

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ON-SITE ASSESSMENT

In February 2004, the DAP Office, within the framework of its membership in EA (European cooperation for Accreditation) and as a signatory to the Multilateral Agreements (MLA's) was subjected to an external assessment by an international team of evaluators. During the assessment, once again it was found out that the assessment depth of DAP was reputedly insufficient as compared to at both the national and international level. DAP has always tried to maintain the costs of accreditation for our customers at a low level without detriment to the quality. Our staff therefore was not shy of working much longer on-site – not only the 8 hours normally scheduled. This fact however cannot be considered during an evaluation. Moreover, we can justifiably say that DAP and also DAR in the committees of EA have opposed an inflation of requirements for the conformity assessment bodies to be fulfilled and that way opposed an inflation of assessment times on-site, and we will continue to do so.

Nevertheless, you will understand that we cannot endanger the international recognition of DAP you essentially benefit from. That is the reason we are forced to intensify the assessment depth, which may manifest itself in longer assessment times on-site or in the assignment of more assessors. This fact does not automatically reflect a general increase of assessment times on-site for all accredited bodies. As before we will continue to check the extent in each case, and together with the lead assessors we will continue to decide on the necessary assessment time and the number of assessors to assign. Certainly, several accredited bodies will have found out the new approach in the last assessment and will have controversially discussed the matter with the lead assessor / case manager. EA has contributed more importance to the assessment depth. On the last but one MAC Meeting in Brussels on 5th / 6th October 2006, DAP was called upon to have an intermediate evaluation with the only objective to check a sufficient assessment depth.

Following the assessment in December 2006, the team of evaluators confirmed DAP that it had essentially improved its course of action and increased the assessment depth. On the other hand, it was found out that in case of testing laboratories with a vast accreditation scope and in case of multi-site accreditations, the necessary accreditation depth had not been achieved everywhere. This result was affirmatively acknowledged on the last MAC Meeting in Prague so that one can say that the matter was considered done till the next regular evaluation. Generally speaking, EA does not have exact provisions to fix the assessment times for defined accreditation scopes.

The additional expenditure connected with these measures must of course be beneficial for our customers beneficial e.g. for more necessary technical discussions. We would like to point out that these discussions are expressly desired by the accreditation body and have nothing to do with the word "consultancy". A discussion in technical terms does not contradict the standard ISO/IEC 17011.

DAP has always attributed high importance to the technical area. It goes without saying that the formal requirements have also to be complied with. But they should not receive priority in the work of the lead and technical assessors and certainly not serve for its own sake.

To summarize: our aim consists in increasing the quality of our service by conducting more intense assessments in singular cases facilitating that way an added value for our customers. Our assessors without providing consultancy are called upon demonstrating potentials of improvement during longer on-site assessments. Of course, smaller laboratories with a smaller scope will continue to be assessed on one day.

That way we hope that our explanations above have resulted in a higher transparency for you and in a better understanding for our approach. You can continue to rely that the number of on-site assessment days will not exceed the necessary proportions.

Prof. Dr. Kurt Ziegler

TOPICS

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FOUNDATION OF THE SECTOR COMMITTEE „FORENSIC SCIENCES“

The occasion for the foundation of the new DAP sector committee was the intention to bundle the field of forensic sciences with its multiple criminological tests in an own sector committee. Therefore, a constituent assembly took place at DAP Office. The 13 foundation members came from the Federal Criminal Police Office, from different Laender Criminal Police Offices and from the Saarland university hospital. It is planned to integrate more members. After the Managing Director Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Ziegler had presented DAP, the Departmental Head Mrs. Valbuena described the procedure for the establishment of the sector committee. Dr.-Ing. Potzies from the DAP Office was assigned as Executive Chair. The election of the Chair will be done during the next meeting on June 12th with the approval of rules of procedure, technical structuring in terms of testing fields and methods in forensic sciences as well as determination of specific requirements for forensic laboratories and inspection bodies (e.g. participation in interlaboratory comparisons). Furthermore, the specific requirements for assessors and consequently the appointment of assessors for an own assessor pool are of considerable importance.

Dr. Carsten Potzies

29th BAM WATER INTERLABORTORY COMPARISON

We would like to refer you to the 29th interlaboratory comparison of water analyses. The sample distribution will be done on 4th September 2007. A special feature of these interlaboratory comparisons consists in not only considering consensus values of all participants but also in independently determined reference values for the assessment of laboratories. The interlaboratory comparison is considered successfully passed if more than 80 % of all analyzed parameters have been determined within 3 z-score around the reference value. This year, the following parameters may be selected:

Solution 1: LCHC and BTEX as well as cobalt, copper, nickel and lead

- (LCHC: qualitative and quantitative determination of selected parameters of dichlormethane, trichlormethane, tetrachlormethane, 1,2-dichlorethane, 1,1,1 - trichlorethane, trichlorethane and tetrachlorethane)
- BTEX: qualitative and quantitative determination of selected parameters of benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene, o-xylol, m/p-xylol

Solution 2: hydrocarbon index – part 2 (mineral oil hydrocarbons)
(DIN EN ISO 9377-2, 2001-07 (H 53) Determination of hydrocarbon oil index – Part 2 Method using solvent extraction and gas chromatography))

Solution 3: chrome(VI), chloride, nitrate, orthophosphate, sulfate

The cost for the participation in the interlaboratory comparison with all solutions is € 670.00. In case of single samples, there are € 420.00 for solution 1; for solution 2 or 3 € 210.00, respectively. Combinations of the solutions 1+2 or 1+3 are levied for € 550.00, respectively and combinations of 2 + 3 for € 400.00. The prices are intended plus VAT. For the dispatch in Germany, a flat rate for forwarding in the amount of € 28.00 is levied.

Dr. Christian Lehmann

PUBLICATIONS OF TECHNICAL CORRIGENDUMS FOR DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025:2005

In January 2007, the technical corrigendum I DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025 was published. This corrigendum was performed in order to correct a mistake in table A.1 Nominal cross-references to ISO 9001-2000.

As compared to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025 Technical Corrigendum 1:2007-01, in Technical Corrigendum II several technical cross-references were corrected, marked by deletions or underlinings.

NEW IAF-GUIDE FOR ISO/IEC GUIDE 65 (DIN EN 45011) PUBLISHED

Version 2 of the IAF Guide for ISO/IEC Guide 65 (IAF GD:5:2006) was published on 8th December 2006. This Guide substantiates the requirements for product certification bodies working according DIN EN 45011. It is binding for all accredited product certification bodies and has to be implemented till 8th October 2007. This document can be downloaded from the IAF website free of charge. (www.iaf.nu).

Dr. Tilman Denkler

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