEN will mitigate the requirement to withdraw BS 8555:2003.

### **BS8901 - specification for sustainable events management system**

The current position of UKAS is that it is not able to accredited for the delivery of this British Standard, where the standard comprises elements of a management system certification and other elements of product certification for the actual event. Based on these issues and other feedback, BSI (as the National Standards Body) is reviewing the Standard.

### **Recommendation:**

The Committee advised that UKAS should write to BSI, as the National Standards Body, regarding the current status of the accreditation of BS 8901 and guidance on the potential amendments of the Standard to render it unable to be accredited.

### **PAS 2020**

This new Standard is available for publication and relates the environmental aspects and impacts of the direct marketing sector. The Royal Mail is proposing 0.7p per item reduction for organisations conforming to this Standard.

### **ISO 19011:2002**

This International Standard is being revised and will apply to all management systems with subject specific annexes. A new BSI Committee AUS/1 is the national committee with the Chairman being a registered IEMA EMS Principal Auditor. Anne-Marie Preston is the UKAS representative on this committee.

ISO / IEC 17021 Part 2 is seeking an extension to the delivery of the final International Standard.

#### **Further comments in relation to Comm(301107)04**

The recent Article 14 Committee had not approved the draft guidance due to a lack of a defined process for the approval of such documents.

#### **UKAS Environmental Policy**

The Committee continued its support of the development of an EMS and requested to be Committee be involved as Stakeholders.

#### **UKAS EMSAC Terms of Reference**

UKAS has considered the formal representation of "Greenhouse Gas" issues within its Technical or Advisory Committee structure and, at present, UKAS is satisfied with the technical input from the WS3/7 Committee.

The Chairman requested that UKAS consider the impartiality review process that would normally be provided by a UKAS Advisory Committee, that is absent from the current WS3/7 Committee.

#### **4. Environmental Performance or EMS in Local Government**

Adele Wiseman presented the views of the coordinated input from the Public Sector Network with specific reference to the competency of EMS auditors to audit the strategies, policies and objectives of the public sector as a significant environmental aspect / impact & the proliferation of environmental based standards.

The two related issues were identified as the competency of audits to audit within the Public Sector and the extent of the audit of the Public Sector issues.

The views expressed indicated that there was not specific percentage of the audit time but that the strategic and objective issues should be audited.

A valuable input from the Committee would be the sharing of information of the legal and other requirements including environmental indicators as an expectation of the competence of EMS Auditors of the Public Sector from the Network to UKAS.

A second issue was the proliferation of environmental based standards and their impact on the Public Sector. Specific reference was made to a recently introduced Carbon Trust Standard as an indicator of early action with respect to the Carbon Reduction Commitment requires a payment of £8,000 per year but makes no consideration of the status of the EMS as an indicator of this early commitment.

An additional issues was the role of CPA (Comprehensive Performance Appraisal) of Public Sectors does not fully recognise accredited EMS certification.

#### **Recommendation:**

The Committee recommended that UKAS consider the opportunities for assessing accredited certification bodies with a scope for public sector organisations through its assessment of auditor competence, client files and witnessed assessments.

The Network should consider the sharing of information of the legal and other requirements including environmental indicators as an expectation of the competence of EMS Auditors of the Public Sector from the Network to UKAS.

Clarification could be sought by the Network directly and UKAS through the WS3/7 Committee on the relevance of the Carbon Trust Standard with respect to the Carbon Reduction Commitment.

UKAS should consider the opportunities for accreditation of the Reduction Commitment in relation to verifiers and the organisations. Mike Anderson (Department of Energy and Climate Change) is a relevant contact person.

UKAS should consider the proliferation of the climate change schemes for Carbon trading and their merits of the different levels of verification especially in relation to the value of Carbon. The role of CPA (Comprehensive Performance Appraisal) of Public Sectors does not fully recognise accredited EMS certification.

#### **5. Progress report on ISO / IEC 17021:2006 assessments**

The previously circulated paper Comm (271108)01: Progress report on ISO / IEC 17021:2006(E) assessments was discussed in relation to the data.

The main issues of discussion were:

1. The lack of integrity and management control of the suspended certification bodies, who had been given two years for the transition from ISO/IEC Guide 66:1999(E) to ISO / IEC 17021:2006(E).
2. The number of accredited certificates held under UKAS accreditation by each suspended certification body.
3. The communication of the suspended certification bodies by UKAS to the certified clients.
4. The progress of the international harmonization of the interpretation of competency and / or agreement with the UKAS position.

#### **Recommendation:**

The Committee requested that the final status of the suspension of Certification Bodies should be reported at the next meeting

#### **6. Revision of the EMAS Regulation**

Andrew Marlow introduced the previously circulated document: Proposal for a REGULATION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL on the voluntary participation by organisations in a Community eco-management and audit scheme (EMAS) for discussion and comments.

The main issues were

1. The EMAS III Regulation should have a direct relationship to the Regulation on Accreditation.
2. The legal compliance requirements would not be effective.
3. The environmental performance and reporting requirements
4. There is not link between the EMAS III Regulation and EU-ETS has not been formed given the
5. The accreditation of environmental verifiers in third countries

6. The Competent Enforcement Authorities raised concerns on the requirement for reporting on compliance as opposed to the need for Better Regulation.
7. The evidence of legal compliance to satisfy the EMAS III Regulation and the liability issues for the environmental verifier.
8. The requirement for providing all the legal requirements and the means for meeting compliance was criticised for being unworkable.
9. The Environmental Statement and Environmental Report should be combined.

The overall timetable for the development of the revised EMAS Regulation was outlined as:

December 2008 / January 2009	Development of a UKAS Briefing Paper
February – March 2009	Development of the UK Position.
March 2009	European Parliament proceedings
Late Spring 2009	Council of Ministers Meetings
Autumn 2009	Reconciliation process
2010	Approval of the EMAS III Regulation

It was noted that the rapporteur for the EMAS Committee has been selected as Linda McAvan (MEP Sheffield).

## **7. Feedback from the recent EA CC EMS Working Group and FAB Meetings**

Terms of Reference  
ISO / IEC 17021:2006

## **8. Any Other Business**

### **UKAS Environmental Management Systems Mark**

Catherine Golds raised an issue on the Committee were concerned with the implementation of a UKAS Management Systems mark for all management system certification as opposed for the current situation of separate marks for individual management systems (e.g. Quality Management Systems and Environmental Management Systems).

### **SE/1 Chair Comments**

Anne-Marie Warris raised an issue on the influence on two ISO task groups – Joint, common vision of management system & Study Group for the new technologies.

Recognition was given to the UKAS representation (Andrew Marlow) on the latter task group but that there was a need coordinate responses within the BSI Committee structure and with respect to ISO Committees and Working Groups.

It is anticipated that the further of management system would develop beyond the current “Plan, Do, Check, Act” and the process based issues.

A further issue was that UKAS should be aware of sustainable biomass standard including a verification standard being developed as a requirements standard.

### **Recommendation:**

UKAS should consider the “shadowing” of the developing environmental standards either through direct UKAS representation or through other networking with known ISO committee representatives.

Regulation on Accreditation  
An early

**9. Next Meeting**

11 or 18 May 2009

23 or 30 November 2009

**Recommendation:**

It was suggested that consideration should be given to a presentation on the Regulation on Accreditation

**10. Meeting Close (14:30 Hrs)**