

## News:

### Guide defining conformity assessment activities for public procurement tenders has been published

7th March 2016

Both the **2014/24/UE Directive** on government procurement and the **2014/25/UE** relating to procurement by organizations operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors establish that when **contracting authorities require economic operators to provide a test report from a conformity assessment agency** or a certificate issued by a body, such a body must be accredited as stipulated in Regulation (EC) no 765/2008, **which in Spain means being accredited by ENAC.**

For this reason, ENAC has developed and published the "**Guide for defining conformity assessment activities in public procurement tenders**" in order to help contracting authorities draft the requirements related to the Conformity Assessment Bodies and the certificates or reports that they emit, as well as to recognize when the above requirements are met.

The document explains how to apply the 765/2008 Regulation in Spain and, in particular, what is ENAC and how it works. **The document's content is practical and gives guidelines on how to identify an accredited conformity assessment body; how to identify if a particular activity has been carried out correctly according to accreditation and how to make reference to the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies** in the tender specifications.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please get in contact through this email address: [direcciontecnica@enac.es](mailto:direcciontecnica@enac.es).

### ENAC signs an export agreement with the United Arab Emirates

□ The agreement opens the door to significantly reducing difficulties facing Spanish agrifood companies when introducing their products to Muslim consumer markets.

8th February 2016

The **National Accreditation Body (ENAC)** and the **United Arab Emirates' Standardization and Metrology Authority (ESMA)** have signed a collaboration agreement that includes

**recognizing Halal products** certified by ENAC-accredited certification bodies. Halal products are those which meet the requirements of Islamic law.

**Abdullah Abdelqader al Maeeni, the CEO of ESMA and Beatriz Rivera, the Director General of ENAC have signed the agreement at a ceremony at the United Arab Emirates Embassy** which was attended by Dr. Rashid Ahmed BinFahad, the Emirates' Minister of the Environment and Water, accompanied by Dr. Hissa Abdulla Ahmed Al – Otaiba, the UAE Ambassador in Spain as well as by Jaime Garcia-Legaz, the Secretary of State for Trade and the Ambassador of Spain in the UAE José Eugenio Salarich.

**This agreement will clearly enable agri-food products to be exported to the United Arab Emirates** where, according to ICEX, Spanish companies exported products worth 1.651 billion euros last year.

This agreement will also allow such products to enter the Muslim market via the Emirates. **According to the Halal Institute, it is expected that spending on Halal food will represent 21.2% of the total global food and beverage expenditure**, so entering this market is vital for Spain, the world's eighth exporter of agri-food products. Prior to the signing ceremony, Jaime Garcia-Legaz, Secretary of State for Trade stressed the importance of this export agreement *"The signing of this agreement opens a new door for many companies interested in the enormous opportunities offered by markets such as the Middle East, Africa and other areas where consumers demand Halal certificates for their products."*

The agreement is supported, from the technical point of view, by another agreement ENAC has signed with GAC-GCC, an accreditation body operating under the auspices of the Cooperation Council for the Gulf Arab States, which will participate in assessment processes along with ENAC.

## **The Reganosa internal laboratory, first accredited in analysis of sulfur composition in natural gas**

□ Some testing, such as those for sulfur, are necessary for safety reasons as they must guarantee not to exceed maximum composition levels which may corrode equipment.

16th March 2016

**Reganosa** is a Galician company which **transports and resupplies piped natural gas**. It is authorized and designated by the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism as the **Transportation Networks Administrator**. Currently, the assets managed by the company are essential to ensuring safety of supply and diversifying sources at the European level. Recently, the company **has obtained ENAC's accreditation for its internal testing**

**laboratory for analysing sulfur compounds by gas chromatography with Pulsed Flame Photometric Detector (PFPD).** The ENAC accreditation **recognizes the technical competence** of the laboratory to carry out such testing.

In addition to this pioneering accreditation in Spain, Reganosa laboratory has received accreditation from ENAC for other natural gas testing: composition analysis by gas chromatography with TCD (thermal conductivity detector) and determining the physical properties of the gas from the composition.

The company understands that **accreditation's value lies in global-market recognition:** *"Accreditation is a feature that makes you stand out in the market, guarantees integrity and technical competence and is synonymous with internationally-recognized service, thus giving added value to our work in the sector and increases our commercial opportunities. Reganosa is a young company that operates globally, and to win a position in that environment, we have chosen the path of innovation and guaranteed quality. Having ENAC's accreditation strengthens us with our customers and our staff",* explains **María Rey Garrote, Planning and Laboratory Manager in the company.**

Reganosa laboratory has three types of customers: internal customers (those belonging to other departments of Reganosa); distributors with third-party network access contracts which offer quality determination testing of gas passing through their installations in the port of Ferrol; and external customers who perform gas sample testing. The Planning and Laboratory manager indicates that everyone will benefit from this accreditation:

*"We understand that, for all of them, choosing an accredited laboratory is guaranteeing quality. This means that the service will be carried out by a technically competent team which provides you with qualified staff, has adequate instrumentation, applies appropriate working methods and manages its activities with established quality criteria",* highlights **María Rey Garrote.**

### **Natural Gas analysis**

Natural gas compound analysis is needed for safety reasons. For example, some gases, such as sulfur, can corrode equipment, so it must be guaranteed not to exceed maximum composition levels.

**For natural gas operators and distributors, laboratories providing guarantees are essential for their market credentials and to ensure no harm comes to third parties.** Therefore, **leading companies in the sector increasingly have their own ENAC-accredited natural gas testing and calibration laboratories.**

**The Enagás High Pressure Meters Laboratory (LACAP)** is accredited for calibration, as well as analysis and meter testing. And, like **Abelló Linde**, is **recognized by ENAC for calibrating the mix of natural gas.**

Moreover, **Intertek's Bilbao Technological Centre (BTC)**, which offers chemical analysis services for the fuels sector, **accredits natural gas analysis** by gas chromatography and calorific value, density, relative density and Wobbe Index calculation from the composition.

## New tests accredited for software quality inspection

16th March 2016

**The AQCLab laboratory has expanded its accreditation of software quality inspection testing** according to the ISO/IEC 25000 standard, adding the **maintainability feature in functional adaptation and data quality**.

Nowadays, software is one of the most commonly used products, being present in practically everything around us and in almost all sectors: banking, medicine, education, industry, hospitality, automotive, leisure, etc. However, every day we hear about or even suffer the effects of malfunctioning software, its limited capacity for evolution or inadequate handling of data security. **Therefore, organizations and companies are increasingly interested in the software quality they develop or acquire, as well as in the data quality that such applications handle.**

The ISO/IEC 25000 standard group, known as SQuaRE (Software Product Quality Requirements and Evaluation), has established a common framework to assess software quality and specify the characteristics that can be inspected in order to determine the quality of software products and the data.

**Functional adaptation and data quality** are some of the fundamental aspects of software quality that are established in the standard.

The functional adaptation of software is understood as the degree by which the product meets specified performance needs. In this case, this feature is of great importance since software development customers want to make sure that the product has all the necessary functionality and in addition that these features have been tested properly. Likewise, **the software developer wants to be able to check that the finished product meets the assigned requirements and it also has one set of tests for these requirements.** Moreover, data quality is a key factor since an organization's decision-making success depends on the quality of data on which those decisions are based. However, these days, organizations do not usually have the means to assess the quality of their data for accuracy, completeness, consistency, credibility, and so on.

## First laboratory accredited in Spain for toxicity tests on vitro fertilisation materials

1st March 2016

***"The MEA trials are very specific and need to be carried out in laboratories equipped with cuttingedge technology and performed by highly qualified staff, it is for this reason that there are only three companies worldwide offering these services"***, According to Nuno Costa-Borges, Technical Manager of EmbryoTools.

**EmbryoTools Laboratory has successfully passed the ENAC accreditation process** according to the UNE - EN ISO/IEC 17025:2005 standard for Mouse Embryo Assay (MEA) and human sperm mobility trials. One of the accredited testing is the **Mouse Embryo Assay (MEA)**, a test that has a key role in what is referred to as **toxicity detection in all kinds of materials and equipment which are used in assisted human reproduction laboratories**.

EmbryoTools is a laboratory with scientists who have more than 30 years of experience in clinical Embryology and animal reproduction providing quality control services specifically designed to test toxicity in all kinds of materials, culture media, products and equipment used every day in IVF laboratories.

Activities are usually conducted in the international market and according to Nuno Costa-Borges, Technical Manager, recognized accreditation is strategic in order to provide their service to other countries: *"Most of our customers are manufacturers that work in an international market who requires their suppliers to also have quality standards recognized around the world. Accreditation, for us, has been a priority from the outset as a guarantee that all processes and tests follow quality standards that ultimately translates into more rigour, trust and safety in the provided results"*.

Particularly in the North American market "It is an FDA requirement" - says Dr. Gloria Calderón, Quality Manager of EmbryoTools - *"that each consignment of these products coming into contact with human embryos or gametes be previously tested on mouse embryos. This quality control measure is a guarantee of the manufacturing process which aims to prevent a toxic product from entering the market and putting the development of human embryos at risk which are extremely sensitive, and at the same time, unique biological samples. The MEA trials are very specific and need to be carried out in laboratories equipped with cutting-edge technology and performed by highly qualified staff, it is for this reason that there are only three companies worldwide offering these services"*.

According to the MEA standard, at least 80% of the total of one cell stage mouse embryos must develop to the blastocyst stage and pass a strict visual morphology quality exam. The test results will help to ensure that products can be used worry-free in the IVF

laboratory, giving the end user confidence and peace of mind that the products used are safe for embryos.

## First provider of ENAC-accredited Inter-comparison Programs for cereal and feed testing

□ *"The ENAC accreditation mark has a good reputation in all Latin America"*. Jesus Laso, Managing Director of GSC.

18th February 2016

ENAC has awarded accreditation to **Quality Services Cabinet (GSC)** as a **supplier of intercomparison cereal and feed testing**. For **Jesus Laso, Managing Director** of the company, the accreditation has a strategic value: **"Accreditation has been a tool to generate greater confidence for our clients**. Spanish laboratories have found the support of a Spanish company that can increasingly satisfy a greater number of inter-comparison activities, and ensure greater efficiency in these types of controls".

These **inter-comparison exercises are a quality assurance tool for laboratories performing tests which show the quality of cereals and feed by detecting the presence of aflatoxins** (a type of toxins produced by fungi in agricultural crops), and extracts from land or marine animals as well as making it possible to determine and quantify genetically modified organisms.

For GSC, beyond these sectors, accreditation is also a guarantee of its services in view of exporting and opening markets: "Without a doubt, accreditation is being recognised as a criteria, it is being increasingly used by laboratories to select their suppliers, by simplifying the inspection process and the guarantees provided. **Our vocation is to be a reference in the Spanish-speaking inter-comparison circuit, and ENAC's accreditation mark has a good reputation in all Latin America.**"