

“ACTUALIDAD DE LA ACREDITACIÓN” Nº 40

Agost 2007

Editorial

R+D+i - A KEY FACTOR FOR COMPETITIVENESS

To compete successfully in today's markets, companies now have to build up their human resources, information systems and technological know-how to meet new challenges which can give them a competitive edge. There is no doubt in anyone's mind that investing in R+D+i constitutes one of the fundamental factors in an organisation's competitiveness and, therefore, it has to form part of its business strategy.

ENAC, in this area and in many others, has been delivering solutions in the effective development of Conformity Assessment activities in a field as strategically and financially important as R+D+i.

As regards this, the publication in February of Royal Decree 278/2007 on discounts in Social Security contributions for research staff, -leading to the implementation of Act 35/2006 of 28 November 2006-, sets down the obligation to issue a technical research staff accreditation report, resulting in the adaptation of the accreditation system of R+D+i bodies to these new activities.

ENAC's increased involvement in this new field linked to R+D+i reinforces its positioning in this area.

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ENAC from the inside NEW APPOINTMENTS

Susana Huerta

Job title: Technical Industrial Engineer

She joins the Department of Inspection and Monitoring Bodies.

Luis Martínez

Job title: Technical Industrial Engineer

He joins the Department of Inspection and Control Bodies.

María Dolores Ramírez

Job title: Technical Industrial Engineer

She joins the Department of Laboratories and Product Certification.

Olga Llamazares

Job title: Agronomist Engineer

She joins the Department of Agrifood.

THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CERTIFICATION

The Technical Advisory Committee on Certification (TACC) has met regularly since ENAC began its certification body accreditation activities back in 1996. Its purpose is to serve as a support and advisory body for ENAC in all aspects related to the accreditation of certifying bodies. Since its establishment the TACC has become known for including all interests at stake in the certification process in a balanced way. Namely, the following are represented:

- Certifying Bodies
- Customers of certifying bodies
- Certification users including bulk buyers, distributors, business associations
- The Authorities as both certification regulator and sponsor

Over the years the TACC has become an undeniable reference for ENAC in terms of certification activities. This is due to its members' technical expertise and the fact that it includes all interests at stake, making it an authority on the ways of the market in this activity.

Proof of the intense technical activity undertaken by the TACC is the number and importance of documents composed in the past year, particularly:

- General Criteria for Accreditation of Management System Certifying Bodies, CGA-ENAC-CSG.
- Specific accreditation basis for certifying bodies of food safety management systems, CEA-ENAC-10.
- Specific accreditation basis for certifying bodies of occupational safety management systems, OHSAS (pending publication).
- Complaints Procedure (joint composition).

We don't want to bring this brief description of the Committee's activity to a close without expressing our sincerest thanks to its members and Chair for the

effort they have put in and enthusiasm they have shown over the last few years. We hope the Committee will not only keep up this good work in its future activity, but reinforce it, undoubtedly leading to sounder accreditation processes and an accredited certification which is trusted and respected.

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NEW ACCREDITATIONS

The new bodies accredited by ENAC since the last issue of the newsletter are listed below. A detailed description of the scope of these accreditations and information on expansion of the scope of the accreditation of bodies already accredited is available on our website www.enac.es.

TESTING LABORATORIES

EUROCONSULT NUEVAS TECNOLOGÍAS, S.A.

Environmental and construction acoustics testing
570/LE1089

FUNDACIÓN CENTRO TECNOLÓGICO DA PIZARRA

Tests on natural stone 571/LE1236

**AUDITORA CATALANA D'ACUSTICA I
TELECOMUNICACIO, S.L.**

Environmental and construction acoustics testing
572/LE1274

TORREGORDA TESTING CENTRE

Testing of ammunition, grenade launcher systems, missiles and rockets, weapon systems and components
573/LE1234

**UNIVERSITY OF ALCALA. HIGH TECHNOLOGY AND
LICENSING CENTRE**

Electromagnetic compatibility analysis: emission
574/LE1083

DBO5, S.L.

Physical-chemical analysis of water 575/LE517

BIENDA, S.A.

Physical-chemical analysis of inland waters and waste water 576/LE1282

**LABORATORY OF QUALITY CONTROL OF FISHERIES
RESOURCES OF THE JUNTA OF ANDALUSIA**

Physical-chemical, microbiological and toxicological testing of fish and aquaculture products 577/LE1209

**CASTILE-LEON INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL
TECHNOLOGY**

Physical-chemical analysis on dairy products
578/LE1217

**HOSPITAL VIRGEN DE LA ARRIXACA. CLINICAL
ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT**

Clinical Chemistry 579/LE1193

LABORATORIO COMPOSITES ID, S.L.

Testing of concrete, mortars and their components.
Polymer conglomerates 580/LE1240

**ELECTRICAL METROLOGY LABORATORY AT THE
FACULTY OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF ZARAGOZA**

Testing of wind power generators and distribution networks 581/LE1265

**CENTRO DE INVESTIGACION ELPIDIO SANCHEZ
MARCOS, S.A.**

Testing of bitumens and bituminous binding agents for paving 582/LE1304

DESARROLLOS E INSONORIZACIONES, S.L.

Construction acoustics testing 583/LE129

ICIM LAB, S.L.

Testing of verification systems of leak-tightness and leak detection in underground tanks of liquid oil products 584/LE1214

CALIBRATION LABORATORIES

TESTO INDUSTRIAL SERVICES EMPRESARIAL, S.A.

Temperature and Humidity 171/LC464

INSPECTION BODIES

INTERCONTROL LEVANTE, S.A.

Environmental Inspection 141/EI244

**AUDITORA CATALANA D'ACUSTICA I
TELECOMUNICACIO, S.L.**

Environmental Inspection 142/EI258

OFICINA TÉCNICA DE INSPECCIÓN NAVAL - ITB, S.L.
Recreational craft 143/EI243

TPA, TÉCNICAS DE PROTECCIÓN AMBIENTAL, S.A.
Environmental Inspection 144/EI247

ROAD VEHICLE INSPECTION BODIES

ITV BARBASTRO, S.A.

Road vehicle inspection 38/EI/ITV043

ARAGONESA DE SERVICIOS ITV, S.A.

Road vehicle inspection 39/EI/ITV046

ITV MONEGROS BAJO CINCA, S.L. (AN)

Road vehicle inspection 40/EI/ITV049

VICENTE HESSE MONGE, S.A.

Road vehicle inspection 41/EI/ITV050

PRODUCT CERTIFICATION BODIES

SPANISH STANDARDISATION AND CERTIFICATION SOCIETY (AENOR)

Chain-of-Custody of forest based products PEFC 01/C-PR108

INSTITUTE OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED INDUSTRIES OF THE GENERALITAT OF VALENCIA

R+D+i projects 44/C-PR077

NATIONAL CRYPTOLOGY CENTRE

Certification of Products of Information and Communications Technology 45/C-PR110

MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS CERTIFICATION BODIES

LGAI TECHNOLOGICAL CENTER, S.A.

Certification of Information Security Management Systems 2/C-SG012

BUREAU VERITAS CERTIFICATION S.A. (AN)

Quality of Technical Centres of Digital Tachography 4/C-SG018

IVAC-INSTITUTO DE CERTIFICACIÓN, S.L.

Quality of Technical Centres of Digital Tachography 10/C-SG023

(PAGES 6/7/8) REPORT

“NEW R+D+I ACCREDITATIONS”

ENAC's R+D+i activity is better than ever thanks to the new accreditation systems rolled out for certifying R+D+i activity of research staff and certifying R+D+i management systems.

CERTIFYING R+D+I ACTIVITY OF RESEARCH STAFF

The *Ley 35/2006, de 28 de noviembre, del Impuesto sobre la Renta de las Personas Físicas y de modificación parcial de las leyes de los Impuestos sobre Sociedades, sobre la Renta de no Residentes y sobre el Patrimonio* ("Personal Income Tax Act 35/2006 of 28 November 2006, and the partial amendment of the laws on Company Tax, Non-residents Tax and Property Tax"), sets down discounts in Social Security contributions for research staff. Royal Decree 278/2007 of 23 February 2007 on discounts in Social Security contributions for research staff has resulted in the implementation of the law establishing the issue of a technical research staff accreditation report, issued by a body duly accredited by the National Accreditation Body (ENAC).

The publication of the aforementioned law enables the R+D+i activity of research staff to be certified, in turn leading to the adaptation of the accreditation system of the R+D+i Certifying Bodies to these new activities.

From an accreditation standpoint, these changes mean specific requirements documents and the scope of existing accreditation have had to be adapted. Namely, new versions of the following documents were approved in March:

"Specific Accreditation Basis. R+D+i Certifying Bodies and R+D+i Research Staff Activity". CEA-ENAC-02 Rev.3, March 2007.

"R+D+i Certifying Bodies and R+D+i Research Staff Activity: Particular Requirements for Accreditation". NT-03 Rev. 3, March 2007.

To be able to apply for accreditation in order to issue certificates of R+D+i activity of research staff, the body needs to prove its competence in assessing R+D+i activities and, for this, needs to already be accredited for certifying R+D+i projects.

When a body applies for the extension to issue certificates of R+D+i activity of research staff, ENAC will undertake a documentary study of the assessment process the body has in place and its records verifying its evaluators' qualifications and at least one accompanying visit to verify the staff's technical expertise in practice.

The requirements laid down for evaluators of this activity have been defined in line with the UNE 166004:2003 EX standard: "R+D+i Management: Competence and assessment of R+D+i management systems auditors". These requirements are considered to have been met if the body uses 4-digit experts (according to UNESCO codes) for certifying R+D+i projects.

TEXTILE SAMPLE BOOK PROTOTYPES

On 19 November 2005, the *Ley 23/2005 Reformas en materia tributaria para el impulso a la productividad* ("Act 23/2005 on tax reforms to boost productivity") was published in the Official State Gazette. This law modifies the tax deducted for activities of research, development and technological innovation, to include textile sample book prototypes under technological innovation. R+D+i certifying bodies which certify projects of textile and footwear samples must use the documents published by the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade and the new documents on particular requirements mentioned above.

For further information: Imrodriguez@enac.es

ENAC-ACCREDITED BODIES FOR CERTIFYING R+D+i PRODUCTS

AGENCIA DE ACREDITACIÓN - FGUPM - UPC - DE PROYECTOS DE INVESTIGACIÓN, DESARROLLO E INNOVACIÓN TECNOLÓGICA, S.L.(AIDIT)

AGENCIA DE CERTIFICACIÓN EN INNOVACIÓN ESPAÑOLA, S.L.

SPANISH STANDARDISATION AND CERTIFICATION SOCIETY (AENOR)

EQA CERTIFICADOS I MÁS D MÁS I, S.L.

FITSA (CERFITSA, CERTIFYING BODY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE FOR CAR SAFETY)

FOUNDATION OF THE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARINE INDUSTRIES "INNOVAMAR"

INSTITUTE OF SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED INDUSTRIES OF THE GENERALITAT OF VALENCIA IVAC-INSTITUTO DE CERTIFICACIÓN, S.L.

CERTIFICATION OFFICE OF THE OFFICIAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF MADRID

ACCREDITATION QUALIFICATION FOR CERTIFYING A MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The UNE 166002:2006 standard "R+D+i Management: Requirements of the R+D+i Management System", lists specific guidelines for a R+D+i management system for the purpose of ensuring the efficacy and efficiency of the system, improvement of results yielded from R+D+i activities and the internal transfer procedures of results in order to optimise an organisation's technological innovation processes. The standard also looks at the R+D+i transfer and assimilation process and determines the elements required for recognising emerging technologies.

ENAC has commenced accreditation of the Management Systems of Research, Development and Technological Innovation in accordance with the provisions laid down in the UNE 166002:2006 standard and in line with the criteria which, for certifying bodies of management systems, are included in the UNE-EN-ISO/IEC 17021 standard. The UNE-EN-ISO/IEC

17021:2006 standard "Conformity Assessment. Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems", sets down the general requirements for certifying bodies involved in auditing and certifying management systems. The standard contains the principles and requirements referring to technical competence, consistency and impartiality in auditing and certifying all kinds of management systems, without restrictions.

In some cases the content or interpretation of certain clauses in the standard need to be clarified and specified when it is to be used in an accreditation process, in order to ensure consistency during the assessment. The CGA-ENAC-CSG document published in April 2007, lays down such clarifications and specifications, which must be considered by certifying bodies as compliance criteria in the event of applying for ENAC accreditation. The criteria of the CGA-ENAC-CSG document may be supplemented by others of a specific nature in the particular case of R+D+i Management Systems, where appropriate.

Lastly, within the whole accreditation system, it would be useful to mention the UNE 166004 EX "R+D+i Management standard: Competence and assessment of R+D+i management system auditors", which lays down the requirements for R+D+i management system auditors and the procedures of assessment, maintenance and improvement of the auditors' technical competence, which shall be taken as a reference document when it comes to assessing the technical competence of the auditors of certifying bodies that apply for accreditation.

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Sectors

CERTIFICATION

GENERAL ACCREDITATION CRITERIA OF MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFYING BODIES

ENAC recently published the General Accreditation Criteria which supplements the requirements established in the UNE EN-ISO/IEC 17021 standard on the accreditation of management system certifying bodies. This document was drawn up by ENAC's Technical Advisory Committee on Certification (TACC) in cooperation with the Spanish Quality Association's certifying body committee, with which ENAC has a partnership agreement.

This document highlights one prominent aspect included in the new UNE EN-ISO/IEC 17021 standard: transparency in the bodies' activities. Several clauses in the new CGA document refer to transparency requirements laid down by the standard.

A further aspect highlighted by the CGA, in line with the standard, is the participation of those concerned

in the operations of certifying bodies. A special annex has been included, setting down criteria regarding the membership and functioning of the committees of parties described in the standard.

Lastly, the document also includes aspects regarding the impartiality of certifying bodies and their management of this function, which is not just essential for suitable service provision, but also for the perception the market has of certification and, ultimately, the confidence it inspires.

This is the first in a series of documents that ENAC shall be making public. The documents are intended to lay out and support the application of the UNE EN-ISO/IEC 17021 standard.

FIRST ACCREDITATION IN INFORMATION SECURITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

ENAC has awarded LGAI Technological Center, S.A. the first accreditation as a certifier of Information Security Management Systems (ISMS) under ISO/IEC 27001 and UNE 71502 standards. So those companies wishing to certify the ISMS they have in place, now have an ENAC-accredited certifier.

Information Security Management Systems aim to protect and oversee the security of information, an important asset of any organisation. Information security refers to keeping information confidential (it may only be accessed by authorised individuals), keeping it whole (accuracy and completeness of the information and processing methods) and keeping it available (authorised users may access it when they require).

In the accreditation process ENAC has applied the criteria set down in the UNE-EN 45012 standard and in the EA-7/03 document: "Guidelines for the Accreditation of bodies operating certification/registration of Information Security Management Systems"

Nonetheless, a regulatory change has occurred in this industry with the publication of the UNE-EN ISO/IEC 17021:2006 and ISO/IEC 27006:2007 standards "Information technology -- Security techniques -- Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of information security management systems", constituting the new criteria applicable for accrediting certifiers of this kind of management system.

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Sectors

INSPECTION / TESTING

ACCREDITATION ENSURES CHILD SAFETY

There is growing concern about the general safety of products, but particularly those aimed at children. In response to these demands and to inspire confidence in the market, accredited conformity assessment of these kinds of products is now on the rise.

This means a great variety of products for children, items like dummies, cots, playpens, baby clothes, bedroom lights and baby food, are tested in accredited laboratories.

But it is perhaps toys which have seen the biggest leap in accreditation. For a toy to serve its purpose as an element for a child's developmental progress and social skills it needs to have been made in line with correct health and safety standards.

Toys

Today a toy, a consumer product which by its very nature is to be given to a child, demands a complete series of requirements which will ensure safe use and enjoyment.

The requirements established in safety laws refer to any properties or features of toys (small parts, sharp edges, pointy bits, toxic or inflammable products, etc.) which intend to prevent numerous risks (injury to the body, choking, burns, poisoning, electrocution, etc.) ensuring the right safety conditions throughout its use.

The information provided with the toy is also important, especially if it mentions these risks. This information may appear on an easily visible label, in the instructions for use or an alternative way, such as voluntary labelling.

Eleven laboratories are now accredited to conduct different tests required to assess the conformity of toys.

Play areas

European legislation on play areas covers a long list of safety requirements to prevent accidents in children's playgrounds. This legislation sets down the requirements its play equipment must meet (swings, slides, see-saws, aerial slides, etc.), the materials used and its construction characteristics (size of gaps and open space, safe heights and distances), right down to the paving in the play area to reduce possible risks (getting trapped, falls, getting clothes/hair caught, etc.) associated with using playgrounds.

This legislation is being gradually included in Spanish law, whereas autonomous communities such as Galicia and Andalusia have already rolled out a Decree on Playground Safety Measures.

In response to this need, the past year has seen new accreditation awarded for testing playground equipment and flooring. This accreditation is added to that of playground inspection (area, flooring, equipment and maintenance), for which three bodies are currently accredited.

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Highlights

VALIDATION IN MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORIES

The development and conduct of microbiological control testing is a tool which has enormous repercussions for public health. Testing methods and testing laboratories must ensure, therefore, the reliability of results. This means that besides meeting the technical criteria to ensure validity, they must be repeatable and conducted under a series of guarantees enabling comparable results to be obtained, irrespective of the laboratory conducting them.

Laboratory accreditation by ENAC in Spain recognises a laboratory's technical competence. So besides verifying compliance with the UNE EN ISO/IEC 17025 standard in terms of management, it is particularly important to assess suitability of the analysis methods employed and any factors which may affect such methods.

The experience acquired over the last few years in applying the requirements of the UNE EN ISO 17025 standard and of the microbiology guide G-ENAC-04, along with information provided by laboratories and technical experts involved in assessments and the recent publication of diverse legislation related to this activity, mean it is necessary to take a fresh look at the assessment strategies of microbiology laboratories.

A Technical Note has been drawn up for this purpose in which the two most complex aspects in the reference standard are considered from the laboratories perspective during their implementation and ENAC's assessment: 5.4. "Testing methods and method validation" and 5.9. "Quality assurance of test results".

The document looks at these aspects in the G-ENAC-04 guide without considering other peculiarities of microbiology laboratories such as production and monitoring of culture media, equipment calibration and verification (mainly isotherms) and environmental controls sufficiently developed in the guide.

The document pursues three basic objectives:

- Increase uniformity in assessment processes
- Facilitate proof of technical competence to laboratories
- Increase the final user's confidence in test reports

This project was undertaken with the cooperation of all those organisations interested in the activity microbiology laboratories are engaged in, namely: the Spanish Microbiology Society (SEM), the Spanish Food Safety Agency (AESAN), the Association of Testing, Calibration and Analysis Bodies (FELAB) and the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA), in addition to the team of ENAC-qualified lead assessors and technical experts involved in auditing these types of laboratories. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has taken part in this project and to encourage them to continue contributing their expertise by sending any suggestions for improvement.

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Highlights

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION VERIFICATION FORUM

The fourth forum on Verifiers of Greenhouse Gas Emission Reports was held recently in which the relevant regional bodies took part as designated by ENAC as the accreditation body.

The forum comprises representatives from eleven autonomous communities: Murcia, Valencia, Madrid, Andalusia, Aragon, Asturias, Extremadura, La Rioja, Castile-La Mancha, Cantabria and the Canary Islands. The Spanish Climate Change Office was also invited in its role of coordinator as Secretaryship of the Commission of Climate Change Policy Monitoring.

The calendar of meetings has been fixed at a minimum of two meetings a year, one in April - once the timeline is completed for issuing verified reports and the month that autonomous communities review them- and another in September/October, coinciding with most active period for verifiers.

The situation as it stands in terms of accreditation processes in progress is discussed in the forum and any issues arising from incidents in which the opinion of the relevant body may be required. Issues raised and discussed include:

- ENAC assessment of applications from verifiers accredited abroad to work in the communities designated to ENAC.

- mechanisms for information between the competent regional bodies and ENAC and the direct presence of those engaged in assessment activities.
- other technical issues regarding verifier performance in which criteria relating to this performance are adopted, always safeguarding the role of harmonisation in this issue which Royal Decree 1315/2005 confers on the Commission of Climate Change Policy Coordination.

For further information: egoro@enac.es

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Highlights

www.enac.es

THE NEW WEBSITE IS NOW UP AND RUNNING

After several months' work, and as we mentioned in the last issue, ENAC's website is now up and running. The new site will be more user-friendly and have better services for accreditation users and conformity assessment users.

In ABOUT ENAC you will find in-depth information on the body, including contact details for the different departments:

- Activities
- Goals
- Structure
- Participation of interested parties
- International Scope
- Where to find us

ACCREDITED BODIES helps you find organisations and accredited services with its search engines.

- Search by Product and Service
- Search by Word
- Search by Company
- New Accreditations
- Temporary Suspensions and Withdrawals

THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS provides detailed step-by-step information on accreditation process stages and criteria, from application through to the awarding of the accreditation certificate.

- Criteria
- The accreditation process
- The ENAC Mark
- Benefits

In NEWS AND PRESS ROOM you will find current affairs and extensive information on ENAC, accreditation and activity in different industries. You may also sign up for news.

- News
- The ENAC Newsletter
- Forthcoming events
- Press Room
- Report and Brochures

The DOCUMENTS section makes looking for accreditation criteria and procedure easier. It has a brand new section which identifies the publication of new documents and revisions of existing ones.

- Documents
- Fees
- Applications
- New Documents

The INFORMATION CENTRE has been set up as a meeting point between ENAC and different accreditation users. In this section you may send any comments and ideas on the website and its services to the Suggestion Box. In Careers you will find information on the requirements to become an assessor and how to forward your CV to ENAC.

- FAQs
- Queries
- Careers
- Complaints
- Useful Links
- Suggestion Box

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Forthcoming events

NATIONAL MEETINGS

Course on "Sustainable agriculture and the use of pesticides: control and risks"

26 July 2007, Murcia

ENAC representative: M. García

17th Spanish Toxicology Congress

26 to 28 September 2007, Santiago de Compostela

ENAC representative: I. de la Villa

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

EA Inspection Committee
10 September 2007, Vienna
ENAC representative: I. Pina

EA Certification Committee
11 to 12 September 2007, Vienna
ENAC representative: I. Pina

EA Executive Committee
18 to 19 September 2007, Berlin
ENAC representative: I. Pina

EA MLA Committee
27 to 28 September 2007, Berne
ENAC representative: B. Rivera

ASSESSOR QUALIFICATION AND CRITERIA CONSISTENCY CONFERENCES

Legionella Expert Qualification Homogenisation Conference (UNE-EN ISO/IEC 17025)
17 September

Microbiology Expert Qualification Homogenisation Conference (UNE-EN ISO/IEC 17025)
18 September

Calibration Course
12 and 13 September

LEAD LABORATORY ASSESSOR COURSE ANNOUNCED

ENAC announces a new lead laboratory assessor course in line with UNE-EN ISO/IEC 17025 to be given from 22 to 26 October 2007.

The mainly practical-based course is based on role-playing the complete process of a laboratory audit: preparation, conducting the audit, and presentation and discussion of results.

The purpose of the course is to give future head auditors the chance to practise assessing real-life case studies in terms of their compliance with the requirements of the UNE-EN ISO/IEC 17025 standard and its use in accreditation.

The cost of the course will be settled by ENAC. Candidates will only be able to qualify as laboratory auditors. ENAC will select applicants from the applications received based on their profiles and capacity to work as an accreditation auditor.

The course makes up part of ENAC's compulsory training for a qualification as head auditor for laboratory assessment. Classes will be given by qualified ENAC technical staff such as a Head Testing and Calibration Laboratory Auditor.

Further information and the pre-registration form can be found in the FORTHCOMING EVENTS section on the ENAC website www.enac.es.

CONFERENCE WITH ACCREDITED CERTIFYING BODIES

Rolling out the ISO 17021 standard "Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems" is a challenge for ENAC, which must redraft a considerable number of documents and set up new assessment processes, and for those bodies which are currently accredited under EN 45012 and ISO 66 Guide standards as they will have to bring their method of work in line with a more demanding standard in terms of technical competence, and which will oblige them to significantly change key aspects in the certification process from application review to carrying out the actual audit and decision-making.

That is why ENAC held a conference in Madrid on 13 June at which almost all bodies accredited in management system certification were present.

The conference had a dual purpose. First, to look over the actions and responsibilities which ENAC and certifying bodies need to take on during the transitory period ending on 15 September 2008 and, therefore, highlight new aspects of the standard which are going to have the greatest impact on certifying body activity and which, therefore, are to be scrutinised by ENAC.