

“Accreditation News” issue 52

Second Quarter 2010

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ENAC from the inside

SERVICE QUALITY SURVEY

Within the process of the adaptation and ongoing improvement of ENAC accreditation, it is important to learn the opinion of our clients on the service they receive. This is why a new service quality assessment tool was introduced in 2009.

The information supplied by the accredited organizations enables us to compare the results of the different projects and measures that are being developed to improve the quality of the service and pinpoint those areas of action and improvement which we ought to work on, while maintaining the existing service levels achieved. The comments received are appraised systematically by Quality Management in order to determine whether it is necessary to take immediate steps with regard to specific problems.

Once again we wish to thank all the organizations accredited for the cooperation afforded to us through use of this new tool with a view to developing and improving the service.

At www.enac.es you may find further information on the results obtained.

94% of clients surveyed say they are satisfied or highly satisfied with the service.

The professionalism of ENAC staff and the attention and assistance received are the most highly rated aspects.

Over half of clients consider that the service has improved in the last two years

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NEW ACCREDITATIONS

TESTING LABORATORIES

Environmental test

OXITAL ESPAÑA, S.L. - 776/LE1593)

ALQUIMIA SOLUCIONES AMBIENTALES, S.L. - 777/LE1664

ANAQUA, S.L. - 780/LE1514

BEFESA GESTIÓN DE RESIDUOS INDUSTRIALES, S.L. - 781/LE1633

QUIMICONTROL, S.L. - 784/LE1522

LABORATORY SOCAMEX, S.A. - 785/LE1232

AQUANOVA TRATAMIENTO DE AGUAS Y ANÁLISIS QUÍMICOS, S.L. - 789/LE1641

GUADIANA RIVER AUTHORITY - 795/LE1629

LABORATORIOS NUEVAS TECNOLOGÍAS, S.L. (LANUTEC) - 796/LE1317

LABORATORIO DE INVESTIGACIÓN Y ASESORAMIENTO LINAS, S.L. - 801/LE1601

AIGÜES DEL PRAT, S.A. - 805/LE1581

Agrifood Products

CALITEC S.C.P. - 778/LE1596

APSA LAB, S.L. - 779/LE1448

SOIVRE INSPECTION SERVICE LABORATORY. REGIONAL DIRECTORATE OF COMMERCE IN BILBAO - 787/LE1643

CANARY ISLANDS AGROFOOD LABORATORY - 788/LE1648

ALTER FARMACIA, S.A. - 791/LE1656

LEON REGIONAL ANIMAL HEALTH LABORATORY. (LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICE. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND STOCK FARMING. REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF CASTILE-LEON) - 793/LE1614

UNIVERSITY OF ZARAGOZA. TSE AND EMERGING ANIMAL DISEASE REFERENCE CENTRE. AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY OF ARAGON TSE LABORATORY - 794/LE1663

SALQUISA AGRICULTURAL LABORATORY - 797/LE1427

ARAGON INTERPROFESSIONAL DAIRY ASSOCIATION - 798/LE1461

LABORATORIO DE DIAGNÓSTICOS Y ALIMENTACIÓN 2008, S.L.(Sole proprietorship) - 799/LE1560

BACTERECO, S.L. - 800/LE1570

LABORATORIO DE INVESTIGACIÓN Y ASESORAMIENTO LINAS, S.L. - 801/LE1594

VALENCIA MUNICIPAL LABORATORY - 802/LE1677

Acoustics

ACÚSTICA ARQUITECTÓNICA, S.A. - 804/LE1668
GRUPO INDUSTRIAL DE MANTENIMIENTO
AVANZADO DE NAVARRA, S.L. (GIMA) - 783/LE1544

Mechanical adhesive bond tests

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA DE COMILLAS.
INDUSTRIAL TESTING LABORATORY - 803/LE1577

Window and door tests

ALUMINIOS CORTIZO, S.A. - 786/LE1621

Aluminium and its alloys by optical emission spectrometry

ALCOA TRANSFORMACIÓN DE PRODUCTOS, S.L. - 790/LE1637

Electricity meter verification

ORBIS TECNOLOGÍA ELÉCTRICA, S.A. - 792/LE1645

Clinical

HOSPITAL UNIVERSITARIO SON DURETA IBSALUT - 782/LE1634

CALIBRATION LABORATORIES

UNIVERSITAT AUTÒNOMA DE BARCELONA,
CLINICAL ENZYMOLOGY REFERENCE
LABORATORY - 195/LC524

INSPECTION BODIES

Environmental Inspection

NOVATERRA MEDIOAMBIENTAL, S.A. - 190/EI350
WORLEYPARSONS ESPAÑA - 191/EI347
ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
IBERIA, S.A. - 192/EI358
MEDITERRA CONSULTORS AMBIENTALS, S.L. - 193/EI349
AFESA MEDIO AMBIENTE, S.A. - 194/EI348
MEDIOTEC CONSULTORES, S.A. - 195/EI346
INGURU INGENIERÍA Y GESTIÓN AMBIENTAL, S.A. - 196/EI318
RECURBA MEDIO AMBIENTE, S.A. - 197/EI332
EGIMA INGENIERÍA MEDIOAMBIENTAL, S.L. - 198/EI359

Road Vehicle Inspection

PISTAS ITEUVE, S.A. - 49/EI/ITV052
ITV DOSANCHEZ DE MAQUEDA, S.L. - 50/EI/ITV059
I.T.V. GUADALAJARA, S.L. - 51/EI/ITV062

PRODUCT CERTIFICATION

R&D Project Certification

GLOBAL CERTIFICATION SPAIN, S.L. - 62/C-PR115

Agrifood Sector

CENTRO DE INNOVACION TECNOLOGIA
AGROALIMENTARIA, S.A. - 63/C-PR145

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFICATION

BM TRADA CERTIFICATION ESPAÑA, S.L. - 34/C-SC048 and 22/C-MA028

INTERCOMPARISON PROGRAMMES

IELAB CALIDAD, S.L. - 2/PPI007

“ESTEBAN TERRADAS” NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
AEROSPACE TECHNOLOGY (INTA) - 3/PPI006

CONTROL BODIES

State Metrological Control

APPLUS NORCONTROL, S.L. (Sole proprietorship) - OC-I/192
ASOCIACIÓN LACECAL - OC-I/159
SERVICIO DE MEDICIONES CANARIAS, S.L. - OC-I/189
I.T.V. DE LEVANTE, S.A. - OC-I/203

Industrial Safety Installation Regulations

LCC CALIDAD Y CONTROL AMBIENTAL, S.A. - OC-I/218

Building Product Directive

CERTIMEDIA ENTIDAD DE CERTIFICACIÓN, S.L. - OC-P/174

Report

SCOPES OF ACCREDITATION AT CLINICAL LABORATORIES

ENAC accreditation has been present in the Accreditation by category or “flexible scope” is perfectly applicable to clinical laboratories operating in a field where analytical needs are continually changing, meaning new biological magnitudes have to be regularly added into their services portfolio.

The scope of accreditation is the document describing the activities for which a laboratory is accredited. Its main aim is to provide the laboratory’s clients and other interested parties with a clear description regarding the analyses for which the laboratory has shown its technical competency.

Obviously, the scope of accreditation is a living document as laboratories usually request its modification so as to include new analyses. In these cases, ENAC carries out a new assessment tailored to the nature and scope of the enlargement.

ACCREDITATION BY TEST CATEGORY

This enlargement process with prior assessment, which is appropriate and valid in many sectors and laboratories, may be excessively slow for others that have to respond rapidly either to client requests or to a rapidly changing technical environment and all this, of course, without impairing in the slightest the soundness of the scope enlargement process and the assurance that this affords in the competence of the laboratory. To achieve this objective the accreditation entities have established what is referred to as “accreditation by category or flexible scope”, which ENAC implemented some years ago now for laboratories accredited under ISO 17025.

This scenario is perfectly applicable to clinical laboratories operating in a field with constantly changing analytical needs calling for the continual implementation of new biological magnitudes in their services portfolio or the updating of methods and equipment, which involves frequent modifications to their accreditation scopes.

This is why ENAC has just published **NT-48. Clinical laboratories: accreditation scopes**, which, besides describing how clinical laboratories should define their scope of accreditation for specific analyses, specifies in what conditions and according to what criteria they may modify or enlarge their scope flexibly, i.e. without a prior ENAC assessment.

MANAGEMENT OF FLEXIBLE SCOPES

The system is based on the implementation by the laboratory of a management system that assures that,

before introducing a new analysis or update affecting accredited analyses, the necessary activities have been carried out which endorse the fact that the laboratory has the technical expertise and resources needed to undertake them. This system, and its practical application, is assessed by ENAC prior to conferring this type of scope and subsequently at every follow-up assessment.

In practice, in this type of accreditation, the scope accredited refers to a document, called List of Accredited Analyses, in which the specific tests that the laboratory has accredited are listed and which is updated by the actual laboratory in accordance with its needs and the stipulations of its management system.

The List of Accredited Analyses is a public document that the laboratory must make available to anyone requesting it, as it describes the accredited scope in detail.

Accreditation of a laboratory with flexible scope requires a management effort on the part of the laboratory in order to ensure the proper handling of all the items affected by its flexible scope (organization and staff, proposals/agreements, records, internal assessments, etc.) and, above all, to define the way in which method validation/verification will be carried out and all the specific aspects for each magnitude in relation to the pre-analytical stage (sample quality criteria, etc), analyses (reference values, etc.) and post-analyses (review criteria for results, reports, etc.).

In the preparation of NT 48, as a reference we have used document EA / 15 “EA Requirements for the accreditation of flexible scopes”, as well as the findings of the EA Working Group for clinical laboratories, of which ENAC forms part. EA-4/17. (1)

COOPERATION FROM SOCIETIES

For its preparation we had the benefit of cooperation from the following scientific societies: AEBM (Spanish Association of Medical Biopathology), AECNE (Spanish Association of Neonatal Screening), AEDP (Spanish Association of Prenatal Diagnosis), AEGH (Spanish Association of Human Genetics), AEHH (Spanish Association of Hematology and Hemotherapy), SEI (Spanish Society of Immunology), SEIMC (Spanish Society of Infectious Diseases and Clinical Microbiology), SEQC (Spanish Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Molecular Pathology).

NT-48 lays down the conditions and criteria for clinical laboratories to amend or enlarge their scope on a flexible basis.

Note1: EA-4/17. EA position paper on the description of the scopes of accreditation of medical laboratories and NT 18 “Testing laboratories. Accreditation for test categories”.

For further information: ivilla@enac.es

ACCREDITATION OF THE FIRST REFERENCE LABORATORY IN THE HEALTH SECTOR UNDER STANDARD ISO 15195

In 2007 the International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM), the International Federation Clinical Chemistry (IFCC) and ILAC agreed to set up a Joint Committee for Traceability in Laboratory Medicine, JCTLM.

The aim of the JCTLM is to provide a worldwide platform for promoting the equivalence of measures in laboratory medicine. Under this programme a network of reference laboratories has been set up to assign values to reference materials. Accreditation under standards ISO 17025 and ISO 15195, which are assessed jointly, is a prerequisite for being able to form part of this network.

ENAC has recently accredited the Clinical Enzymology Reference Laboratory attached to Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona for the determination of enzyme catalytic activity concentration. It is the first laboratory accredited in Spain under this standard and one of the first in Europe.

For further information: ivilla@enac.es

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Sectors

ACCREDITED SERVICES IN SOLAR POWER

In an industry like renewable energy and, in particular, solar power, in which quality is a efficiency ratio, assuring the proper conduct of the trials and tests and certification of the components and the generating systems is essential.

Accreditation of laboratories and certifying bodies is a response to that need, so that the activities accredited by ENAC in this area are increasing all the time.

PHOTOVOLTAIC ENERGY

The idea sprang from a group of laboratory CENER (CENER-CIEMAT Foundation) has expanded in accreditation in this field by including design qualification tests and type approval of crystalline silicon photovoltaic modules with concentration.

These modules use a type of optical device that concentrates sunlight at a point, thus reducing the size of photovoltaic cells - the most costly aspect in

economic terms in the manufacturing process. They have a tracking system - solar tracker - so that modules are turned towards the sun all the time, capturing its energy.

It is the first laboratory accredited in Spain for conducting tests under standard IEC 62108:07 in modules of this type, and the second on an international level.

Accredited testing of photovoltaic modules

In 2009 Spain was the second country in the European Union, after Germany, in installed photovoltaic capacity, with 3,520 MWp, (22% of total EU capacity)(2).

The conduct of the tests specified in the different international standards assures that photovoltaic modules subject to testing comply with the energy efficiency, mechanical strength, environmental, safety and conformity conditions.

ORGANIZATION	ACTIVITIES ACCREDITED
AT4 Wireless	Design qualification and type approval of crystalline silicon photovoltaic modules
CENER (CENER-CIEMAT Foundation)	silicon crystalline silicon modules. Design qualification and type approval of thin-film photovoltaic modules. Photovoltaic module electrical safety tests

Note2: Source: EurObserv'ER

THERMAL SOLAR COLLECTORS.

Last March the first accreditation for certification of solar liquid heating collectors was conferred on the Spanish Association of Standardization and Certification, AENOR.

Thermal solar collectors are mainly used in low temperature hot-water systems for consumption in residential blocks and buildings.

In 2009 there were 32.5 million m2 of solar collectors (22,785 MWth) installed (2) across the European Union, mainly in Germany, Greece and Austria. In Cyprus, the country which supplies the largest quantity of thermal solar energy per inhabitant in the world, (611 kWt/1000 inhabitants), more than 90% of buildings have thermal solar collectors.

In Spain, in the period 2006 – 2009, the increase in installed capacity was more than 50% a year, until reaching last year 1.85 million m2 (1,305 MWth), a figure still far removed from the target set in the Renewable Energy Promotion Plan.

The entry into force in September 2006 of the new Technical Building Code (CTE), under which newly built or renovated buildings should have thermal solar energy systems to meet 30-70% of the sanitary hot

water needs represented a boost for these systems.

In 2004 ENAC granted the first accreditations in this field and at present the Solar Collector Laboratory of the Canary Island Technological Institute, the National Institute of Aerospace Technology and the CENER-CIEMAT Foundation hold ENAC accreditation to conduct the respective solar collector efficiency and durability tests. The latter also has thermal solar system accreditation.

Note2: Source: EurObserv'ER

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Sectors

OUTDOOR LIGHTING SYSTEM ENERGY EFFICIENCY CONTROL BODIES

From the accreditation point of view and owing to the innovative nature of the activity, the new regulation has entailed a major development effort in the pattern of accreditation of control bodies.

In our last issue we gave an account of the first accreditations within the scope of Royal Decree 1027/2007, implementing the Regulations on Thermal Installations in Buildings, which underlines our concern as a society for all matters on energy saving, the environment and the fight against climate change.

In this issue and as a result of the appearance of Royal Decree 1890/2008, adopting the Outdoor Lighting Energy Efficiency Regulations, we again underscore this interest in efficiency and energy saving as priorities of the economy, as it represents a new set of measures geared to lowering the energy bill while at the same time cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

PIONEERING REGULATIONS IN EUROPE

technical instructions affecting the design, installation and maintenance of outdoor lighting systems. Besides improving efficiency and energy saving by lowering greenhouse gas emissions, these systems limit night-time glare and luminous pollution by reducing intrusive or obtrusive light.

It applies to installations with an installed capacity of over 1 Kw of practically any type of outdoor lighting, including street, ornamental, night surveillance and security lighting, lighted signs and advertisements, as well as public holiday, Christmas and other types of lighting of a special kind. In particular, it applies both to new and existing installations when, by way of an energy efficiency study, the relevant Public Authority considers it necessary, and to those which, being prior to the entry into force of the regulations, have been subject to major modifications affecting more than 50% of the installed capacity or luminaires.

CONTROL BODIES

As usually happens in official documents concerning aspects relating to safety or, as in this case, to increasing energy efficiency, allowance is made for the participation of Control Bodies which carry out the first and subsequent inspection of installations, determining their actual energy efficiency and energy efficiency index, as well as the rating and possible defects in outdoor lighting, as specified in the regulation.

On account of its innovative nature, the new regulation entails considerable development work in the pattern of accreditation of control bodies: in-depth analysis of the assessment process, qualification of experts on the matter, and definition of the technical scope of accreditation annexes.

For the new regulation ENAC has currently accredited two entities: ABACO CONTROL, S.A. and SERVICIOS DE CONTROL E INSPECCIÓN, S.C.I., S.A.

For further information: lmrodriguez@enac.es

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Sectors

ACCREDITED CALIBRATION OF DIGITAL TACHOGRAPHS

Order ITC/69/2010, developing the provision of article 10.7 of Royal Decree 425/2005, of 15 April, specifying the technical requirements and rules of procedure that have to be met by technical centres for the installation, verification, control and inspection of digital tachographs, was adopted on 18 January last.

In its final provision, in point B.10, for external calibrations of the equipment of technical centres it establishes the compulsory nature of working with calibration laboratories accredited by ENAC or any accreditation entity with which a recognition agreement has been executed or with national laboratories that are signatories of the International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM) mutual recognition agreement.

The equipment of these technical centres subjected to calibration are: the roller bench, the pressure gauges, the chronometer and the tachograph calibration equipment.

For further information: borrego@enac.es

METROLOGICAL MONITORING OF MEASURING ACCREDITED CALIBRATION SERVICES. A COMMON LANGUAGE

Optimum Measuring Capacity (OMC) is one of the parameters that have been in use to define the scope of accreditation of the calibration laboratories. It expresses

the smallest measuring uncertainty that a laboratory can achieve during a calibration process. It is, therefore, an item that enables clients of accredited laboratories to judge their capacity to perform a given calibration job.

For their part, the national metrology institutes use a similar description of the services provided to their clients. In this case, the term used is Measuring and Calibration Capacity (MCC).

Since metrological traceability is disseminated either by accredited laboratories (in the framework of the ILAC mutual recognition agreement), or by national metrology institutes (in the framework of the CIPMMRA), and to endow the market with greater clarity, an agreement has been reached at international level to harmonize terminology used in both communities by adopting the Measuring and Calibration Capacity (MCC) denomination.

ENAC will amend all technical appendices of the accredited calibration laboratories, revising them to bring them into line with this change. In this respect, it is important to emphasize that this change is merely terminological, as OMC and MCC are equivalent and no technical change is implied in the scopes accredited nor in the calculations of uncertainty.

For their part, accredited laboratories have to gradually remove any mention of OMC from their advertising or other publications and replace it with MCC.

Road safety is a question of increasing concern for ENAC will amend all technical appendices of accredited calibration laboratories, revising them to bring them into line with this change.

Further information: see FAQs at www.enac.es.

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Highlights

DETERMINATION OF THE SPECIFIC ABSORPTION RATE (SAR) IN MOBILE PHONES

Governments or governmental agencies of different countries have laid down safety limits for maximum exposure to the radiofrequency energy from mobile phones with a view to preventing possible injuries connected to the heating which that energy absorption, mostly in the head or limbs, might cause.

It comes under the auspices of the European Directive on Radioelectrical and Telecommunication Terminal Equipment (R&TTE) or the American FCC regulation that requires suitable measures to verify compliance.

To this end, the SAR, a highly reliable indicator of the quantity of radiofrequency energy that is absorbed by the human body when using a cordless telephone, is measured.

SAR tests are regularly applied in radiocommunication sets that are used close to the head or body, the most typical of these being the mobile phone. The outcome of the test largely depends on how the mobile phone is held in relation to the body, the dielectric properties of the tissue, and the radioelectric design of the terminal. These tests, which have to be conducted with each specific source, as may be a given mobile phone model, and in its position of correct use, are a key factor for the acceptance plans of operators, as conformity in this aspect generates assurance in the safety of the product.

ENAC has conferred the first accreditation to determine the specific absorption rate in mobile phones on AT4 Wireless, Testing and Certification Laboratories.

For further information: egiraldo@enac.es

NEW ISO 17043 STANDARD ON PROVIDERS OF INTERCOMPARISON PROGRAMMES

"Conformity assessment - general requirements for proficiency testing", which lays down the competency and operating requirements for Proficiency Testing Providers, was published on 1 February 2010. The new standard has its origin in the ISO Guides 43-1 and 34-2 and in the ILAC Guide G13:2007 (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation), the document used until now for their assessments by accreditation entities.

The scope of the standard includes providers not only of testing but also of calibration laboratories and inspection bodies and, with regard to types of aptitude tests, also comprises sampling and data transformation and interpretation.

The structure of the ISO/IEC 17043:2010 standard is similar to that of other standards in the 17000 series, including technical and management requirements. The technical requirements are very similar to those set out in Guide G-13 including some changes resulting from experience in their application. The management requirements are equivalent to those of the other standards in the ISO 17000 series.

In addition, it includes informative appendices specifying the types of aptitude tests, the statistical methods applicable and an explanation for participating laboratories on how to select and use an intercomparison exercise.

Although ILAC has proposed a year's transition period for the accreditation entities to start accrediting in accordance with the requirements of the new standard, ENAC has already adapted its accreditation process to ISO/IEC 17043:2010 in this schedule and issued its first accreditation on 30 April last. At the date of this article, ENAC has two accredited Proficiency Testing Providers, one of them for tests in the environment sector and the other for calibrations in a wide range of magnitudes.

For further information: mjcotarelo@enac.es

ACCREDITATION FOR IDENTIFICATION OF VIRUSES IN FOODS

ENAC confers accreditation on AINIA Centro Tecnológico for detection and quantification of enteral viruses in foods. This is the first accreditation of its kind in Spain

Contamination of foods by way of viruses is a source of infectious diseases which needs to be controlled. An example of this problem is the case of food poisoning from eating bivalve molluscs contaminated with Hepatitis A which have affected scores of people all over Spain, with the resultant economic and social impact.

For this reason, the existence of these microbiological risks is currently included in the European Regulation, which lays down the microbiological criteria in foodstuffs (Reg. No 2073/2005), recognizing both the need to develop analytical methods for detecting enteral viruses and the unreliability of using other indicator microorganisms to detect the presence of these viruses.

As a result, AINIA has implemented a method in its laboratories for the detection and quantification of the hepatitis A virus (HAV) and genogroup I and II norovirus in bivalve molluscs and vegetables.

The analytical procedure accredited based on working documents of the European Standardisation Committee as well as in reputable scientific publications, consists of extracting viral particles that may be present in test samples so as to proceed later to the extraction, purification and concentration of the viral RNA.

From this extract we proceed to the retrotranscription of the RNA in cDNA and to the specific detection by means of real-time PCR, amplifying a specific fragment of the 5'-NCR and 5'-ORF2 genes.

This method, which can even, if necessary, return results in less than 24 hours, enables food companies and public authorities to assure the safety of foods potentially contaminated with emerging pathogens of this type.

It is important to emphasize that these methods require capacity of innovation by including microbiological testing methods based on new technologies. This is a major challenge for control laboratories, but also for ENAC insofar as the activities of assessment and recognition of the technical ability to carry out this type of analysis are concerned.

For further information: jagarcia@enac.es

ACCREDITATION OF ENTITIES OPERATING FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES (CROSS-FRONTIER) WAS ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS

The EA General Assembly was held on 20 and 21 May last in Zurich. On this occasion several problems encountered in the application, at European level, of Regulation (EC) 765/2008 were on the agenda. In particular, the problem was discussed of how to view the accreditation of entities operating from different EU countries (mainly certification entities) in the light of the stipulations under Article 7 of the aforementioned Regulation that prohibits accreditation entities from operating in other EU countries, except in exceptional circumstances laid down in the actual regulation.

This is an issue that has been under debate for some time in the technical EA committees and in the EAAB (Consultative body comprising all stakeholders at European level). The outcome of these discussions and of the debate that has taken place in the General Assembly itself is the following principles that have now been approved by EA for application in the accreditation of entities of this type:

1. The certification body must be a legal entity.
2. This legal entity may carry on other activities or have departments with other activities that are permitted by the respective standard.
3. An accreditation certificate (including appendices) conferred by a National Accreditation Body has to name a single legal entity, the latter being the holder of the accreditation and the party that has legal responsibility for the activities accredited.
4. In the event of the accredited certifying body having branches or offices for which it has assumed legal responsibility, these legal branches may be included in the same accreditation conferred in the country in which the certifying body has its legal status registered. If the branches are in other countries (Member States), they may be registered for administrative purposes in those countries, but the accredited certifying body shall continue to hold legal responsibility for the activities of these branches. However, the rules regulating EA Cross-Frontier responsibility shall be applied for the assessment, supervision, surveillance, etc. of those branches based in other countries.
5. The certificates accredited may be issued by the branch if, and only if, the certifying body can take full responsibility for the issue of those certificates, which furthermore should be issued with the name and address of the certifying body, and not with the logotype of the branch.

At ENAC we are pleased with this decision, which

coincides fully with the practice that has always been followed in our accreditations of entities with branch offices abroad and, therefore, with the position upheld by ENAC during the discussions.

Other aspects dealt with are the regularisation of bilateral agreements reached by EA with other countries in the light of the provisions of the recently adopted EA Neighbourhood Policy (EA 1/13), laying down specific procedures for countries signed up to the European Neighbourhood Policy other than those countries not included in this policy and the approval of the associations accepted as "Recognised Stakeholders", which have special rights, as set out in the likewise recently approved "Policy for relations with stakeholders" (EA 1/15).

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Forthcoming Events

NATIONAL MEETINGS

6th CONFERENCE ON QUALITY IN THE MEASUREMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RADIOACTIVITY

21 – 23 October 2010, Cáceres

ENAC representative: B. Villamiel and O. Recuero

CONFERENCE ON ACCREDITATION OF PROVIDERS OF INTERCOMPARISON PROGRAMME

13 October 2010, Madrid

ENAC representative: J.L. Borrego and M.J. Cotarelo

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

EA LABORATORY COMMITTEE

14-16 September 2010, Sofia

ENAC representative: R. Porres

EA CALIBRATION LABORATORY WORKING GROUP

21-22 September 2010, London

ENAC representative: E. González

GROUP OF ACCREDITATION BODIES ACTIVE IN THE AEROSPACE SECTOR

28.09.10, Madrid

ENAC representative: E. Gago

EA CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

29-30 September 2010, Copenhagen

ENAC representative: E. Gago

EA INSPECTION COMMITTEE

1 October 2010, Copenhagen

ENAC representative: F. Ordeig

EA MLA COMMITTEE

6-7 October 2010, Slovenia

ENAC representative: I. Pina / B. Rivera

EA PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

5-7 October 2010, Brussels

ENAC representative: C. Tallés

FALB AND EA EMS GROUP MEETING

13-15 October 2010, Brussels

ENAC representative: E. Gago

ILAC/IAF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20-29 October 2010, Shanghai

ENAC representative: I. Pina and B. Rivera

ENAC receives the Ukrainian authorities

This study visit, financed by the European Commission, is part of the technical assistance project to learn the important aspects of standardisation and market surveillance and aims to help the Ukrainian authorities enhance their Quality Infrastructure.

The Group visiting the ENAC offices was made up of six representatives from various Ukrainian institutions (Ministry of the Economy, Ukrainian Accreditation Body, Workers' Confederation, National Standardisation Body and Ministry of Industry). Ignacio Pina, Technical Director of ENAC, explained matters relating to the organization and activities of ENAC as the body that accredits the technical competency of the official laboratories for the official control of the conformity assessment entities and inspection and certification bodies.

New International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Newsletter

IAF has launched its first newsletter. It will give regular information on the activities and achievements of IAF Committees, including articles on the different regions and economies of its members, as well as abstracts of the most prominent results of each General Assembly and other meetings of interest. The first issue is already available on its website www.iaf.nu

