

Update

Issue 63

United Kingdom Accreditation Service **Newsletter**

December 2011



UKAS Accreditation for Inspection of Fairground and Amusement Park Devices

Page 04

Christmas Message

page 02

Government keen to
make good use of
accreditation

page 05

UKAS accreditation to
support Building
Regulations

page 06

*Delivering
Confidence*

Christmas message

2011 has been another year of change and modernisation at UKAS.

The year started with some good news following the appointment of **Dr Jane Beaumont**, UKAS Director of Accreditation as MBE in the New Year Honours list. The citation for the award, for services to industry, recognises the contribution that Jane has made to UKAS.

2011 also saw the start of work on a number of longer term development areas, with pilot programmes for accredited Crime Scene Investigation, accreditation of Nuclear New Build Inspectors and last but not least, participation in the Department of Energy and Climate Change “Green Deal” framework, all established and underway.

Internally, UKAS also went through some major organisational changes. With the expiry of the lease of CPA’s (Clinical Pathology Accreditation) Sheffield office, the decision was taken to relocate CPA office activities to Feltham and take advantage of a number of synergies in terms of “back office” activities to improve

business efficiency. The opportunity was also taken to introduce electronic reporting of assessment visits which has further improved the response and reporting times for CPA customers. CPA continues to be run as a separate business to UKAS despite our shared use of office facilities.

UKAS also launched its new business system “DARWIN” on time and on budget in May 2011. This new system replaced some eight IT systems operating separately in UKAS covering areas such as Finance, HR and Electronic Document Management.

After spending the early part of the year running training sessions for our employees on the new system and the summer months getting used to working with the new system, we are now starting to see the first efficiency benefits deriving from our integrated approach to use of our Enterprise Resource Planning system.

Looking back over 2011, it has been an exceptionally busy year both in terms of our workload, which once again has grown year on year, and with the additional pressure placed on the organisation from the launch of our new business system.

We look forward to 2012 with further new developments in the pipeline at UKAS.

However, before then, we will have the Christmas break and as in previous years, UKAS will be closed from 5pm on the 23 December, reopening on Tuesday 3 January.

In closing, on behalf of all my colleagues at UKAS, I would like to thank all our customers for their support in 2011 and wish you a happy Christmas and a successful new year in 2012.



Paul Stennett
Chief Executive



IAF Website

The new International Accreditation Forum (IAF) website www.iaf.nu was launched in September 2011.

The website has modern professional branding that is in line with other IAF promotional materials. The structure and navigation is greatly improved to enable easier access to information to both the IAF community and our wider stakeholders. This includes information about Members and signatories and IAF technical documentation, and also the growing number of promotional materials that can be used to promote accreditation in other economies. The site also has a full search function if you can't find what you're looking for at first glance.

The new website allows you to link to individual pages within the website. Linking to pages on the site, such as the Signatories page or the promotional materials, from your website will promote the visibility of both your website and the IAF website to website search engines.

UKAS leads the first ILAC Inspection Committee

The first Inspection Committee to be established by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, ILAC, will in future be chaired by a UKAS senior manager.

The appointment of **Lal Ilan** as the chair of ILAC Inspection Committee is to be endorsed by the ILAC General Assembly at the end of the year. The ILAC General Assembly is also expected to endorse the formation of its first Inspection Committee, following a joint decision by the International Accreditation Forum and ILAC to disband the former ILAC – IAF Joint Inspection Group and restructure it under ILAC.

The first meeting of the new inspection committee, to be held during the IAF – ILAC Annual Conference in November in Bangkok was cancelled due to flooding and will now be held in May 2012. The new Inspection Committee is represented by both accreditation bodies and stakeholder groups involved in inspection, from all over the world. Lal Ilan said "that one of the top priorities of the Inspection Committee is to establish sound practices to assist international mutual recognition



Lal Ilan

arrangements relevant to accreditation of all types of inspection activities to facilitate trade between countries by recognising each other's inspections."

Lal in his capacity as the chair of the Inspection Committee will now join a small group of ILAC Executives and work alongside Graham Talbot, UKAS Technical & External Affairs Director, who is the Executive responsible for ILAC Marketing and Communication issues and the current chair of the European Cooperation for Accreditation.

ISO 17021: 2011

In *Update* issue 61 we reported the start of a project for the transition to the new version of ISO 17021, the accreditation standard relevant to accredited management system certification bodies, which was updated to take account of market feedback and from experience gained in the use of the original 2006 edition of the standard.

The transition process is now underway, beginning with a review of Gap Analysis and Implementation plans submitted by each certification body. Feedback from

this review will be followed up at the next head office assessment, which will be against the requirements of the 2011 edition. Any new applications for accreditation of certification bodies will, from now, also be against ISO 17021: 2011.

The deadline for achieving transition set by the IAF is two years from publication of the 2011 standard. The aim is for all accredited certification bodies to achieve transition by the end of January 2013.

UKAS Accreditation for Inspection of Fairground and Amusement Park Devices – Pilot Project Update

The first pilot assessment by UKAS of an inspection body involved in inspection of fairground and amusement park devices is now under way. A pre-assessment of **Jacobs Engineering (UK) Ltd**, Ashton Lane, Manchester was conducted by UKAS recently, where Jacobs' readiness to proceed to the initial assessment stage was established and an action plan was agreed.

At the initial assessment, UKAS will establish the inspection body's compliance with the international standard ISO/IEC 17020, *Generic criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection*, and its competence to perform inspection of fairground and amusement park devices. The initial assessment will include a review of documentation used by the inspection body to manage its inspection activities and an assessment of its systems, processes and facilities as well as the on-site performance of a sample of its inspectors.

UKAS will use industry experts to seek technical advice and assist in the assessment of on-site performance. In addition to the standard ISO/IEC 17020, Jacobs will use IAF/ILAC A4 which provides guidance on the application of ISO/IEC 17020 and the UKAS publication RG 0 which provides guidance on a process for developing competence of personnel undertaking engineering inspections. The inspection activities are to be conducted by Jacobs in accordance with HSG 175, *Fairground and amusement parks – guidance on safe practice* and the relevant parts of



Amusement Devices Safety Council's guidance document – Advice for In-Service Inspection as well as the applicable parts of BS EN 13814.

Following the current pilot assessment of Jacobs, UKAS is planning to work with ADIPS, the fairground and amusement park industry's self-regulated safety

inspection scheme which registers ride inspectors and the rides they inspect, to establish a scheme for accreditation of single person inspection bodies working in the fairground and amusement park industry. More information of the progress of this scheme will be published at a later date.

Government keen to make good use of accreditation



David Willetts, MP

The Rt Hon David Willetts MP, Minister for Universities and Science, was guest of honour at the UKAS Annual Lunch held at the Lansdowne Club in London in mid-October.

Following on from another successful Annual General Meeting, the lunch was attended by Directors and Members of the Company, augmented by representatives of a number of other key stakeholders in accreditation.

In his words of welcome, **Lord Lindsay**, UKAS Chairman, paid tribute to the hard work of UKAS staff who had delivered another successful year in terms of increased turnover, profit and number of assessment days. He also mentioned the progress made in encouraging the use of UKAS accreditation in the health sector and remarked on the significance of the appointment of the Department of Health as a UKAS Member that same morning. He also noted the appointment of UKAS to accredit the certification required to support DECC's flagship Green Deal programme and DCLG's competent persons' schemes. These were all notable achievements indicating the growing use of accreditation across Government. He thanked BIS for the continuing support received as UKAS' sponsoring department.

Introducing the guest of honour, Lord Lindsay made reference to the fact that Mr Willetts was once a director of a UKAS accredited organisation and so, unusually for a Minister with responsibility for accreditation, had first-hand experience of UKAS.

Mr Willetts provided some interesting and thought-provoking comments. He talked about the importance of innovation as the only pathway to sustainable economic growth, higher real incomes and greater wellbeing in

the long term. He suggested that accreditation played a major part by helping customers to have confidence in new products and processes.

Mr Willetts also recognised that UK companies were competing in a global market and paid tribute to the part played by the international accreditation network in supporting UK research and business to work internationally, reducing the need for re-testing so that market entry was accelerated.

Another major theme of Mr Willetts' remarks was the need to ensure that the public sector was a major driver of innovation and that accreditation provided the public sector with the confidence to use commercial solutions (eg testing, certification, inspection) to support policy interventions.

He concluded by offering support for UKAS' efforts to promote the use of standards and accreditation to the public sector, which could lead to novel ways of legislating or even of replacing legislation with market-led solutions. 'We in BIS are keen to encourage other parts of the public sector to make good use of accreditation. Reducing regulatory burdens, encouraging innovation, increasing productivity and building consumer confidence are all important ways to support economic growth. That is our number one priority in Government, so I congratulate UKAS on its contribution and offer it our support and best wishes for the coming year.'

“ We in BIS are keen to encourage other parts of the public sector to make good use of accreditation.”

UKAS accreditation to support Building Regulations

Members who belong to a scheme that carries out building work under the Building Regulations are to be certified under accreditation arrangements to be developed by UKAS.

In October 1997, the then Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (now Department for Communities and Local Government – DCLG) issued proposals for reducing the administrative burden of the Building Regulations by allowing self-certification of compliance of building work by enterprises and individuals assessed as competent. There followed a lengthy process of consultation during the course of which Government asked building industry representatives, consumer associations and other interested parties for their opinions of the proposed competent persons schemes (CPS). The consultation showed general support for the proposals for schemes for certain types of work where the incidence of risk to health and safety to people was low.

The rationale behind the schemes is to authorise, on the basis of low incidence of risk to health and safety, schemes whose members are adjudged sufficiently competent to self-certify that their work has been carried out in compliance with all applicable requirements of the Building Regulations.

The schemes offer benefits to consumers, industry and building control bodies. Consumers will benefit from lower prices for building work as building control charges are not payable and from the ability to identify competent firms. Firms who join these schemes will avoid the time and expense of notifying in advance and



paying a building control body (either a local authority or a private sector approved inspector) to check/inspect the work. The schemes will also allow building control bodies to concentrate their resources on the areas of highest risk.

Membership of these schemes is voluntary. Businesses carrying out work covered by the Building Regulations may choose to join one of the schemes if they consider membership to be beneficial. Alternatively they may choose to continue to use a building control body.

If a company or individual chooses to join a scheme, they are assessed to ensure they meet the scheme's rules and conditions of membership, including appropriate and relevant levels of competence. If they meet these

requirements they are classified as 'competent persons'. The work of organisations or individuals accepted as members of a scheme is not normally subject to Building Control checking/inspection. Instead, the competent person self-certifies that the work is in compliance with the Building Regulations. They report the work when completed to the scheme organisers who in turn inform the local authority that work has taken place and issue a compliance certificate to the consumer.

To become a CPS, applicants must apply to DCLG and demonstrate that they have the managerial, financial and technical ability to operate a scheme and are able to comply with certain conditions of authorisation.

continued on next page



The current schemes are authorised under the Building Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/2214) as amended by the Building (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 2011/1515) using powers in Schedule 1 of the Building Act 1984.

The competence of installers is to be assessed by scheme operators against National Occupational Standards under a Minimum Technical Competence assessment procedure, having regard to qualifications and experience.

DCLG is currently in the process of developing new conditions of authorisation for CPS. They have asked UKAS to assist them to develop these conditions, one of which will require schemes to be accredited by UKAS to EN 45011.

UKAS pilot assessments of CPS operators are planned to commence in early 2012 and the pilot is expected to run for about 12 months.

More information on the accreditation pilot can be found on the UKAS website www.ukas.com

To find out more on the Competent Person Schemes, please visit the DCLG website:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/buildingregulations/competentpersonsschemes/>

New UKAS DVD

As part of its continuing campaign to increase awareness of the value of accreditation, UKAS has developed a new promotional video.

The film is available for download from the UKAS site www.ukas.com/videos and Youtube. It will also be distributed widely to small businesses through our relationships with intermediary organisations such as trade associations,

the Federation of Small Businesses and the Institute of Directors. It will also be used to support our engagement programme with public sector procurement and government departments.

You are encouraged to link to the film on the UKAS site or to download and use in your own website or presentation materials.



Diary dates

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

December

8

EA Food Testing Workshop
pam.beha@ukas.com

13-14

Training Course
Laboratory Internal Audit
jan.garman@ukas.com

29-30

EA Health Committee
Working Group
delia.geary@ukas.com

January

24-25

Training Course
ISO/IEC 17021:2011
jan.garman@ukas.com

24-26

EA Executive
graham.talbot@ukas.com

26

ISAS Workshop
ethna.glean@ukas.com

February

7

Training Course
Preparation for Accreditation
jan.garman@ukas.com

8-10

Training Course
Laboratory Management
jan.garman@ukas.com

14-16

Training Course
Uncertainty of
Measurement
jan.garman@ukas.com

9

Training Course
LGC Statistics for Chemists
jan.garman@ukas.com

14-15

EA Certification Committee
kevin.belson@ukas.com

16

EA Inspection Committee
lal.ilan@ukas.com

For copies of our new Training brochure please
email: training@ukas.com or tel: 020 8917 8488
www.ukas.com/training



Sanctions

Sanctions data is provided in *Update* on a quarterly basis. Full statistics from July 2008 are available on the UKAS website www.ukas.com

For the period July to September 2011:

Imposed total suspensions:

3 organisations
(1 laboratory, 2 inspection bodies)

Imposed total withdrawal:

0 organisations

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

Consultations

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

- Cabinet Office – Open Public Services White Paper

- Department for Business, Innovation and Skills – Transforming Regulatory Enforcement: Freeing up business growth

Other consultations of interest:

- Department for Energy and Climate Change consultation on the Green Deal package – Closing date January 2012



Editor

Aneet Goomer
Tel: +44 (0)20 8917 8467
Fax: +44 (0)20 8917 8667
aneet.goomer@ukas.com

Information Desk

Tel: +44 (0)20 8917 8400
Fax: +44 (0)20 8917 8500
info@ukas.com

United Kingdom Accreditation Service

21-47 High Street,
Feltham,
Middlesex
TW13 4UN

Tel: +44 (0)20 8917 8400
Fax: +44 (0)20 8917 8500
www.ukas.com
www.ukas.org

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