

WE ARE REDUCING ACCREDITATION FEES

Despite of annual inflation rates DAP has maintained its fees for years which has led to a relative decrease of accreditation costs for our customers.

At this moment we consider an additional reduction. We have discussed several possibilities and come to the result that especially all our customers with multiple accreditations are to be taken into account as there are testing laboratories or certification bodies for products, which due to specific requirements, also have to provide evidence for an accreditation as an inspection body.

We are pleased to inform that in the cases mentioned above, from 1st April we will charge the accreditation fee only once a year. Irrespective of this rule, multiple accreditations will continue in the habitual mode of procedure i.e. with separate accreditation certificates.

We wish to state that in this context, according to our Shareholders' Contract (cf. article 10, para. 10.5), a probable surplus is to be used for further developments in the area of accreditation, for active participation in national and international committees and for opening up new business areas.

In addition, we aim at making our experience in training courses, information meetings and seminars also accessible to stakeholders. The preparation for these activities seldom covers the costs.

We hope that some of the questions recently raised with regard to the costs of accreditation could be answered. Certainly one or another of these activities has been to your benefit.

DAP will also in future work on a non-profit basis!

Prof. Dr. Kurt Ziegler

INTERLABORATORY COMPARISONS IN THE AREA OF NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING

In the standard ISO/IEC 17025 and in the EA regulations, the participation in interlaboratory comparisons is recommended and expected, as a rule. Proficiency testing and interlaboratory comparisons are part of the external quality assurance measures being also used for the validation and verification of test methods. Towards the customers, the successful participation in interlaboratory comparisons is an effort of confidence-building not to be underestimated. For the area of non-destructive testing, such interlaboratory comparisons have not been provided yet.

The Institut für Eignungsprüfungen IfEP (Institute for Proficiency Testing) in Recklinghausen plans to organize such an interlaboratory comparison for 2006 with ultrasonic testing in the 1st phase. The launch may be qualified as being simple requiring however UT knowledge of level 2 according to EN 473. The IfEP has currently prepared detailed documents to make the specimens and to check and evaluate the results of the interlaboratory comparison. It is intended to serve several laboratories simultaneously with several homogenous test pieces.

According to the current planning, the interlaboratory comparison will be organized in the 2nd half of 2006 also for NDT testing laboratories accredited by DAP. The IfEP however plans a pan-European tender to enlarge the evaluation basis. The processing time per laboratory is limited to 10 working days (2 weeks) in order to facilitate the participation to a larger number of laboratories until the end of 2006.

DAP wishes that its laboratories accredited for ultrasonic-testing participate actively as it is worth being informed on the level of its own test equipment in such a vast comparison.

*Dr. Hans-Joachim Maier
Chair of the DAP Sector Committee Non-Destructive Testing and Joining Engineering*

TOPICS

- WE ARE REDUCING ACCREDITATION FEES
- INTERLABORATORY COMPARISON IN THE AREA OF NON-DESTRUCTIVE TESTING
- ACCREDITATION OF PROVIDERS OF PROFICIENCY TESTING AND PRODUCERS OF REFERENCE MATERIALS

The German Accreditation Council has ultimately discussed the possibility to accredit providers of proficiency testing and producers of reference materials. The current situation of decisions says that the laboratory areas of providers of proficiency testing and producers of reference materials may be accredited. The criteria of impartiality according to the paragraphs 4.1.4., 4.1.5b, and 4.1.5d of the ISO/IEC 17025 have to receive special attention. Also the inspection area of providers of proficiency testing is accreditable as inspection body according to ISO/IEC 17020.