## **"Accreditation News" issue 46**

Fourth Quarter 2008

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### **ENAC** from the inside

## FORUMS WITH GOVERNMENT IN 2008

After three years of our Forums with Government, this initiative, first started in 2005, has become firmly established as a key advisory resource for ENAC and one of the major tools to enhance cooperation and communication with competent authorities.

### **CONTROL BODIES**

The issues addressed included the release of Technical Note 41 "Assessment of inspection, certification and monitoring bodies with multiple sites" (covered in Accreditation News issue 43) and the progress and performance of these evaluation processes, **now at the pilot stage.** 

In addition, observers from autonomous community made contributions to key aspects of assessment, such as selecting representative facilities and coordination between ENAC and the autonomous community on the state of evaluation processes, especially in connection with authorisations for new regulations so as to avoid, as far as practicable, any market needs going unmet.

Finally, the decision was made to set up a working group to modify and extend the scope of the *Guía de Requisitos de Competencia del Personal Inspector de Organismos de Control* [Guide to Competence Requirements of Control Bodies' Inspection Staff].

### **ROAD VEHICLE INSPECTION**

The state of accreditations granted to date was reviewed, and new issues were raised, such as: upcoming regulatory changes and reforms in vehicle standardisation and the likely effects on accredited centres; the start of evaluation activities for motorcycle inspection and the problems surrounding noise emission and maximum speed; the methods for verifying taximeters in the field of legal metrology in accordance with the Control Bodies evaluation procedure under guideline 1/2007 of the Spanish Ministry of Industry; and the creation of a new field within the scope of road vehicle inspection - ATP, or perishable goods vehicle inspection.

The representatives of the various autonomous communities told ENAC that they wanted evaluations to cover "house call" inspections to ensure that they are conducted to the same standard of technical competence as fixed centre inspections.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

The fourth Environment Forum, which for the first time addressed the issues surrounding environmental testing laboratories, engaged in discussions on: the new scheme for accreditation in acoustics, developed in 2009 and scheduled for introduction in the course of 2009 so as to constitute a single accreditation scheme in this field (UNE-EN ISO/IEC 17025); the accreditation of testing laboratories for verification of the calibration function of ongoing monitors of stationary source emissions; and the implications of the upcoming publication of the UNE-EN ISO 15259:2008 and CEN/TS 15675:2007 standards on these emissions.

The Forum resolved to work with autonomous community authorities to develop an accreditation scheme for inspections relating to administrative environmental permits, particularly those under the IPPC Directive.

## **NEW APPOINTMENTS**

#### Jesús Rodríguez

Graduate in Biology in the special fields of fundamental and healthcare biology, Jesús Rodríguez has an extensive track record in physical, chemical and microbiological testing in the environmental domain. He has joined the Environment Department.

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## **NEW ACCREDITATIONS**

#### TESTING LABORATORIES

HOSPITAL UNIVERSITARIO VIRGEN DEL ROCIO. EMERGENCY ROOM LABORATORY Clinical analysis 662/LE1417 HORAING, S.A. Acoustics 663/LE1441 CENTRO DE ENSAYOS Y ANÁLISIS CETEST, S.L. Railway vehicles 664/LE1385 ERTZAINTZA - BASQUE COUNTRY POLICE FORCE. FORENSIC SCIENCE UNIT Forensic testing 665/LE1398 COOPERATIVA APÍCOLA LEVANTINA, COOP. V. Agrofood products - 666/LE1052 CONTROL Y CALIDAD DE AGUAS POTABLES, S.L. (CICAP, S.L.) Environmental tests 667/LE1348 LABORATORI DEL SERVEI DE MEDI AMBIENT DEL ÁREA DE MEDI AMBIENT DE LA DIPUTACIÓ DE BARCELONA (Barcelona provincial government environmental laboratory) Environmental tests 668/LE1394 EPTISA - CINSA INGENIERÍA Y CALIDAD, S.A. Concrete testing 669/LE1450 ICINSA, S.A. Environmental tests 670/LE1358 Concrete testing 670/LE1425 SINCROFARM, S.L. Medicinal plants 671/LE1331 FUNDACIÓN INNOVARCILLA, CENTRO TECNOLÓGICO DE LA CERÁMICA DE ANDALUCÍA (Andalusia ceramic technology centre) Baked clay ceramic material (672/LE1471) **ORBITAL PHARMA, S.L.** Clean room characterization 673/LE1363 DESARROLLO Y CONTROL TECNOLÓGICO, S.L Paints and varnishes 674/LE1404 LABORATORI COMARCAL D'ANALISIS CLINIQUES, S.L. Agrofood products - 675/LE1308 NABLA 2000, S.L. Agrofood products - 676/LE1283 ASOCIACIÓN DE LA ALPUJARRA PARA LA INVESTIGACIÓN Y EL DESARROLLO Agrofood products - 677/LE1428 CONSULTORES CANARIOS CONTROL DE CALIDAD Y ASISTENCIA TÉCNICA, S.L. Environmental tests 678/LE951 CTAG-IDIADA SAFETY TECHNOLOGY, S.L. Physical testing of seats 679/LE1344 CENTRO DE HEMOTERAPIA Y HEMODONACIÓN DE CASTILLA Y LEÓN (Castile-León hameotherapy and blood donation centre) Clinical analysis 680/LE1497 AGBAR MANTENIMIENTO S.A. Water supply meters 681/LE1374 LGAI TECHNOLOGICAL CENTER, S.A. Steels for concrete reinforcement 9/LE400 ARCELORMITTAL ESPAÑA, S.A. Chemical analysis of steels 489/LE1423 CONTROL Y CALIDAD ALIMENTARIA, S.L. Agrofood products 554/LE1453

AYUNTAMIENTO DE VALLADOLID (Valladolid city council) Environmental tests 627/LE870

#### **CALIBRATION LABORATORIES**

WAVECONTROL, S.L. High-frequency electricity 184/LC496 INSTRUMENTACIÓN INCANE, S.L. Temperature and humidity 185/LC493

#### **INSPECTION ENTITIES**

ICERTICALIDAD, S.L.UNITED RESEARCH SERVICES ESPAÑA, S.L. Environmental inspection 168/EI283 ANALIZAGUA-LABORATORIO DE RECURSOS NATURALES, S.L. Environmental inspection 169/EI289 TECNICOS EN AGROALIMENTACION MICROAL S.L Environmental inspection 170/EI272 SIR, S.A. Environmental inspection 171/EI267 ALCAD SERVICIOS TARANCÓN, S.L. Road vehicle inspection 43/EI/ITV056 VALGRI CENTRI, S.L. Road vehicle inspection 44/EI/ITV048

#### **PRODUCT CERTIFICATION**

ARAPORCEI, S.L. Agrofood products 49/C-PR087 H.Y. CERTIFICADORA, S.L. Agrofood products 50/C-PR061 CERTICALIDAD, S.L. Agrofood products 51/C-PR060

#### **CERTIFICATION OF MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**

ASOCIACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE NORMALIZACIÓN Y CERTIFICACIÓN (AENOR) Information Security Management Systems 1/C-SG028 LGAI TECHNOLOGICAL CENTER, S.A. Quality Management of Technical Centres of Digital Tachography 2/C-SG017

#### CONTROL BODIES

LABORATORIO DE ENSAYOS METROLÓGICOS, S.L. (LEM) Legal metrology OC-I/102 and OC-I/118 GRUPO ITEVELESA, S.L. Legal metrology OC-I/128 TÜV RHEINLAND IBERICA, S.A. Legal metrology OC-I/135 EUROCONTROL, S.A. Facilities equipped with skin-tanning devices OC-I/093 APPLUS NORCONTROL, S.L.(Unipersonal) Facilities equipped with skin-tanning devices OC-I/098 INGENIERIA DE GESTION INDUSTRIAL, S.L. (INGEIN) Facilities equipped with skin-tanning devices OC-I/099 IVAC-ENTIDAD DE INSPECCIÓN, S.L. (Unipersonal) Industrial Safety Installation Regulations OC-I/096 GESTIÓN, VERIFICACIÓN E INSPECCIONES, S.A. Industrial Safety Installation Regulations OC-I/120 SIGMA INSPECCIÓN, S.L.

Industrial Safety Installation Regulations OC-I/122 INVESTIGACIÓN Y CONTROL DE CALIDAD, S.A. Industrial Safety Installation Regulations OC-I/134 AT4 WIRELESS, S.A.

Electromagnetic Compatibility Directive OC-L/100 ASOCIACIÓN ESPAÑOLA DE NORMALIZACIÓN Y CERTIFICACIÓN (AENOR) Building Product Directive OC-P/137

#### **GOOD LABORATORY PRACTICE**

LAINCO, S.A Laboratory analysis of pesticides: physical/chemical characterisation 25/BPL040

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#### Report

## ACCREDITATION IN FORENSIC SCIENCES

Forensic laboratories play a major role in criminal investigation procedures. Their main function is to provide information on the evidence gathered at the crime scene for use in the judicial process; this information is often crucial to the final outcome. This is why forensic laboratories must achieve the highest standards of credibility and reliability.

For a number of years various forums have reached consensus on the need for forensic laboratories to gain accreditation so as to assure their competence and thus provide the required confidence in the reliability of their results. ENFSI, the European Network of Forensic Science Institutes, is the body that draws together all European organizations in the realm of the forensic sciences. In 2002 ENFSI introduced a strategic undertaking, one of the requirements of which was that all ENFSI member laboratories acquire ISO 17025 accreditation from their respective national accreditation bodies.

In Spain, Royal Decree 1977/2008, concerning the composition and role of the Spanish national commission for the forensic use of DNA, directs that laboratories conducting DNA testing and providing genetic profiles to police databases must, to merit authorisation from the commission, gain accreditation from ENAC.

Hence in recent years forensic science has become one of the most active new fields of activity for ENAC.

The first forensic science accreditations were granted in 2000, with reference to the analysis of drugs from intercepted caches and blood alcohol testing (the national toxicology institute and the Bilbao normative public health laboratory). The managing director of the Spanish National Institute of Toxicology, Antonio Gómez García, underlines the importance of the institutes' laboratories' accreditations, insofar as, "although the institution has earned a robust reputation, accreditation provides reliability. It sets us apart from other laboratories and reinforces the credibility of the laboratories which are to lay their results before the justice system. In a criminal trial, the manner in which the results were produced can be just as important as the results themselves. ENAC accreditation is a seal of approval."

Since then, a range of other laboratories have won accreditation in other areas of forensic testing. In 2003, for instance, the Guardia Civil criminalistics unit was accredited for the analysis and comparison of DNA profiles. Francisco Montes, the acting principal of the unit, says, "the Guardia *Civil criminalistics unit set itself in 1998 the strategic goal of earning formal recognition for the technical competence of its DNA human identification testing.*" The aim was to "build *confidence in a society highly concerned with drawing the boundary between DNA testing and rights of privacy, and assure the criminal courts as to the credibility and scientific rigour of the Guardia Civil's forensic evidence.*"

In recent years DNA testing has come to be regarded as the paradigm of forensic identification; but fingerprints continue to be a practical and robust method to identify people and retain high value as physical evidence. In September 2008, ENAC granted the first accreditation for the study and comparison of fingerprints (latent and inked fingerprints and palm prints) to the forensic science unit of the Ertzaintza, the Basque Country police force. This is only the second accreditation of its kind in Europe. The head of the Ertzaintza, Jon Uriarte Unzalu, claims that accreditation "ensures that the laboratory is technically competent and able to generate technically valid results. The reputation and image of the laboratory are considerably enhanced in the eyes of its clients - police units and the judiciary - and of society at large."

At the European level, too, EA, European Cooperation for Accreditation, has joined forces with ENFSI in a working group to harmonise Europe-wide accreditation of the various steps of the forensic process. The working group has written a guide for accreditation of crime scene inspection activities to ISO/ IEC 17020. The outcome of this joint effort has been the recent publication of EA-5/03 rev00: Guidance for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17020 in the field of crime scene investigation, available on EA's website, which will be used as the reference for the accreditation of forensic science bodies. In some European countries the first accreditations have already been granted to police units engaging in crime scene inspection and investigation.

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### Sectors

## FIRST ACCREDITATION FOR A FERTILIZER MANUFACTURING CERTIFIER

ENAC has granted its first accreditation to a certifier of fertilizer manufacturers under Royal Decree 824/2005.

The certification scheme for fertilizer manufacturers under Royal Decree 824/2005 developed by the Spanish Ministry of the Environment and Rural and Marine Development is aimed at ensuring that products used to enhance agricultural soil fertility are harmless to humans and the environment.

The scheme seeks to ensure that the facilities processing and storing fertilizers - organic and organic/mineral fertilizer, certain mineral fertilizers, special fertilizers, lime soil amendments and organic soil amendments - satisfy the requirements of the Royal Decree (manufacturer's quality control system, identification and traceability, testing, etc).

Bureau Veritas Certificación S.A. is the first company to achieve accreditation for this form of certification. The process considered the applicable law and, in addition, the requirements issued by the directorate of means of production of the Ministry of Environment and Rural and Marine Development, which were framed with the aid of ENAC.

This scheme of certification does not cover facilities that only manufacture "CE fertilizers" (mineral fertilizers under Regulation (EC) 2003/2003) or facilities that only manufacture products using ingredients of animal origin (which come under Regulation (EC) 1774/2002, and are therefore certified by autonomous communities). The scheme also excludes the products themselves, the characteristics of which are overseen by the quality inspection and anti-fraud units of the autonomous communities.

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## NEW VERSION OF THE CGA FOR TESTING AND CALIBRATION LABORATORIES\*

ENAC has recently published a new, revised version of CGA-ENAC-LEC, which clarifies the requirements established in some sections of the UNE-EN ISO/IEC 17025 when applied in the accreditation process so as to determine consistency in assessment.

The aim of the new version is to improve the drafting of some points which had given rise to differing interpretations and to remove a number of points that were redundant with respect to UNE-EN ISO/IEC 17025 itself. The outcome is a more specific and intelligible document which, in our view, will prove more readily applicable by laboratories and ENAC assessors, thus enhancing consistency.

# ACCREDITATION OF SAMPLING AND SAMPLE-TAKING\*

ENAC has released Technical Note 43 to clarify the procedure, conditions and criteria for evaluation and inclusion in the scope of accreditation of sample-taking and sampling activities undertaken by laboratories accredited to UNE-EN ISO/IEC 17025, when so requested by the accredited body. The TN also indicates the implications for testing reports of holding accreditation for sample-taking and sampling.

\*ENAC has developed these documents in cooperation with the Association of Testing, Calibration and Analysis Bodies (FELAB), which groups together EUROLAB Spain and the Spanish Association of Independent Laboratories (AELI), as representatives of accredited laboratories.

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### Sectors

## INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS: FIRST CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH GOOD LABORATORY PRACTICE (GLP)

ENAC supports responsible management of the risks posed by chemicals to human health and the environment

In November 2007, ENAC was appointed as the evaluation and certification body for Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) in non-clinical testing of industrial chemicals, including biocides and substances under REACH (the EC Regulation on registration, evaluation, authorisation and restriction of chemicals). ENAC has since prepared its evaluation scheme to make the required inspection service available to the chemical industry.

REACH creates a duty for manufacturers to register the substances they manufacture or import into the EU so as to assure responsible management of the risks posed by chemicals to human health and the environment. Specifically, REACH changes the requirements for placing chemicals on the market by introducing a registration system associated with evaluation of certain products, authorisation conditions for the products of highest concern, and restriction in some cases. As to evaluation, where toxicological and eco-toxicological tests are needed, they must be compliant with Good Laboratory Practice (GLP).

ENAC has accordingly broadened its activities as an evaluation body for the grant of certificates of compliance with GLP, which it was already undertaking for the Spanish Ministry of Environment (MARM) since 1995 with respect to pesticides, to embrace the new categories of industrial chemicals and biocides.

The Spanish Ministries of Health and Consumer Affairs and of Environment and Rural and Marine Development have approved and issued a programme of compliance with Good Laboratory Practice for industrial chemicals. This programme sets down the framework for ENAC's assessment role.

Since the first official requests were received in February 2008 for GLP compliance inspection for industrial chemicals, ENAC has conducted inspections over the course of last year, and granted the first GLP compliance certificate for toxicological testing of industrial chemicals to the company Harlan Laboratories, S.A.

We are confident that over 2009 further testing entities in this field will win compliance certificates, thus meeting the chemical industry's need for GLP-certified testing entities in Spain.

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## Sectors

## NEW GUIDE ON PARTICIPATION IN PROFICIENCY TESTING SCHEMES

Confidence in test results is of fundamental importance for users of laboratory services. Regular participation in proficiency testing schemes is one of the most effective ways to show that a laboratory is capable of producing reliable results and to generate technical improvement actions within the laboratory.

For an interlaboratory comparison exercise to bring forth its full potential benefits, however, the entire process - from sample preparation through delivery to participants to data processing and interpretation - must be conducted to a high standard of technical competence. Otherwise, what ought to be an investment by the laboratory in improving its performance can become a waste of time and money and even be self-defeating if, as a result, the laboratory takes unnecessary or ill-judged steps.

This is why some years ago ENAC started a scheme of accreditation for providers of proficiency testing schemes: the use of accredited providers ensures that participation is undertaken to an appropriate standard of technical proficiency. ENAC recommends the use of accredited providers whenever available, but such use is by no means mandatory, and the fact remains that the proportion of providers holding accreditation is very low.

Against this background, ENAC has produced its new Guía sobre participación en programas de intercomparación [Guide to participation in proficiency testing schemes], prepared over the course of a year by an ENAC working group comprising representatives of all parties concerned - experts, user laboratories (through FELAB), assessors and providers.

The guide is intended as an aid to laboratories as regards:

Creating a participation scheme:

The guide explains how to develop a scheme by grouping it into "families" of tests and calibrations conducted by the laboratory, having regard to the various combinations of method/parameter/work interval associated with a product or device. It also considers the need to take account of method complexity, activity volume, matrix type variability, intercomparisons history, etc.

#### Laboratory's assessment of providers:

The guide lays down the minimum information required on each exercise so as to select the one best suited to the laboratory's needs. Preference is accorded to exercises that assess the accuracy objective using external sources (e.g., normative documents, statutory provisions, etc), i.e., sources that do not depend on the participants' own results, so that participation by inexperienced laboratories or poor statistical processing do not distort the final outcome.

#### Laboratory's assessment of its own participation:

Participation in proficiency testing exercises is ineffective if the participant fails to make full use of the outcome of each exercise. The laboratory's assessment of its own participation should not therefore be confined to the performance appraisal (e.g., z-score value, compatibility indices) offered by the provider. The guide explains how to undertake a detailed study of an exercise report, and not only when performance is unsatisfactory. The guide is intended to be of use for both testing and calibration laboratories and for assessors. It specifies the minima required of commercial providers and of exercises organized by laboratories themselves; the idea is to avoid a proliferation of exercises which, owing to their small number of participants or other technical limitations, are not a reliable basis for assessing laboratory performance.

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## **Highlights**

## **CONTROL OF TANNING BEDS**

Involvement by testing laboratories and accredited control bodies helps assure safety.

Ultraviolet radiation in suitable doses, whether solar or artificial, can have health benefits. But overexposure can entail major health risks, such as alteration of cell DNA and irreparable harm to the human body. In nature, we are protected from overexposure by the ozone layer.

But artificial tanning lamps, which emit more intense ultraviolet rays than the sun and are devoid of natural protection, pose a higher potential risk.

The devices mainly emit UVA rays, which are mostly harmless. Lately, however, to replicate sunlight more closely and accelerate the tanning process, they have been designed to emit higher levels of the riskier UVB rays. Devices put to unsuitable use, unsuitably maintained or not compliant with the relevant controls may start to emit excessive UVB radiation or even - if faulty the yet more dangerous UVC rays.

6 laboratories are accredited for tanning bed testing

#### Minimizing the risks

A wide range of health bodies, not least the World Health Organization, have recommended that regulations be introduced on tanning salons to minimize the risks inherent to artificial tanning.

In Spain, where there are currently around 50,000 tanning beds, regulations were introduced with the enactment of Royal Decree 1002/2000, on the sale and use of ultraviolet radiation tanning devices. The enactment is aimed at assuring a high standard of safety by limiting the intensity of radiation, thus confining the risk to a degree similar to that of solar radiation. The regulations require that clear information be given on the consequences of using this technique and that staff in charge of handling the devices be suitably trained, and introduces regular government control and monitoring. must conduct an annual technical check of each device and whenever the consumable parts of the machine are replaced. Checks must determine, inter alia, that the effective irradiance and wavelength are compliant with the new statutory requirements. Compliance with the requirements must be stated in a public notice.

The introduction of the Royal Decree and the implementation of additional provisions by regional governments have entailed the creation of two schemes of accreditation, one under UNE EN-ISO/IEC17025 for the performance of irradiance tests in accordance with UNE-EN ISO / IEC 1702, and another scheme of Accredited Control Bodies.

In the autonomous community of Madrid, Decree 10/2007 on regular checkups requires the involvement of a Control Body and the use of an irradiance test compliant with UNE-EN ISO/IEC 17025 in support of the inspection task.

The first Control Body accreditations have been granted to Applus NORCONTROL, EINGEIN, and EUROCONTROL

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## **Highlights**

## **NEW COMMUNICATION TOOLS**

Dissemination and promotion of calibration laboratories and accredited certifiers

As part of its role in raising awareness of the benefits of accredited conformity assessment services, ENAC has produced a range of new informational documents on two of the core aspects of quality, accredited calibration and certification.

#### **Calibration brochure**

The purpose of this new brochure is to disseminate and raise user awareness of the benefits of using ENAC-accredited calibration laboratories. The document emphasizes the confidence with which a user can approach a "technically competent" laboratory.

#### Accredited certification brochure

The certification committee of AEC, the Spanish association for quality, and ENAC have worked together to produce a document that, invoking the value for business of quality management systems, sets out and analyses suitable criteria for a business to select the accredited certifier that best meets its needs and offers the most effective service, to appropriate standards of quality and technical proficiency.

Both new brochures are available at www.enac.es.

A body authorised by the local administration unit

#### Subscribe to Accreditation News

Now you can subscribe to ENAC's newsletter over our website, www.enac.es.

After you register as a subscriber, we shall send our quarterly review, Accreditation News, direct to your email address.

For further information: comunicación@enac.es

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## Highlights

# Cooperation with Latin American accreditation bodies

Co-operation with Latin American accreditation bodies is one of ENAC's goals. It therefore works with Latin American counterparts to promote, disseminate and help cement accredited procedures and techniques.

#### NICARAGUA

ENAC has entered into a technical assistance agreement with the Nicaraguan ministry of agriculture, livestock and forestry. The contract is part of the "programme in support of the implementation of the conditions for export of Nicaraguan agrofood products to the EU".

Under the agreement, ENAC will assist the Nicaraguan accreditation body, ONA, in the development of a system for accreditation of the various types of conformity assessment bodies (testing and calibration laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies, chiefly in the agrofood sector), based on criteria and procedures compliant with ISO/IEC 17000 standards and other applicable ILAC and IAF papers.

This six-month project will be carried out in three stages: first, an on-the-ground diagnosis will be made of the present state of accreditation in Nicaragua; next, ONA representatives will visit ENAC; and, third, the accreditation system will be evaluated and an on-site training course will be run for laboratory and inspection assessors.

#### ECUADOR

For a week in November, the officer responsible for accreditation of inspection bodies at the Ecuadorian accreditation organization (OAE) visited ENAC to take part in several activities, with the main aim of completing her training as ISO 17020 assessor.

#### COLOMBIA

ENAC has also welcomed two visitors from the Colombian national centre of technical and mechanical review. The centre, authorised by the Colombian ministry of transport, represents Colombia's road vehicle inspection body. At the meeting experiences were shared on issues surrounding road vehicle inspection in Spain, with a special emphasis on the regulations and benchmark standards that govern the inspection process and on the specifics of accreditation procedures.

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## INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

#### EA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

From 19 to 20 January 2009, Milan ENAC representative: I. Pina

#### ILAC ARRANGEMENT COMMITTEE

4 to 5 March 2009, Paris ENAC representative: B. Rivera

#### EA LABORATORIES COMMITTEE

17 to 19 March 2009, Lisbon ENAC representative: R. Porres

## EA PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

From 25 to 26 March 2009, Madrid ENAC representative: C. Tallés

**EA MLA COMMITTEE** From 25 to 26 March 2009, Tirana ENAC representative: B. Rivera / I. Pina

## NATIONAL MEETINGS

JORNADA SOBRE ETIQUETADO DE LOS PRODUCTOS ALIMENTARIOS (Food product labelling conference) 21 and 22 January 2009, Bilbao ENAC representative: I. Pina

#### EQUASE 2008

28 January 2009, Madrid ENAC representative: J.A. García

ENAC GENERAL ASSEMBLY 29 January 2009, Madrid

## METROLOGY MASTER'S COURSE From 6 to 13 March 2009, Madrid

ENAC representative: J. Borrego and H. González

## 4<sup>th</sup> SPANISH METROLOGY CONGRESS

The Spanish Metrology Centre (CEM) and the Department of Industry of the Cantabria Government are hosting the Fourth Spanish Metrology Congress on 1, 2 and 3 June 2009 in Santander.

Papers will be divided into two distinct blocks, plenary sessions and concurrent work sessions. An exhibition area will be provided for metrologyrelated topics.

ENAC will be present at the Congress' plenary sessions and will have an information booth

providing details of ENAC and accreditation.

For further details, please consult the Congress website: www.congresodemetrologia.es

## VISIT FROM THE BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA FOOD SAFETY AGENCY

On 27 November ENAC welcomed a delegation from the Bosnia-Herzegovina Food Safety Agency.

At the meeting, various matters were discussed in relation to testing laboratory accreditation and to the sector generally.

The discussion turned also to the Community Regulations laying down the requirements for the methods of analysis used for official monitoring of foodstuffs in the EU; their importance was highlighted as regards assessment of food and animal feed analysis laboratories.

Another point of special interest for our visitors was the possibility of accreditation with a flexible scope. Attendees commented on the documents developed by ENAC for evaluation: NT-18 Laboratorios de ensayo: Acreditación para categorías de ensayo [Testing laboratories: Accreditation for testing categories] and NT-19 Laboratorios de ensayo: Análisis de Residuos [Testing laboratories: waste analysis].

## IBEROLAB - 5<sup>th</sup> VIRTUAL LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON QUALITY MANAGEMENT IN LABORATORIES

From 1 to 15 February, the 5<sup>th</sup> Virtual Latin American Conference on Quality Management in Laboratories will be held on the web (www.iberolab.org). The Conference will address the development and validation of testing procedures, quality control, equipment calibration, estimation of uncertainty and the foundations and uses of the ISO/IEC 17025:2005 standard in terms of management and technical requirements.

