

## News:

**“Being able to transmit credibility and confidence in our products is essential for being able to gain an important position in the international market”**

- Interview with José Sabater, CEO of Ramon Sabater, S.A.U.

15<sup>th</sup> January 2016

**Ramón Sabater**, a **spice and seasoning** wholesale company in business for more than 100 years, has achieved **internal laboratory accreditation in the field of microbiological tests on paprika, spices and culinary herbs**. **José Sabater, CEO of the company**, in this interview explains **the value of having the National Accreditation Body (ENAC) accreditation for inside and outside our borders**.

- **What are the main products and markets of Sabater Spices?**

Our activity is focused on producing, processing and marketing a range of spices and herbs; capsicums (paprika and cayenas) being the main ones, in all their varieties and qualities.

**90% of our products are aimed at being exported to more than 73 countries**, the most important being the European and North American markets.

- **What is the laboratory's role in the company? What led you to choose an internal laboratory instead of contracting an external laboratory for your product testing?**

Our main objective is food quality and safety, which would not be possible without a full laboratory where different controls of all products were carried out throughout the various phases of production, in addition to rigorous selection of raw materials and audits of our suppliers.

Sampling, analysis and monitoring of all products and processes requires us to have a laboratory team specialized in chemistry and microbiology. **Having an internal laboratory gives us the agility and confidence in the results that our customers demand.**

By participating in initiatives aimed at achieving sustainable trade, the laboratory team is a department committed to that end result.

- **What objectives led you to apply for accreditation by ENAC?**

Commitment to our customers, continuous improvement, and food security. **Demonstrating the quality and accuracy of our analysis** and so obtaining a recognition of **trust**.

- **To what extent has having an accredited laboratory contributed to strengthening the position of your company in the national market?**

Having the **laboratory accreditation gives us a clear differentiation with respect to competition**. This will be valued by our customers, independent companies and Spanish subsidiaries of multinational companies both of which we work with.

- **In an increasingly globalized economy, one of the main business routes, for Sabater Spices as well, is exporting food products to the international market, how do you value accreditation's role in exporting your products?**

Being able to **transmit credibility and confidence in our processes and products is essential for being able to gain an important position in the international market**. This is the reason why Sabater Spices has been adhering to this policy for decades, in parallel with developing our foreign business.

Accreditation based on the **UNE - EN ISOIEC 17025** standard represents a new stage in this process. For customers abroad, and also for nationals, the fact that **our laboratory is accredited represents an additional guarantee regarding the suitability of our sales offer** by strengthening our relationship with current customers and gives an additional benefit in the search for new ways to market our products.

## **Spanish Authorities has confidence in ENAC's accreditation as a requirement for automated driving vehicle inspection**

- New framework for testing automated driving vehicles on open roads

20<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Some of those groups who may request such authorization will be manufacturers of automated vehicles, government laboratories, manufacturers or installers of technology which enables vehicles to be fully automated, universities and consortia participating in research projects. Parties interested in carrying out inspections such as the **Technical Service for automated driving vehicles must be accredited by ENAC** through an inspection process such as the **Inspection Body according to the UNE - EN ISOIEC 17020:2012 standard**.

According to the Spanish Authorities an automated vehicle is “whatever has motor capacity equipped with technology that enables steering or driving without the driver's specific active control or supervision, no matter whether such automated technology is temporarily or permanently enabled or disabled”.

Faced with the developers' need to test this type of vehicle in real conditions on open roads, **The Spanish Authorities has issued an instruction** (instruction 15V-113, November 13, 2015) which **recognises the requirements established for all parties to get authorization for these tests**, and at the same time to **ensure the safety of other users**.

## **The CIRCE Foundation, the first certification body accredited by ENAC in the energy auditor field**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2016

**The CIRCE Foundation** is a **research centre** founded in 1993 with the support of the University of Zaragoza and aims to develop and convey **innovative solutions and scientific and technical knowledge** to the business sector in **the energy field**. CIRCE's mission is to promote **energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy deployments** by developing **Research, Development & Innovation activities and training programs** which respond to the national and international sectors' needs, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

In particular, the **Electrical Metrology Laboratory**, CIRCE - University of Zaragoza is where the **Persons Certification Body** is located that manages the entire process.

**ENAC has awarded the CIRCE Foundation accreditation for Persons Certification in the Energy Auditor** category for both industry and construction, in accordance with the competence requirements for its own certification scheme. The people certified will demonstrate to the certifier - by passing the assessment program - their technical competence to carry out Energy Audits in designated areas.

**The ENAC accreditation is evidence of the technical competence of certifying people** for the relevant conformity assessment activities. To be certified, first they are evaluated and publicly announced only after the people's ability to apply the knowledge and skills required in each of the certification schemes is demonstrated.

## **EQA becomes the first accredited body to certify Innovative SMEs**

- With the Innovative SMEs seal, recognized by MINECO, companies will have access to tax benefits

19<sup>th</sup> January 2016

**EQA** is the **first body to have been accredited by the National Accreditation Body ENAC**, to certify Innovative SMEs according to the **EA 0047 Specification**. This accreditation joins the one already obtained to certify Young Innovative Companies. Both accredited certifications enable companies to access to the **Official Registry of Innovative SMEs** at the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness.

*“These two accreditations go hand in hand and together with the corresponding UNE 166002, we complete the three existing routes to obtain the recognition of Innovative SMEs awarded by MINECO. In this way, we were **able to be accessible to any organization with an innovative character, from spin offs to large organizations listed on the IBEX35**”* said Ignacio Martínez Cabañero, General Manager of EQA.

The **Innovative SMEs seal** is a recognition that the **Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO)** awards companies which comply with this profile, so as to make a positive discrimination upon which they can establish a policy that will help growth and sustainability. It is therefore a recognition attached to the Public Registry. **One of the ways to access such a registry and gain access to their respective fiscal advantages is to be certified as such by a company accredited by ENAC.**

For Martínez Cabañero, the guarantee offered by accreditation is a tool already established on the market: *“It is true that the Public Administration relies on the guarantee offered by accreditation to generate confidence in public-private partnerships and, in terms of R&D&I, it was never going to be an exception. In this field, there are already precedents that even make it mandatory, as in the case of research staff certification for the bonus contribution to Social Security or for the recovery of tax cheques”.*

In this same vein, César Maurin, Secretary of the CEOE's R&D Commission pointed out that *“It is important that companies are aware of **the importance of the support given by ENAC's accreditation**, which guarantees that the technical reports issued that are marked ENAC have been produced by bodies under its control, **enabling you to have confidence not only in the validity of these reports, but also in the competence of the bodies issuing certification**”.*

## Innovative SMEs Certification

19<sup>th</sup> January 2016

The **Innovative SMEs certificate** is based on the **EA 0047 specification**, this tool enables, in addition to establishing a line between the companies that may or may not be considered small or medium-sized innovative companies, **an evaluation of excellence to be established and better identifies areas of improvement.**

For this purpose, the EA047 consists of 28 indicators for achieving a maximum of 1,000 points in three blocks: resources (400), processes (200) and results (400). The organization that achieves at least 400 points shall be entitled to obtain the Innovative SMEs seal and to be in the Official Registry that the MINECO has approved.

**The Innovative SMEs included in the Public Registry may reconcile tax deductions and the bonus assessments for Social security expenditure** for people dedicated exclusively to R&D tasks.

## AENOR opens the list of bodies accredited to grant Young Innovative Company certification

- One of the possible ways of getting the MINECO Innovative SMEs seal is to be certified as a Young Innovative Company by an ENAC-accredited body.

20<sup>th</sup> January 2016

**AENOR is the first organization accredited by ENAC, according to the EA0043 Specification, to certify an organization as a Young Innovative Company.** This accreditation joins the one already obtained to certify to the Innovative SMEs. Both certifications enable companies to gain access to the **Innovative SMEs Official Registry at the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness.**

Issuing the Small and Medium-sized Innovative Companies' seal, as well as creating and regulating Registry operations was set up in the order that the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO) made public on 5th June. The order states that, in order to gain access to the new seal, it is necessary to appear on the register as an Innovative SME. One of the possible ways to gain access to the seal is therefore be certified as an Innovative SME or a Young Innovative Company by an ENAC-accredited body.

*“In the field of the R&D, accredited certification provides assurance and security to all parties involved in these processes: companies, technology centres, universities, public administration, etc. The Young Innovative Company Innovative joins other accredited certification schemes developed by AENOR which are intended to enhance organizations' competitiveness, in this case, with special attention to the startups”,* explains Gerardo Malvido, R&D Manager at AENOR.

In relation to obtaining the **Young Innovative Company certificate**, certain **requirements** have been established: **defining the innovation strategy and identifying the main R&D actions to be carried out**, aimed at ensuring the business project's solvency and liquidity.

This certificate is intended for **startups (being in business less than 6 years)** which have a strong commitment to R&D, with costs in this area representing at least 15% of total expenditures.

Therefore, companies may, for the first time, combine in a same personnel research, **40% bonus of business contributions for the Social Security quotas for research staff** with tax deductions for R&D tax expenditures, according to the Royal Decree 4752014 on bonuses in Social security contributions for research staff.

## Certification of providers of e-trust services

- New accreditation scheme in the EU 9102014 Regulation framework.

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015

ENAC starts the accreditation processes for certification service providers of electronic identification and trust services for electronic transaction services. Therefore, **it shall accredit**, within the framework of the EU 9102014 Regulation, in accordance with the **new EN 319 403 standard recognized throughout the European Union**.

Organizations, whether banks, businesses or Government agencies, increasingly make use of signatures, stamps or digital certificates to authenticate documents.

In Europe these products and services are regulated in the **European Regulation (EU) 9102014 of 23 July 2014** concerning **electronic identification and trust** services for electronic transactions in the domestic market.

The Regulation, in article 20, establishes that it must carry out **monitoring of providers qualified in trust services**, who must be audited to confirm that both they and the services provided meet the requirements laid down in the Regulation.

Therefore, **ENAC** has been maintaining close contact with the **Secretary of State for Telecommunications and Information Society (SETSI)** at the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism, in order to **ensure that the Spanish market has accredited certifiers** as soon as the necessary technical documentation being prepared by ETSI, (the European Telecommunications Standards Institute) is ready.

Finally, last August, the **EN 319 403** standard was published which specifies the requirements for ensuring **the technical competence, the operability and impartiality of those bodies which audit and certify providers of electronic identification and TSP services**, for which documentation is already available so that ENAC can set up this new accreditation scheme for the certification bodies who requested it.

Those interested in applying for accreditation please contact **Rosalina Porres**: [rporres@enac.es](mailto:rporres@enac.es).

## Accreditation in waterproofing landfills

- Several autonomous communities are committed to the ENAC accreditation for controlling the quality of landfill waterproofing.

15<sup>th</sup> December 2015

**Several autonomous communities have opted for the ENAC accreditation** for recognizing an accredited body, **Lurgintza Geological Engineering, S.L** as a **collaborating body** (or authorized

inspection body) in the matter of environmental quality in the **field of geosynthetic installations such as waterproofing systems for landfills, pools and leachate tanks.**

This recognition by the autonomous communities comes from the accreditation that **ENAC awarded last year. This publicly demonstrated that company has the necessary technical competence** to perform their control activities as it is the first accredited body in Spain to inspect geosynthetic installations for waterproofing landfills.

With respect to the role played by accreditation in the Public Administration's recognition, **Guillermo Bernal, Managing Partner at Lurgintza**, recognizes that: **"Accreditation has been, without a doubt, key.** Given the large number of services offering technical assistance in a sector which requires such a high qualification and specialization as does Environmental Protection, the Administration needs a technical assurance for the services it contracts, this **being ENAC's accreditation which is the maximum guarantee distinction** for the organization's technical competence which delegates these quality control activities".

"Contracting quality assurance control of geosynthetic installations to an accredited body is for the Administration and technicians who make it up, **the assurance that the installation will have a final certificate that guarantees it is correctly implemented,** therefore, it limits and refines the responsibilities with regard to a potential system failure", He added.

### **Waterproofing landfills**

One of the **main problems faced by operators of landfill sites in Spain is to ensure the protection of soil, groundwater, and surface water** during the exploitation phase. This is only possible with an appropriate combination of a natural geological barrier and waterproof artificial lining under the mass of waste.

In this sense, the different layers of geosynthetic installation becomes a means to obtain this protection and **different administrations require independent developer and builder bodies to carry out a quality control of the facility,** as a means of protecting the soil and waters against contamination.

## **New accredited certification of people carrying out energy efficiency inspections**

23<sup>rd</sup> December 2015

**Aselar Certification Body, S.L.** has expanded its scope of accreditation according to **UNE-EN ISOIEC 17024** as a **Persons Certification Body** for certifying "qualified experts in carrying out **periodic energy efficiency inspections of thermal installations in buildings**".

This certification means that those who have passed their theoretical and practical programmes are recognized for their technical capacity for carrying out periodic energy efficiency inspections of thermal installations in buildings.

## The accreditation system, key in the Trans-Pacific Economic Co-operation Agreement (TTP Agreement)

10<sup>th</sup> January 2016

The **Trans-Pacific Economic Cooperation Agreement**, a commercial alliance that links twelve Pacific Basin countries (40% of the world economy), recognizes that **accreditation**, through the **Multilateral Recognition Agreements (MLA)**, is a key measure **to support trade by removing technical barriers**.

The agreement, signed by Mexico, New Zealand, Australia, Brunei, Chile, Singapore, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Peru, Vietnam and the USA has emerged with the aim of **promoting economic growth, supporting the creation of employment, boosting innovation, productivity and competitiveness**, increasing the standard of living, promoting transparency and proper management and Environmental protection.

**ENAC is party to all the Multilateral Recognition Agreements (MLA)** established in international accreditor forums: European co-operation for Accreditation (EA), International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and International Accreditation Forum (IAF). Currently more than 70 countries, among them the whole of the EU and EFTA as well as the USA, Canada, Japan, China, Australia, Brazil, India, etc. have signed these agreements.

For more information, please consult the following link to the [agreement's index](#), as well as the document's chapter on [technical trade barriers](#).