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UNITED
KINGDOM
ACCREDITATION
SERVICE
NEWSLETTER

Issue 50

Update

Summer 2008 www.ukas.com

Encouraging innovation at the House of Lords

Over a hundred influential public sector contacts attended a reception organised by UKAS and BSI British Standards at the House of Lords on Monday 30 June.

The receptive audience heard guest of honour, Ian Pearson MP, Minister for Innovation and Science, underline the importance of UKAS and BSI as key stakeholders in the nation's innovation infrastructure. The Minister stressed the importance of innovation to the country's future prospects and encouraged those present to look for innovative solutions to the big policy challenges faced by government.

The reception, hosted by UKAS Chairman Lord Lindsay, was organised with the support of the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills, as part of the UKAS campaign to raise the awareness of UKAS accreditation across government. The event was designed to refresh contacts made throughout the year as well as to establish new relationships for the future.

In welcoming the guests to the House of Lords, Lord Lindsay reminded those present

of the different ways accreditation can be used to provide the confidence to regulate in innovative ways. He encouraged officials across Government to work with UKAS to develop flexible solutions to the major policy challenges they face such as carbon measurement and quality of healthcare.

Mike Low, Director BSI British Standards, emphasised the role of standards in disseminating innovation in both the private and public sectors and in bringing practical solutions to the government's aim of lighter touch regulation.

Commenting on the event, Lord Lindsay said: "The success of this reception, and especially the number of high-level contacts attending, shows that UKAS is becoming firmly established on the Whitehall map. The awareness campaign is now paying real dividends in terms of new business opportunities for UKAS."



Government officials network with UKAS personnel at the House of Lords

STOP PRESS

EU Regulation Adopted

The EU Regulation, providing a legal framework for accreditation across Europe (see *Update Issue 49*), was formally adopted by the Council of the European Union on 23 June 2008. Further information is available from the UKAS website at www.ukas.com

Continued Government support

Department for
**Innovation,
Universities &
Skills**

Since its launch in 2000, the UKAS Awareness Campaign has steadily raised levels of awareness and an understanding of accreditation. Throughout the campaign, UKAS has benefited from financial support from the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (formerly DTI). This assistance, provided on a match-funding basis, has been essential to UKAS increasing the profile of accredited services across business, government and local authorities.

UKAS is delighted to announce that DIUS will continue to provide funding for the next three years to support the Awareness

Campaign. This will ensure that UKAS can continue the drive to strengthen the accreditation network in the UK.

UKAS is also delighted to announce that DIUS will continue to fund UKAS' international programme. This provides the means for the UK to participate in accreditation as it is organised internationally.

UKAS Customer Information Day



UKAS will host a Customer Information Day on the 26th November 2008 at CBI in Central London.

This is a one-day event providing an opportunity for customers to meet UKAS and learn about new company information, services, activities, and developments. UKAS' objective is to improve communications with customers and this event will allow a chance to provide information to our customers in a theatre conference setting.

Key speakers at the event will include; senior members of UKAS staff, DIUS, Hedra, Howden and the Trade Association Forum. The event includes a buffet lunch and refreshments. UKAS customers who want to attend this event should contact **Ms Aneet Goomer**, Senior Marketing and Communications Executive (aneet.goomer@ukas.com) to reserve a place *now*.

First UKAS Accreditation for Offshore Verification

Bureau Veritas, the service company specialising in quality, health, safety, environment and social responsibility, has become the first organisation in the world to be awarded UKAS accreditation for offshore verification services, using the standard ISO/IEC 17020 (Type A).

ISO/IEC 17020 accreditation is the internationally recognised standard for the competence of inspection bodies. It is the standard against which UKAS assesses the technical competence of inspection bodies in order to provide accreditation. The scope of the accreditation covers Design Examination and Verification, Onshore and Shop Examination, Transport and Logistics In-service Inspection and Offshore Verification.

The award of this accreditation marks the end of nearly two year's work by Bureau Veritas documenting and improving the technical content of its quality system in the oil and gas industry, to meet the stringent requirements of the standard.



Lord Lindsay, UKAS Chairman said; "Gaining UKAS accreditation is a rigorous process and demonstrates that an organisation meets the required levels of competence. Accreditation can

bring a number of benefits to an organisation, and it's clients across all industries. UKAS is delighted to be able to expand accreditation into this important new sector."

ATaC selects Howden

The Asbestos Testing and Consultancy Association (ATaC) has selected Howden as its recommended provider of liability insurance cover to its membership. Howden has created a liability insurance package that directly recognises United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) accreditation that all members must hold in order to comply with ATaC membership requirements.

LABsure provides protection for their key business critical risks including professional

indemnity, employers' liability, public and product liability, buildings and contents, and directors' and officers' liability.

Steve Sadley, Chief Executive of Asbestos Removal Contractors Association (ARCA), comments: "ATaC has been looking to appoint a recommended broker for some months now. As we researched the market, it became apparent that Howden was the obvious choice.

Howden not only pioneered the

introduction of insurance cover that directly recognised the benefits of UKAS accreditation – something that all ATaC members have to undertake – but also have extensive knowledge and experience of the asbestos testing and inspection industry. I am confident that ATaC members now have access to insurance cover that provides them with valuable protection and also the support of a broker that has been working with their industry for many years."



Development of carbon labelling and carbon offsetting

The media and business literature are full of exhortations for organisations and individuals to determine their carbon footprint. There are several existing and emerging standards in this area, targeted at different business sectors. 'Carbon footprint' is a shorthand way of stating the overall emissions of greenhouse gases generated by company or individual activity, expressed as carbon dioxide (CO₂), which is the main greenhouse gas. The overall aim of measuring a carbon footprint is to raise awareness of the impact of human activity on the environment and thus bring about a reduction in the amount of greenhouse gases produced as a result of changes in activities, this reduction leading to a decrease in the effect on global warming.

Measuring or estimating a carbon footprint is of course only the first stage of the process. The footprint gives a baseline for future reductions, and subsequent measurements will show if the planned reductions have actually been achieved. The footprint also helps to identify areas where it may be possible to make reductions. The process is cyclic, in that once you have measured and reduced and measured again, you have to consider the next reduction in an ongoing cycle. The carbon footprint is not just about direct energy use, as some reductions come about through other processes, e.g. by reducing the waste that goes to landfill.

When the concept of a carbon footprint is applied to a product (either a physical, manufactured item or a service supplied by a company), then the whole life cycle of the product needs to be considered. The start and end points of the life cycle need to be defined (e.g. is the energy involved in producing and transporting the raw material included, or not, and is the material recycled or not) and an estimation of the energy consumed during the usable life of the product made. Standards are required to enable a consistent approach in this area, and to allow meaningful comparisons to be made between products. BSI, at the request of the Carbon Trust and DEFRA, are

developing a new standard in this area, PAS 2050 – *Specification for the assessment of the life cycle greenhouse gas emissions of goods and services*.

The labels that might be applied to products also need to be controlled to ensure that they are clear and present information that has been obtained in a systematic way that the purchaser can then interpret correctly.

Finally, there may be some carbon footprint left over that cannot be reduced – or at least not in the short term. Carbon offsetting can be used to cover this element. Offsetting involves calculating emissions and then purchasing 'credits' from emission reduction projects. These projects have prevented or removed an equivalent amount of carbon dioxide elsewhere.

UKAS' role in these areas is to underpin the certification to the standards involved, to give confidence in the claims made. The certification may be for the carbon footprint itself, for the labelling of a product, or for the offsetting. UKAS is currently considering its approach to accreditation in these areas, and will invite certification bodies to participate in pilot assessments development of the accreditation service is required.

For further information please contact **David Hayward**, UKAS Development Manager (david.hayward@ukas.com)

New EA Key Development Steps

The European cooperation for Accreditation recently agreed a number of key steps in the planning of its strategic development for the years 2008 - 2013.

UKAS Chief Executive Paul Stennett and Accreditation Director Dr Jane Beaumont participated in an Extraordinary General Assembly meeting held in Warsaw on 4 April, at which the work carried out by three project groups that were established last year was presented and reviewed. These project teams have looked at the structure of EA including ways to improve the effectiveness of its committees; the composition and location of the EA Secretariat; and the financing of EA (as reported in Update 47). The outcome of these discussions led to some additional investigation, which was then presented to the mid-year General Assembly that was held in Tallinn, Estonia at the end of May.

A number of key decisions were taken that will contribute to the overall direction that EA will be taking in its future development, both in its new role as a recognised European institution with particular responsibilities towards the control of accreditation in support of the new European Regulation on accreditation, and as part of the process of continual improvement. These included:

- The General Assembly agreed to separate activities related to the harmonisation of the implementation of ISO/IEC 17011 and those activities of the current Multilateral Agreement Committee (MAC) that are not strictly related to the decision-making on signatory status of the EA MLA. A horizontal Harmonisation Committee will be established for this purpose, thereby leaving the MAC to concentrate on decisions related to the MLA. Furthermore, it was agreed to change the name of the Multilateral Agreement Committee to MLA Council. The abbreviation MAC will continue to be used. The proposed Terms of Reference of the Harmonisation Committee will be presented to the next General Assembly.



Paul Stennett and Jane Beaumont both participated in the Extraordinary General Assembly in Warsaw

- The EA Executive Committee will be expanded in order to gain wider management and operational experience at the top level of EA. The composition will be revised to allow the possibility to elect a maximum of 4 additional members in addition to the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, MAC Chair, Communications & Publications Committee Chair, and chairs of technical committees, including the future Harmonisation Committee.
- Some changes to the Terms of Reference of the EA Communications & Publications Committee were agreed to widen its remit to include the management, promotion and development of the use of the EA Intranet for exchanging documents and information among members to facilitate the increased need for exchange of notes in the technical field. It also will have additional responsibilities to prepare benchmarking activities and arrange exchange of experience with the support of the other EA committees.
- It was agreed that the location of the EA central Secretariat and the MAC Secretariat would not be changed in the near future, remaining in Paris and Utrecht. In the light of the recent large increase in workload, the General Assembly agreed that the EA Secretariat team should be extended to three full time persons in Paris. EA will seek legal and financial advice from experts in order to prepare for its new role in having contracts with the European Commission and EFTA, and will seek legal advice on it potentially becoming an employer.
- The method of calculation of fees to be paid by accreditation bodies was revised. Steps were also put in place for accreditation

bodies providing the officers of the association to be reimbursed for travel and subsistence costs associated with official EA work, but not before EA starts to receive financial support from the European Commission for its new role.

In relation to these proposals, the Articles of Association and Rules of Procedures of EA will need revision, and drafts will be proposed to the next General Assembly meeting.

In addition to the proposals related to the development plan, the General Assembly also considered the progress being achieved in the five sub-project groups that are specifically looking at issues related to the new role for accreditation in Europe.

As well as preparation of guidance for accreditation bodies in the accreditation of Notified Bodies, various options are being considered on how to efficiently manage the knowledge base required within EA for all appropriate Directives and Regulations, and what networks will be required. EA intends to use its Intranet to host a database containing relevant information on the relevant requirements for each Directive and to facilitate electronic discussion amongst accreditation bodies.

It has been agreed that technical issues related to the assessment of Notified Bodies should be dealt with by the existing EA committee structure or by working groups established on an ad hoc basis by the EA committees.

EA is also now considering draft guidelines for the cooperation agreement that will be put in place with the European Commission and EFTA.

The next meeting of the EA General Assembly will be held in Portugal in November.

All measurements are made because somebody, somewhere, needs information. This information is often used to assist in decision-making. In order to minimise risk, these decisions must be reliable.

Uncertainty in Sampling – *Consider the Risk!*

The reliability of such decisions depends on knowing the ‘uncertainty’ of the measurement results. If the uncertainty of measurement is underestimated then erroneous decisions may be made that can have large financial consequences. This article provides a brief overview of measurement uncertainty before addressing the particular issues when the process of sampling is involved. It also considers the risks that may be involved when making decisions based on the outcome of tests that include sampling.

What is measurement uncertainty?

All measurements are imperfect to some degree or other and therefore there is inevitably uncertainty associated with the results. These uncertainties can arise from many sources, such as equipment, environment, sampling, human factors and the device or substance under investigation. Laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC17025:2005 are obliged to estimate the uncertainties associated with their measurement results.

Uncertainty in Sampling

It is sometimes the case that a particular characteristic of a substance or a phenomenon has to be deduced by analysing a sample taken from it. Clearly, it is important to define, as closely as possible, the characteristic intended to be deduced from the sampling process – this is known as the sampling target. Therefore it will be necessary to devise a sampling plan that captures, as well as possible, data that is representative of the target.

The sampling plan is critical to the validity of the results. It must address both spatial and temporal variations in the sampling target. For example, river water may be sampled to determine whether any pollutants from a nearby factory are present. If the sample were taken at a time when the factory was closed for annual maintenance, no pollutants would be generated and the result will not represent the situation at other times of year. Similarly, if the samples were taken upstream of the

factory then the analysis would not reveal the extent of the contamination.

Even if these samples are taken in an optimal manner, there will still be uncertainty due to the fact that samples can never be fully representative of the sampling target. For example, imagine that it was decided to estimate the average height of all people in the UK. It would be impractical to measure everybody’s height, of course, so an estimate could be made by measuring a sample of the population. Now, suppose only one person was sampled – clearly, the chances of this person being an exact average of the whole population is minimal. If, for example, a small child had been sampled the estimate of the average population height would be grossly in error.

It would therefore be necessary to take a large number of samples so that there is a good chance of capturing information that is sufficient to represent the population as a whole. Furthermore, the sampling plan must be such to ensure that all members of the population have an equal chance of being selected. This is known as *random sampling*. For example, if the sampling had been performed at a local primary school then a large number of small children would be included and the estimate would be biased towards their average height. Therefore the sampling must be truly random, rather than *arbitrary* (as in the case of the primary school).

In fact, the only way to achieve a “perfect” result would be to sample everybody’s height. Even if 99% of the population were measured, there would still be uncertainty in the estimate of the sampling target, as the remaining 1% would not have an average height that exactly represents that of the whole population. So it can be seen that sampling itself introduces uncertainty, no matter how good the sampling plan and process is. This *sampling error* can be a significant source of uncertainty. Methods are described in Reference [1] for estimating sampling uncertainty, as well as those associated with analysis of the results obtained.

Risk assessment

Risk management is based on having confidence in the decision-making process and in the reliability of the decisions that an organisation makes. This reliability can only be obtained when there is confidence that the data upon which the decisions are based are valid. Thus, not only does measurement uncertainty – including sampling uncertainty – have to be taken into account, but the sampling plan has to be such that the information is captured in a reliable manner. Otherwise the organisation could make decisions that appear reasonable but, because they are based on unreliable information, carry a degree of risk that is not recognised.

If, for example, the management of the factory mentioned above had sampled the river water in an unsuitable place, or at the wrong time of year, they may have a false impression of the amount by which they were polluting the environment. Risk based decisions, even if made in good faith and considering all the available data, may therefore have an unexpected outcome. This could have huge consequences, both financially and with respect to the organisation’s reputation, if the true situation were to be discovered.

Decisions like this have to be made taking into account a balance of cost and risk. It may be tempting to minimise the costs of sampling and testing – but is it really worth the risk if the sampling is carried out inappropriately and the uncertainty upon which the decision has to be made is unreliable?

Reference

[1] EURACHEM/CITAC Guide – *Measurement uncertainty arising from sampling – A guide to methods and approaches*, First Edition, 2007.

This document can be obtained as a free download from http://www.eurachem.org/guides/UFS_2007.pdf

For further information please contact **John Hurl**, Assessment Manager (john.hurl@ukas.com).



First Accreditation for Gloss Measurements

The first accreditation for gloss measurements was recently awarded to Aerospace Metrology & Electromechanical Calibration Ltd, a company based in Newcastle Upon Tyne. The company's scope of UKAS accredited calibrations has recently been extended to include this optical property.



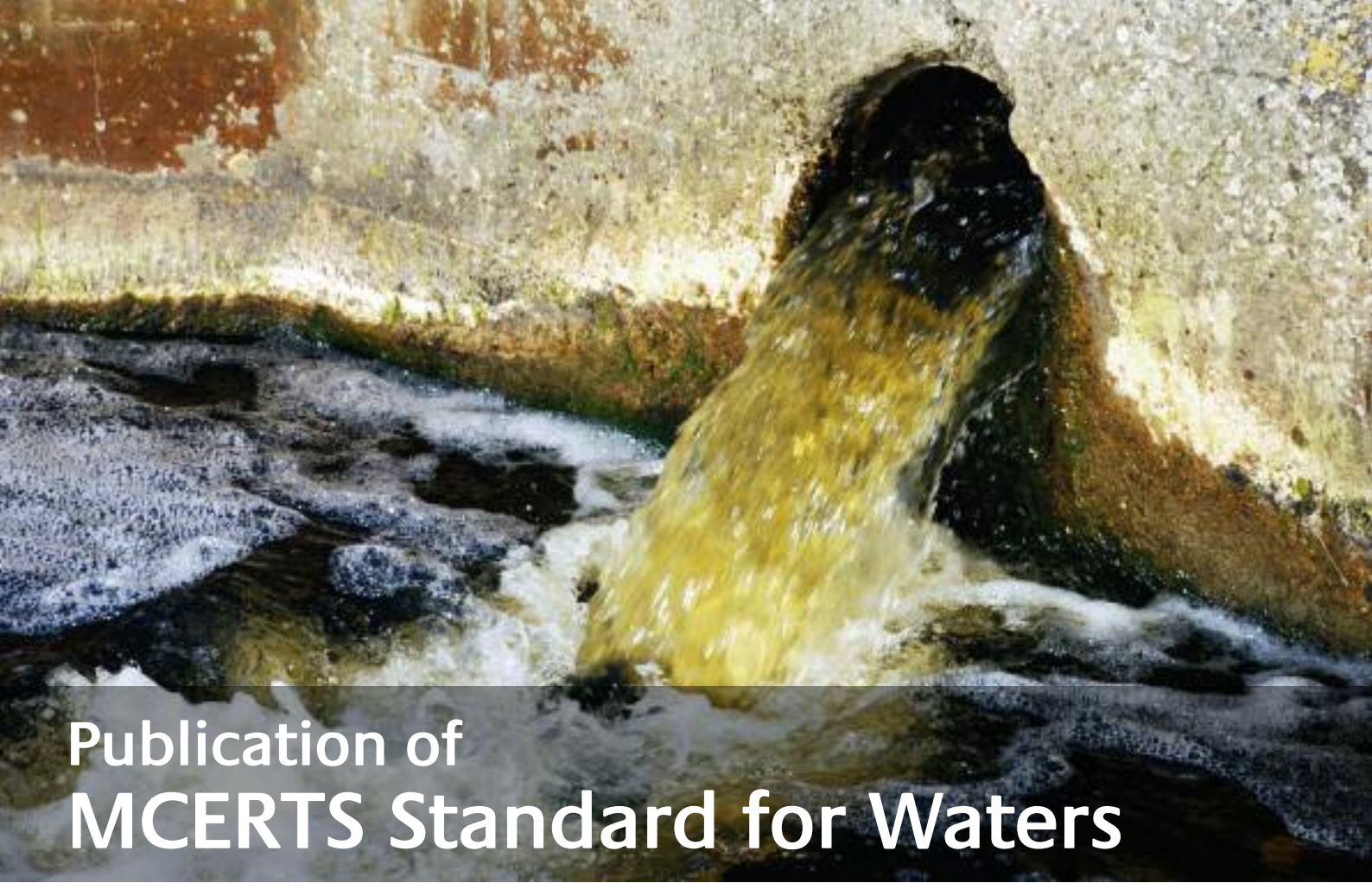
Gloss is a difficult quantity to describe let alone measure; everyone has their own idea of what gloss is. It is essentially related to the reflection of highlights and is an important factor in quantifying the appearance of a product in many industries from plastics to cosmetics. In fact, anywhere the perception of a product is dependent on its reflective properties.

The importance of being able to quantify gloss, when in the past it has been simply subjective, has led to a large number of different instruments being produced to measure gloss, but often these are sold without traceability.

The emergence of an accredited laboratory able to calibrate both the instruments and reference standards will ensure that many more of these instruments will be calibrated in the future.

Accredited calibration of instruments is gradually becoming more important to the optical industry as new requirements dictate that traceability and competent measurements are demonstrated by accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025:2005.

For further information please contact **Nigel Pearce**, Assessment Manager (nigel.pearce@ukas.com).



Publication of MCERTS Standard for Waters

On 1st July 2008 the Environment Agency published the new MCERTS standard: *Performance Standard for Organisations Undertaking the Sampling and Chemical Testing of Water. Part 1– Sampling and Chemical Testing of untreated sewage, treated sewage effluents and trade effluents.* Available via www.mcerts.net

Similar to the current MCERTS schemes for air emissions and contaminated land analysis, UKAS will be assessing organisations to this MCERTS standard on behalf of the Environment Agency. Following the publication of this standard UKAS is now accepting applications from organisations wishing to be accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 for this MCERTS Standard.

Accreditation will be a requirement in the future for those organisations conducting sampling and/or chemical testing in support of operator self monitoring (OSM) for the water utilities sector. Whilst this scheme is initially only applicable to untreated sewage, treated sewage effluents and trade effluents, there is an intention to expand the scheme into other areas of water monitoring in the future e.g. sampling and analysis of water

from saline, borehole and leachate source.

In order to guarantee an assessment in adequate time for the organisation to clear any resultant actions in appropriate timescales, applications for accreditation or extension to scope must be received by UKAS by 1 January 2009.

Expansion of MCERTS into the water sector builds upon a history of successful collaboration between UKAS and the Environment Agency. Whereby accreditation is used to support the regulatory duties of the Environment Agency and lighten the regulatory burden on industry.

Interested organisations should contact their Assessment Manager or **Debbie Hudson** (Debbie.Hudson@ukas.com) 0208 917 8400

BCM project update

The Business Continuity Management System standard, BS 25999-2, was issued in late 2007. It sets out the requirements for companies wanting to demonstrate that they have systems in place to cope with situations, such as supply chain disruption, that could affect their ability to continue to operate effectively. There is considerable interest in this standard and its application, both in the UK and overseas. Companies are using this as part of their overall risk management strategy. UKAS has been running a project to develop its approach to the assessment

of certification bodies that wish to certify companies to this standard. This project has reached the stage where we have been able to accredit two certification bodies for this standard (LRQA and BSI Management Systems, the accreditation schedules may be found on the UKAS website). Other certification bodies that took part in the pilot assessment programme phase of the project, continue to progress towards accreditation. UKAS is now able to accept new applications from certification bodies for this standard.

Pathology Point of Care Testing

The Department of Health is currently exploring the feasibility of developing an accreditation system for pathology point of care testing (POCT), to meet an acknowledged gap in quality assurance and patient safety. Testing carried out in a pathology laboratory is accredited under an existing (voluntary) scheme, but an increasing amount of testing is being done at the point of care, in GP practices, high street pharmacies and other community settings. Bodies such as the Royal College of Pathologists and the MHRA have raised concerns that such testing may not always be done to acceptable standards, or by individuals with appropriate competence. A voluntary accreditation system that complements the existing laboratory accreditation arrangements is being considered to ensure that point of care testing is carried out to appropriate and consistent standards.



UKAS is working with the Department of Health and other bodies such as Skills for Health, and the Sector Skills Council for the UK Healthcare sector on the feasibility of developing a POCT accreditation system. This will involve determining the competences that practitioners need in this work,

development of learning tools to support the practitioners, finding appropriate ways of measuring these competences, and developing an assessment and accreditation framework to underpin the testing itself. The project is in its early stages and is expected to run for about 12 months.

Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020 Pre-shipment



Philippe Lanternier of Bureau Veritas holds the recently awarded certificate from Lord Lindsay and Paul Stennett at the House of Lords reception

On 26th May 2008 UKAS granted accreditation to ISO/IEC 17020 for Bureau Veritas Government Services and International Trade (BV GSIT) for their pre-shipment and verification of conformity activities. This followed the assessment of BV's global activities which involved visiting five key activity locations on three continents and witnessing of a number of inspectors inspecting a wide range of products from onions to bathroom tiles, computers to printers, and second hand cars to new motorbikes. The UKAS Schedule of Accreditation published on www.ukas.com identifies which areas have been assessed and accredited.

BV GSIT provides assistance to government authorities, implementing programmes to maximize their revenues and verifying that products meet specified standards, with the objective of lowering risk factors in world trade.

Mr Andrew Yell, Vice President Contracts, accompanied UKAS during most of the visits and has confirmed that BV GSIT has been able to witness the benefits of accreditation by meeting its clients' expectations, establishing uniformity throughout the business activities and gaining confidence in the competence and integrity of the inspectors.

New Quality Manager for UKAS

UKAS is pleased to announce the appointment of **Brian Hough** as its new Quality Manager.

Brian has extensive experience in management systems, business process management, TQM, Business Excellence and project management. Brian's career in Quality began as one of the first District Quality Managers appointed by BT in the mid 1980's where he led on developing certification schemes under BS 5750. Since then he has held various operational management positions including Quality & TQM Manager for a major programme across BT and, for the past ten years, has worked as an Assessment Manager in the Certification Body section at UKAS.

Brian is now looking forward to deploying his skills and experience in his new role. He will begin by leading a review and re-engineering of the UKAS Management System to ensure it



Brian Hough

is efficient and able to support effectively the current initiatives for business simplification and deployment of electronic documentation. Brian has the clear objective to ensure the continual improvement of the effectiveness of the management system to assist in delivering UKAS' key business objectives and enable UKAS to, as he says, 'work smarter'.

New Commercial Operations Manager appointed

On the 1st May 2008, **Tony Vernel** was appointed as the new UKAS Commercial Operations Manager.

Tony first joined one of the company's predecessors, NAMAS, in September 1990. Since then he has had several roles within the company with the most recent one being the Business Information Manager. During his time at UKAS he has acquired an excellent overall knowledge of the UKAS business and of the procedures that support the accreditation process. He has extensive experience in all the aspects of customer service and is committed to improving the service provided to our customers.

Tony's key objectives are to ensure that UKAS is meeting customer expectations with regard to handling of improvement action evidence, increasing the knowledge base of the Operations



Tony Vernel

Administrative team in order that they can handle general and technical enquiries in an efficient and timely manner, and to ensure that UKAS is meeting key performance targets with regard to visit booking, invoicing and handling extension to scope applications.

Brazilian visit

UKAS was pleased to host a visit from some representatives of INMETRO, the Brazilian National Institute of Metrology, Standardization and Industrial Quality, which is part of the Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade.

Around 20 delegates attended a seminar to understand the UK's practical experiences from operating New Approach Directives for more than 20 years.

Presentations were given by Richard Lawson of BERR (Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform), Radhika Sriskandarajah of DIUS (Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills), and Malcolm Hynd and Paul Stennett of UKAS.

The Brazilian delegation also visited NPL (National Physical Laboratory), BSI (British Standards Institution) and NWML (National Weights and Measures Laboratory) during their stay in the UK.

Visit from Alan Patterson, Chief Executive, NATA

Alan Patterson, Chief Executive of NATA (National Association of Testing Authorities) visited UKAS in June for general discussions on accreditation. NATA is the national body for laboratory accreditation in Australia.

Alan was appointed as Chief Executive of NATA in 2007. Discussions were held between Alan Patterson and senior staff of UKAS with the focus on exchanging ideas on best practice in accreditation

40 Years of Accreditation

In May this year, **Aeroflex International Limited** celebrated the 40th anniversary of the initial grant of accreditation by the British Calibration Service.

In April 1966 the UK Government announced in Parliament the formation of the British Calibration Service. Aeroflex, then known as Marconi Instruments Limited, already had a Measurements Standards Laboratory to provide calibration services to support its range of test and measurement products. Marconi Instruments was one of the first applicants for accreditation, initially for DC and low-frequency electrical quantities but followed shortly by a range of RF and microwave parameters.

The accreditation was granted on 2nd May 1968. To mark the 40th anniversary, Aeroflex hosted a celebratory lunch to which present and former staff members



Photo courtesy of Doug Skinner.

John Hurl presents **Simon Littleworth**, Head of Laboratory, with a memento to celebrate the anniversary.

were invited. John Hurl, who previously worked in the Marconi laboratory, represented UKAS at this event.

John said, "It is particularly pleasing for me to attend the celebration and to be reminded of the 40 years of measurement excellence associated with Aeroflex and its predecessors. I wish the laboratory every success for the future".

EVENTS...

UKAS continues to attend high-profile trade shows and other events to help raise recognition and understanding of UKAS and accreditation among key sectors of the business community.

Measurement Confidence Seminar

Agilent Technologies held a Measurement Confidence Seminar on Thursday 12th June 2008 at Winnersh in the UK and Ireland Service Centre. During this event, the seminar involved discussing how Agilent delivers the tools and solutions that allows customers to get the most from their equipment, which in turn will help them to increase their productivity whilst minimising system downtime.

The speakers included Agilent's European Quality and Metrology Manager, Jean-Claude Krynicki; John Hurl, Assessment Manager from UKAS; and speakers from NPL and Frost & Sullivan. John Hurl, UKAS Assessment Manager delivered a presentation on 'Choosing a supplier of calibration services'. The afternoon also provided Agilent's customers with the opportunity to visit its Service and Support Unit where it demonstrated UK and Ireland Service centre calibration services.



John Hurl delivering his presentation

The Scientific Laboratory Show

UKAS exhibited at the Scientific Laboratory Show, hosted by the United Kingdom Science Park Association, which took place at the East Midlands Conference Centre in Nottingham on July 2nd 2008.

Conference sessions and workshops ran throughout the day and UKAS both exhibited and spoke at the show to provide an overview of the benefits that UKAS accreditation can bring to laboratory and technical organisations. One of the derived benefits of accreditation is the LABsure insurance programme, specifically tailored for and offered to UKAS accredited organisations through Howden insurance brokers.



ema seminar

Paul Stennett was invited to attend the events organised by ema (Entidad Mexicana de Acreditación) to celebrate International Accreditation Day on 9 June.

The event, which was hosted by the Mexican Minister of Trade and Industry, featured a series of lectures on accreditation and quality management topics, and was attended by more than 200 representatives of Mexican industry and commerce.

Paul Stennett gave a talk on the organisation of the accreditation system in Europe, with a focus on the activities of EA (European co-operation for Accreditation), its role and activities. Orna Dreazen from ISIRAC gave a presentation about the activities of ILAC.

Above: Speakers and delegates at the Entidad Mexicana de Acreditación seminar in June.

Below: Paul Stennett with other main speakers at the event.



Sanctions

Sanctions data is provided in Update on a quarterly basis. Full statistics from July 2007 are available on the UKAS website www.ukas.com

For the period April to June 2008:

Imposed total suspensions:

- 1 organisation
- 1 laboratory

Imposed total withdrawals (terminations):

0

The data does not include suspensions and terminations that have been imposed for non-payment of fees.



Can we trust our food?

Professor Colin Dennis, a UKAS non-executive director, will be giving a lecture at Gresham College in the City of London on the topic 'Can we trust our food?'

The lecture will illustrate how companies involved in raw material production, food processing, distribution and retail rely on accreditation and certification when implementing systems to ensure the supply of safe, quality food of known origin to consumers.

The lecture will take place at 6.00pm on the 3rd December. Gresham College lectures are open to the public and are given free of charge. For further details please visit www.gresham.ac.uk

Consultations

Since the last issue of Update, UKAS has responded to the following Government consultations:

- Department of Health consultation on a Good practice Guide on Paternity Testing Services
- Department Communities and Local Government consultation on the Future of Building Control

UKAS is a non-profit-distributing company limited by guarantee. It is the sole national accreditation body recognised by the UK Government for the assessment (against international standards) of the technical competence of organisations offering evaluation services such as testing, inspection, calibration and certification.



*Delivering
Confidence*

Diary dates

The diary lists forthcoming national and international accreditation-related events of interest to our readers, as well as upcoming UKAS training courses.

SEPTEMBER

September 8

EA Inspection Committee
lal.ilan@ukas.com

September 8-9

ILAC Marketing and Communications Committee
jon.murthy@ukas.com

September 9

EA Certification Committee
pam.beha@ukas.com

September 17

EA Laboratory Committee Management Group
trevor.thompson@ukas.com

September 18-19

EA Laboratory Committee
trevor.thompson@ukas.com

September 22-23

EA Executive Meeting
graham.talbot@ukas.com

September 24- October 2

International Aerospace Quality Group
steve.randall@ukas.com

September 25-26

EA Communications and Publications Committee
jon.murthy@ukas.com

September 25

EA Permanent Liaison Group
trevor.thompson@ukas.com

OCTOBER

October 1-2

EA Multilateral Agreement
brian.hough@ukas.com

October 5-7

EURACHEM 6th PT Workshop
lorraine.turner@ukas.com

October 10-22

ILAC-IAF General Assemblies
graham.talbot@ukas.com

October 22-24

ISO/CASCO Working Group 21 drafting ISO/IEC 17021 part 2
phil.shaw@ukas.com

NOVEMBER

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EA Executive Meeting
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