HKAS

News Issue No. 52

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New Accreditation Services on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Validation & Verification and Energy Management System (EnMS) Certification

P.1 AAB Chair Message & AAB

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Message

from the New AAB Chair, Professor YAM Wing-wah Vivian

I am honored and pleased to serve as the Chairman of the Accreditation Advisory Board. Taking into consideration the service before its establishment in 1998, i.e. through the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (HOKLAS) since 1985, HKAS has been providing accreditation services to the community for nearly 30 years.

Through years of hard work and perseverance, HKAS has established excellent worldwide reputation. The organization has grown from a laboratory accreditation service provider into an organization providing accreditation services to laboratories, reference material producers, proficiency testing providers, certification bodies and inspection bodies. This development goes in line with the rapid growth of the society's awareness of the significance of conformity assessments in assuring safety and quality of products and services. Conformity assessment bodies, including laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies, have been developing at a fast pace.

In September 2009, the Government established the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC). In April 2010, the Government adopted the three-year market-oriented development plan for the testing and certification industry formulated by HKCTC which, among other initiatives, recommended the expansion of HKAS to better serve the industry and to meet the changing needs. Since then, HKAS has been working closely with HKCTC and other stakeholders to deliver more and better accreditation services to support the industry. In this relation, the number of accredited organizations has increased by more than 15% in the past two years. HKAS has also successfully expanded its scope of service. For instance, the following new testing and certification services were introduced in 2011-2012. HKAS will continue to improve and expand its services to fulfill the needs of the testing and certification industry.

- species identification by DNA sequencing for authentication of food;
- radioactivity measurement in food and screening of consumer products for radioactivity;
- testing for phthalate plasticisers in food;
- certification of information security management system to ISO/IEC 27001;
- certification of occupational health and safety management system to OHSAS 18001;
- verification and validation of green house gas assertions to ISO 14064; and
- certification of energy management systems to ISO 50001

Assessors are the most valuable assets of HKAS. Our team of assessors provides excellent and reliable services to the community. Their hard work formed the foundation of the credibility of HKAS. They contribute not only through their assessment work but also their effort in developing accreditation criteria. Such criteria are essential for upholding the quality and standard of accredited organizations. Assessors, I must wholeheartedly thank you for your enormous contributions. I am certain that you have found the assessment work challenging and rewarding. For those professionals who are not assessors yet, I urge you to seriously consider becoming one.

We value the opportunity for expanding our services by cooperating with accreditation bodies of other regions and economies. In June 2012, HKAS had the honour to host the 19th Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) Plenary Meeting in Hong Kong. We were very pleased to see that there were more than 100 overseas delegates from over 30 PAC member economies participated in the Meeting. Feedback from participants was also very encouraging. Quite recently, HKAS has joined the mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) for accreditation of reference material producers under Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and for accreditation of inspection bodies under International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). It is our mission to further the success that has been achieved over these years with a view to seeking wider recognition of HKAS and better acceptance of the conformity assessment results from our accredited organizations.

The Accreditation Advisory Board, of which I am the new chairman, plays a pivotal role in advising and developing the accreditation schemes of HKAS. Members of AAB come from a wide range of sectors and services with expertise covering all areas served by HKAS. I must thank our AAB members for their devotion to the accreditation services in Hong Kong. You are indispensable and HKAS appreciates your advices.

YAM Wing-wah, Vivian
Chairman
Accreditation Advisory Board

Accreditation Advisory Board of HKAS

The Chairman and members of the Accreditation Advisory Board (AAB) for the term from 1 November 2012 to 31 October 2014 have been appointed. Prof. Vivian YAM Wing-wah, Philip Wong Wilson Wong Professor in Chemistry and Energy and Chair Professor of Chemistry of the University of Hong Kong is appointed as the Chairman of AAB. Prof. YAM, a prominent Hong Kong scientist, was honored as Laureate of the 13th L'Oréal-UNESCO Women in Science Awards 2011 for her significant contributions in light-emitting materials and innovative ways of capturing solar energy. Each year, five outstanding female scientists – one per continent – are honored for the contributions of their research, the strength of commitments and their impact on society. Prof. YAM is the laureate of the Asia Pacific region.

In this term, AAB consists of 16 members, including 8 new members. The composition is shown in Table 1. The first meeting of this term was held on 22 January 2013.

The AAB is the top advisory structure for HKAS. Its Chairman and members are appointed by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development under the delegated authority from the Chief Executive by notice in Gazette normally for a term of two years. AAB provides advice to HKAS on its development and accreditation policy, including accreditation regulations and criteria. It also reviews accreditation reports and makes recommendation on the granting of accreditation and appointment of assessors.

Members of AAB are invited from stakeholders of accreditation to maintain a balance of interests and impartiality. They include representatives from conformity assessment bodies, relevant government departments, technical experts and users of accredited services.

AAB normally meets twice a year to discuss the progress report of HKAS and deliberate on policy issues and proposals for future development. The bulk of the daily work is carried out through correspondence. AAB establishes Working Parties to work on specific issues or technical disciplines and Working Parties may also establish Task Forces to work on specific technical tasks. Currently, there are 19 Working Parties (WPs) and 20 Task Forces (TFs) as shown in Table 2.

The present AAB WP and TF structure is essential for effective involvement of interested parties and relevant technical experts and obtaining consensus amongst different interests in relevant technical fields to establish and maintain accreditation programmes acceptable to all stakeholders for the benefit of the whole community. This system has been successful in upholding the standard and impartiality of HKAS accreditation programmes.

First AAB meeting of this term held on 22 January 2013

Table 1 Accreditation Advisory Board Membership List
(1.11.2012 – 31.10.2014)

Chairman	:	Prof. YAM Wing-wah, Vivian
Ex-officio Vice-Chairman	:	Ms. Janet WONG, Commission for Innovation and Technology
Members	:	Mr. AU Wai-kwong, Elvis, J.P. Mr. CHAN King-wa, Felix Dr. CHAN Wan-ching, Lawrence Prof. CHAU Kwok-tong Mr. CHENG Hoi-ching, Derek Mrs. CHENG, Irene Mrs. CHENG, Mary Catherine Ir. KWAN Po-jen, Helen Prof. LEUNG Kin-ying, Christopher Mr. LO Yick-sun, Louis Dr. SHEK Chi-chung, Anthony Ms. SUEN Chi-lan, Esther Dr. TSANG Ngai-chong Prof. WONG Kwok-yin
Ex-officio members	:	Dr. LEE Wai-on (representing the Government Chemist) Mr. CHIANG Kam-siu (Head of Laboratory of Standards and Calibration Laboratory of Innovation and Technology Commission)

Table 2 AAB Working Parties and Task Forces

Working Party	Task Force
Accreditation of Certification Bodies	Energy Management System Information and Communications Management System Certification Accreditation of Consumer Product Certification Bodies Accreditation of Construction Product Certification Bodies Certification of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly Occupational Health and Safety Management System Greenhouse Gas Validation and Verification Food Safety Management System
Accreditation of Inspection Bodies – Construction Products	Indoor Air Quality Inspection
Accreditation of Inspection Bodies – Consumer Products	-
Accreditation of Laboratories for Tests to China Compulsory Certification (CCC) Requirements	-
Calibration Services	-
Chemical Testing	Reference Material Producers
Chinese Medicine	Identification of Chinese Materia Medica by Microscopic Examination
Construction Materials Testing	-
Consumer Products Testing	-
Electrical & Electronic Products	-
Environmental Testing	-
Food	Molecular Authentication of Food
Forensic Testing	-
Medical Testing	Anatomical Pathology Chemical Pathology Clinical Microbiology and Infection Haematology Immunology Medical Genetics
Pharmaceutical Products	-
Physical and Mechanical Testing	Gemstone Testing Radioactivity Detection and Measurement
Proficiency Testing Providers	-
Strategic Development Plan on HKAS	-
Surveillance Intervals	-

ILAC Chair Visiting Hong Kong

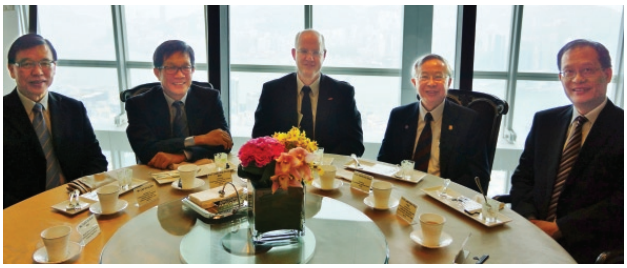
On invitation by the Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government, Mr. Peter Unger, Chairman of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and President/CEO of the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) visited Hong Kong on 16-22 September 2012. The visit was organized through the HKSAR Government's Information Service Department Sponsored Visitors' Programme. The Programme consisted of a series of visits and briefs for Mr. Unger to understand various government departments, local testing and certification industry and related non-governmental organizations in Hong Kong with an objective to promoting Hong Kong as well as its testing and certification industry and associated services.

During his stay in Hong Kong, Mr. Unger visited a number of government departments and bureaux, including the Information Services Department; Innovation and Technology Commission; Environmental Protection Department; Housing Department; Department of Justice; Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau; Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau; Food and Environmental Hygiene Department; Independent Commission Against Corruption; the Efficiency Unit; and Central Policy Unit, and their structure and operation were introduced to him. The series of visits aimed at giving Mr. Unger a multifaceted view of HKSAR Government.

Mr. Peter Unger visiting the Innovation & Technology Commission of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government
From left to right: Mr. Peter UNGER (Chairman, ILAC); Mr. CHAN Sing-sing, Terence (Assistant Commissioner, Innovation & Technology Commission); Mr. WONG Wang-wah (Executive Administrator, Hong Kong Accreditation Service)

Mr. Unger also visited a number of testing laboratories, certification bodies and trade organizations in Hong Kong, including the SGS Hong Kong Limited; the Science and Technology Park; the Open University of Hong Kong (the first tertiary educational institution in Hong Kong offering bachelor's degree course in testing and certification); the Fugro Technical Services Limited; The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong; and clinical laboratories in the Queen Mary Hospital, Hospital Authority.

Mr. Unger found time out of his busy schedule to join a lunch on 18 September 2012 jointly hosted by the Accreditation Advisory Board (AAB) and the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) and met the HKCTC Chairman Prof. CHING Pak-chung, the AAB Chairman Prof. KWAN Hoi-shan as well as members of the two Government's advisory bodies.



Mr. Peter Unger attending a lunch jointly hosted by the Accreditation Advisory Board and the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification
From left to right: Mr. LEE Shing-see (Convener of Panel on Promoting Testing and Certification Services in Construction Materials Trade, Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification); Prof. CHING Pak-chung (Chairman, Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification); Mr. Peter UNGER (Chairman, ILAC); Prof. KWAN Hoi-shan (Ex-Chairman, Accreditation Advisory Board); Prof. LAM Kwan-sing, Paul (Convener of Panel on Promoting Testing and Certification Services in Environmental Protection Trade, Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification)

Representing the host of the visit programme, HKAS staff accompanied Mr. Unger throughout the entire programme.

At the end, Mr. Unger concluded that this journey to Hong Kong was very fruitful and he would convey the situation here to ILAC with a view to assisting promotion of Hong Kong and its testing and certification services to other economies in the world. Subsequently, when Mr. Unger chaired the ILAC General Assembly in October 2012, he pointed out at the meeting that he was impressed by the efforts made by the HKSAR Government in promoting testing and certification to the public particularly the younger generation. He also mentioned the availability of university degrees in testing and certification offered by Hong Kong universities. ILAC General Assembly delegates responded enthusiastically and Executive Administrator, HKAS provided further information on the initiatives of the HKSAR Government in promoting the testing and certification industry at the General Assembly. Further enquiries were received from some delegates on the university courses offered in Hong Kong on testing and certification. This indicated that Mr. Unger's visit to Hong Kong has successfully raised the profile of Hong Kong's testing and certification industry internationally.

New Accreditation Services under Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme (HKCAS)

- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Validation and Verification

- Energy Management System (EnMS) Certification

HKAS launched two new accreditation services: one on GHG validation and verification to ISO 14064; and another one on certification of EnMS to ISO 50001, under HKCAS in December 2012. These two new services are provided in meeting potential demand from community.

Background

Climate change brings about more severe weather and poses an unprecedented, global challenge for everyone. The heightened public awareness and concern over climate change have driven the development of a low-carbon economy and the initiative of enhancing energy efficiency. As a management strategy to improve environmental performance, enhance energy efficiency, reduce operation costs, and enhance corporate reputation, many organisations in Hong Kong have started to quantify and reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions following the ISO 14064 standard series and implement energy management system (EnMS) in compliance to ISO 50001. As such, there will be anticipated increase in demand for GHG validation and verification, and EnMS certification services in near future.

GHG Validation and Verification

The international standard ISO 14064 series was released in 2006. It is a three-part standard comprising a set of GHG quantification, validation and verification criteria. Parts 1 and 2 of the standard set out specifications for quantification and reporting of GHG emissions and removals at an organisation and project level respectively. Part 3 specifies requirements and guidance for validation and verification of GHG assertions (e.g. the GHG inventory report of an organisation, the GHG emission reductions/removal enhancements project). The objective of HKAS accreditation service is to offer official recognition to those competent GHG validation/verification bodies that provide GHG assertions' validation and verification services.

ISO 50001 EnMS Certification

The international standard ISO 50001 was released in June 2011. This standard sets out requirements for all type of organisations to establish, implement, maintain, and improve their energy management system. Implementation to this standard is intended to lead to reductions in GHG emissions, other related environmental impacts and energy cost. Through obtaining certification to ISO 50001, organisations can demonstrate the conformity of their EnMS in compliance to the standard. The objective of this accreditation service is to offer official recognition to those competent EnMS certification bodies that provide ISO 50001 EnMS certification service.

Development of Accreditation Services

To ensure that these two accreditation services are acceptable and useful to all stakeholders, two task forces, one for GHG validation and verification and another one for EnMS certification, were established under the Accreditation Advisory Board Working Party on Accreditation of Certification Bodies. The Task Forces consist of representatives from all major stakeholder groups working together to determine accreditation criteria and to advise HKAS on administration matters.

Two series of training sessions, one for GHG validation and verification and another one for EnMS certification, were arranged in September 2012 to train potential technical assessors, local certification bodies and potential GHG validation/verification bodies on relevant ISO standards and accreditation criteria. For potential technical assessors training courses, experienced trainers also shared their assessment technique and skills with the participants.

Accreditation Application

To apply for accreditations, applicant organisations shall demonstrate their compliance to applicable accreditation criteria as follows:

- For GHG validation and verification, accreditation criteria include HKAS 002, HKCAS 020 Parts 1, 2 and 3, HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 9, and other relevant HKAS and HKCAS supplementary criteria.
- For EnMS certification, accreditation criteria include HKAS 002, ISO/IEC 17021:2011, HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 10, and other relevant HKAS and HKCAS supplementary criteria.

Applicant organisations shall submit a duly completed application form HKCAS 005, relevant questionnaire (HKCAS 021 for GHG validation and verification / HKCAS 022 for EnMS certification), required supporting documents, and appropriate application fee as listed in HKCAS 006 to the HKAS Executive. The application form, questionnaires and other HKAS/HKCAS documents can be downloaded at HKAS website.

For more information, please contact our Senior Accreditation Officers Mr. W. L. Shum at wlshum@itc.gov.hk (for GHG validation and verification) or Dr. M. K. Kwok at mkkwok@itc.gov.hk (for EnMS certification).

Seminar on Testing for Toy Safety : EU's Latest Requirements

A seminar titled "Seminar on Testing for Toy Safety: EU's Latest Requirements" was co-organized by the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC), the Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS), the Hong Kong Toys Council and the European Commission on 22 October 2012.

The European Union (EU) earlier announced that the new legislative requirements set out in its Toy Safety Directives 2009/48/EC would be implemented in full by mid 2013. Revision of the relevant technical standards on chemical testing (in particular the EN71 Part 3) is in progress and will be finalized soon. EU's new toy safety requirements have made a direct impact on Hong Kong's testing and certification industry as well as the toy industry. Practitioners are eager to learn more about these requirements so as to get better prepared for the impending changes.

About 300 participants joined the Seminar on Testing for Toy Safety : EU's Latest Requirements

The seminar was divided into morning and afternoon sessions. The morning session of the seminar gave a comprehensive introduction and experience sharing on the toy safety legislative requirements. The discussion in the afternoon session focused on chemicals related regulations and related testing standards.

In the seminar, four experts from the European Commission, namely:

- Ms. Maureen Logghe, Policy Officer-SNE, DG Enterprise and Industry, European Commission;
- Mrs Shima Dobel, Head of Section, Chemical Division, Danish Environmental Protection Agency;
- Ms. Krista Bouma, Public Health Officer, The Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority; and
- Dr. Bertram Reindl, Head of Product Safety Division, Bavarian Health & Food Safety Authority

delivered talks surrounding the EU Toy Safety Directives 2009/48/EC. Key issues such as time schedule for implementation of the Directives, classification issues, guidelines, technical requirements, chemical requirements, future changes, etc. were discussed. A local speaker, Dr. Vincent Tam, Technical Chair, Hong

Kong Toys Council, also gave a presentation in the seminar sharing his views on the challenges faced by the toy industry concerning chemical requirements on toys and technical documentation in general. Dr. Tam further explained how software management tools could help to overcome those challenges.

According to Mrs. Shima Dobel, the new chemical requirements under the EU Toy Safety Directives (TSD) 2009/48/EC include:

(i) Migration limits for 19 elements in three different types of toy materials;

(ii) Ban of carcinogenic, mutagenic and reprotoxic (CMR) substances in accessible parts of toys in concentrations above the classification limits;

(iii) Ban of 55 allergenic fragrances in toys;

(iv) Duty to inform of 11 allergenic fragrances through labeling or leaflet if their concentrations are above certain limits;

(v) Migration limit for nitrosamines and nitrosable substances in certain toys;

(vi) Chemical safety assessment.

Mrs. Dobel emphasized that the chemical requirements will enter into force on 20 July 2013. Besides the TSD chemical requirements, toys must also comply with the chemical requirements in:

(i) REACH, EC/1907/2006;

(ii) RoHS directive, 2002/95/EC;

(iii) Food contact materials, 2002/72/EC;

(iv) Cosmetic directive, 76/768/EEC;

(v) CLP, EC/1272/2008;

(vi) National restrictions of respective EU members.

Ms. Krista Bouma gave a presentation on the new chemical requirements in respect of migration of certain elements. Under the TSD 2009/48/EC, migration levels were specified for 3 types of toy materials: (a) dry, brittle, powder like or pliable; (b) Liquid or sticky; and (c) scraped-off. Comparing with the TSD 88/378/EEC, which specifies migration levels for only 8 elements, the new requirements stipulate migration levels for 19 elements including some new species such as chromium (III) & (VI) and organic tin. Certain existing elements are also regulated with tighter limits. To cope with the change, the existing technical standard EN71 Part 3 will also be revised. In her presentation, Ms. Bouma gave an overview of the revised EN71 Part 3. The revised standard bears close resemblance to current version, with almost the same sample preparation and migration procedures. For the analysis of elements in

Ms. Maureen LOGGHE gave an overview on the EU Toy Safety Directives 2009/48/EC.

migration solutions, the standard specifies performance requirements (e.g. sensitivity, linearity, etc.) for analytical methods in its normative part. Informative, validated methods are given in Annexes E, F and G of the new standard for reference by users. Users are given the choice to develop alternative analytical methods as long as the methods are properly validated against the performance requirements, and are demonstrably fit for the intended applications. Ms. Bouma also shared her experience in implementing the analytical methods as specified in Annexes E, F and G of the revised standard, particularly for the determination of chromium (VI) and organic tin. Finally, she explained in detail various means for demonstrating conformity with the new requirements (e.g. interpreting test results in conjunction with manufacturing information of the toy, possibility of predicting migration level from total content of an element, etc.) as well as the role of measurement uncertainty in determining compliance. It is anticipated that the new EN71 Part 3 standard will be published by July 2013.

In the final part of the seminar, Dr. Bertram Reindl gave a presentation on safety evaluation of chemical and other toys such as finger paints, olfactory board games, cosmetic kits, gustative games, etc. by testing against EN71 Parts 4, 5, 7 & 13. Testing against EN71 Part 12 on N-nitrosamines and N-nitrosable substances was also discussed.

In the Q&A sessions, the four EU speakers, particularly Ms. Maureen Logghe, answered a number of questions from the participants concerning the TSD as well as the related technical standards, particularly EN71 Part 3.

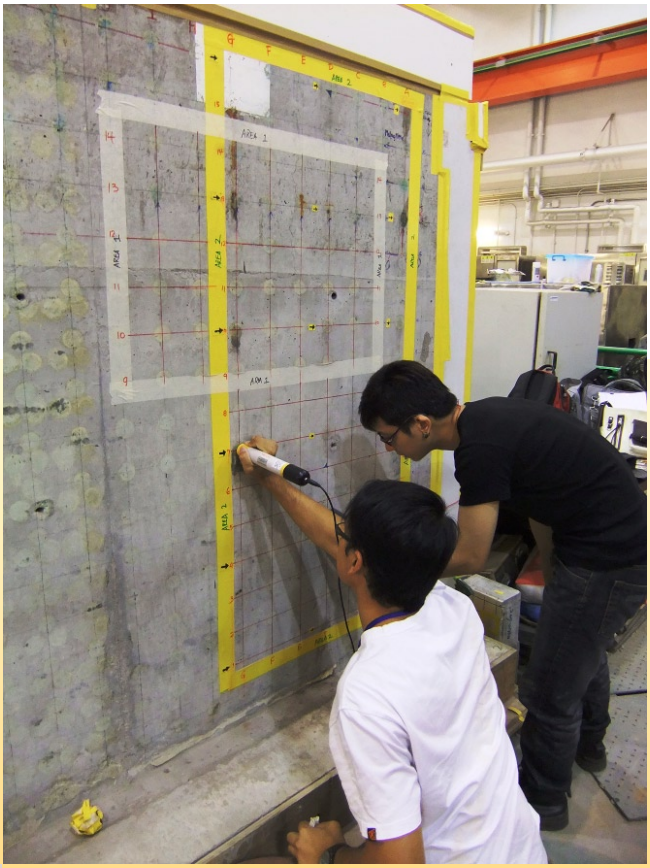
About 350 participants attended the seminar and they were mostly from the testing industry, tertiary education institutions, government departments, toy manufacturers and some toy-related organizations. Feedback from participants was very positive.

In summary, the seminar provided a good and timely opportunity for participants to understand the chemical requirements in the EU Toys Safety Directives 2009/48/EC as well as the related testing standards (e.g. EN71 Part 3) that give presumption of conformity against the requirements. Practitioners in the testing and certification industry can make use of the information in this seminar to get prepared for the full implementation of the related requirements on 20 July 2013. The seminar materials are available at the HKCTC website www.hkctc.gov.hk.

Ms. Krista Bouma explained to seminar participants the new technical requirements on migration of certain elements.

Proficiency Testing Programmes in the Test Category of Construction Materials

In 2012, Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) has organised two proficiency testing (PT) programmes in the test category of Construction Materials.



Participants measuring half-cell potential values of the concrete panel

(1) Diagnostic Tests on Concrete – Covermeter Survey and Half-cell Potential Measurement

HKAS has coordinated with the Department of Civil and Structural Engineering (CSE) of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HKPolyU) to organise a PT programme for diagnostic tests on concrete. A concrete panel of size 1800 mm (L) * 1800 mm (W) with artificial features (for example, embedment of reinforcement bars, addition of salt water in mixing concrete, etc.) was constructed in the Concrete Laboratory of the CSE of the HKPolyU. The participating laboratories were required to determine concrete cover and/or half-cell potential values of the designated areas of the concrete panel. This PT programme was successfully completed on 24 August 2012. A total of fifteen local laboratories and one mainland laboratory participated in this PT programme. The results from participating laboratories were collected for analysis and the interim report was issued in November 2012. The PT final report will tentatively be issued in February 2013.

Participant conducting covermeter survey by electromagnetic covermeter

Participants conducting sonic logging test

(2) Foundation Pile Integrity – Crosshole Sonic Logging Test

In addition, HKAS organised another proficiency testing (PT) programme for foundation pile integrity – crosshole sonic logging test on 17 and 18 October 2012. The programme was coordinated by the Materials Testing Laboratory of the Housing Department (HD-MTL). A concrete testing panel with eight steel sonic tubes was constructed at the HD-MTL. Different types of anomalies (including sand layers and voids) were artificially made inside the panel at various locations. Four specific pairs of steel tubes were selected for participating laboratories to perform the sonic logging test in this programme. Participants were required to use their own equipment to detect and determine the locations of significant anomalies in each sonic profile based on the standard method. A total of ten local laboratories and one mainland laboratory had participated in this PT programme. Their results were collected and analyzed. In general, the performance of the participating laboratories was satisfactory. The interim report was issued in December 2012 and the final report will be tentatively issued in February 2013.

ILAC MRA expanded to include inspection

The scope of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) was extended to include the accreditation of inspection bodies on 24 October 2012, at the annual ILAC/IAF meetings held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. We are pleased to announce that HKAS is one of the thirty-nine inaugural signatories (www.ilac.org/ilacarrangement) to the ILAC MRA for the accreditation of inspection bodies.

Mr. Peter Unger, ILAC Chair, presenting ILAC MRA Certificate on Inspection to Mr. WONG Wang-wah, Executive Administrator, HKAS.

As with the accreditation of laboratories, the ILAC MRA for inspection is based on the recognition of the mutual recognition arrangements for inspection that have been established and evaluated in the three recognised regional cooperation bodies of ILAC, namely APLAC (www.aplac.org), EA (www.european-accreditation.org) and IAAC (www.iaac.org.mx).

Each signatory to the ILAC MRA recognises the accreditation and results of an inspection body accredited by another signatory, as if it were one of its own accredited inspection bodies.

Benefits of accreditation

Whatever their size, a growing number of organisations that provide inspection services have chosen accreditation in order to better serve industry, the local market and global economy.

Accreditation is a formal means of determining the competence and impartiality of an inspection body to perform specific types of inspection. Accreditation provides a ready means for customers to identify and select reliable inspection services, suitable for their needs.

Accreditation is established as a means to minimize risk, avoid expensive re-inspection, enhance customer's confidence, and improve acceptability of goods locally and internationally, thereby facilitating trade and economic growth.

For organisations, accredited inspection helps by enhancing performance, safety and competitiveness. This brings added value to product reputation and aids the sustainability of business.

For consumers and citizens, high standards of inspection ensure safe work equipment and protect consumers, workers and manufacturers by reducing the risk of accidents.

For government and regulators, it provides confidence that the results produced by inspection bodies are accurate, reliable and impartial. It is how authorities and governments are able to make informed decisions regarding the protection of the health, security and welfare of consumers, the public and the environment.

Accreditation Symbol

Accredited inspection bodies are authorised to issue inspection reports and / or certificates bearing a symbol or endorsement of the accreditation body indicating their accreditation. Users of inspection services should also check with the inspection body to confirm that specific inspections are covered by their accreditation. This is normally specified in the accreditation certificate or scope of accreditation document, available on request from either the inspection body or accreditation body.

CNAS, HKAS and TAF Seminar
on Accreditation of Inspection Bodies

A CNAS, HKAS and TAF seminar on accreditation of inspection bodies was held to share experience and exchange information on accreditation of inspection bodies. About 30 participants from regulatory authorities and inspection bodies attended the meeting.

Experience sharing session on accreditation of inspection bodies amongst TAF, CNAS and HKAS

Experience sharing on accreditation of inspection bodies

(a) Indoor air quality inspection

From TAF's presentation, it was noted that TAF has a total of 22 accredited inspection bodies. In view of new legislative requirements on indoor air quality in Chinese Taipei, TAF would like to explore if it is possible to provide relevant accreditation services. As such, HKAS had been invited to give a presentation on experience of accreditation of inspection bodies providing indoor air quality inspection. From the exchange of information and experience sharing amongst CNAS, TAF and HKAS, it was noted that the requirements of the indoor air quality parameters in Chinese Taipei and Hong Kong are different. Besides, it was noted that there were statutory requirements on indoor air quality in Chinese Taipei while the indoor air quality certification scheme launched by the Environmental Protection Department in Hong Kong is only voluntary and it gives rise to the need of indoor air quality inspection services in Hong Kong.

(b) Welding inspection

HKAS shared the experience on accreditation of inspection bodies providing welding inspection which includes examination of welding procedures and welders. HKAS also mentioned that a regular interview session will be held for inspectors and operators performing welding inspection and non-destructive tests on welds respectively in order to ensure their competence.

(c) CNAS progress in accreditation of inspection bodies

CNAS gave a presentation on their accreditation services and experiences on various inspection fields. From CNAS' presentation, it is remarkable that CNAS has provided a very wide range of accreditation services in inspection fields (for example, bridge monitoring, failure analysis, building inspection, information security, consumer product, etc.) and CNAS has already granted accreditation to about 340 inspection bodies in different inspection fields.

TAF Seminar on ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 Conformity Assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection

TAF held a seminar on ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 in November 2012 in Chinese Taipei. ISO/IEC 17020 contains requirements for the competence of bodies performing inspection and for the impartiality and consistency of their inspection activities. In March 2012, the new edition ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 Conformity assessment — Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection was published. ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 replaces the ISO/IEC 17020: 1998. The objective of this seminar was to focus on the new edition of ISO/IEC 17020. In view of some significant changes to the new edition, some experts from China National Accreditation Service (CNAS) had been invited to give a presentation on the introduction of this new edition in order to help participants to increase their awareness of the significant changes. About 80 participants from inspection bodies attended the seminar.

Participants in TAF Seminar on ISO/IEC 17020: 2012

(a) Revision history of ISO/IEC 17020

The speaker from TAF gave the revision history of the standard ISO/IEC 17020, which dated back to May 2009. ISO Working Group 31 (hereinafter referred to as WG31) was formed to revise the first edition of ISO/IEC 17020. The members of WG31 composed of a number of international certification experts. The new edition of ISO/IEC 17020 was published in March 2012.

(b) Key changes in ISO/IEC 17020

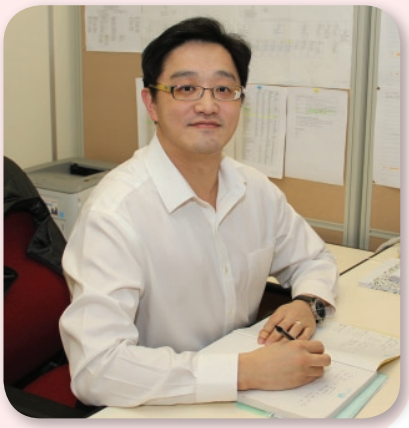
The format of the new version of the ISO/IEC 17020 is based on the standard of ISO/IEC 17021 Conformity assessment – Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems. Instead of sixteen sections, there are eight chapters in the new version covering all the elements in the previous one. The definitions in ISO/IEC 17000 Conformity assessment — Vocabulary and general principles have also been applied in the new edition. For example, "activities" (covers the activities of inspection bodies) is used to replace "functions" (covers the functions of inspection bodies). Most importantly, the management system requirements in Chapter VIII of the new edition are divided into two options, Option A and Option B. For Option A, the management system of the inspection body shall address a number of policies as presented in Clauses 8.2 to 8.8 of the new edition. For Option B, an inspection body that has established and maintained a management system, in accordance with the requirements of ISO 9001, and that is capable of supporting and demonstrating the consistent fulfillment of the management system clause requirements of the new edition (i.e. Clauses 8.2 to 8.8).

(c) Transition period

International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) resolved that the transition period for the implementation of this new standard ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 is three years from the date of publication. The new edition was published on 1 March 2012 and, therefore the three-year transition period will end on 1 March 2015. For more details about the transition period, please visit our website at http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/whatnew.htm. You may also contact our HKAS Senior Accreditation Officer, Mr. K W Chen by phone at 2829 4826 or by email at kwchen@itc.gov.hk (for consumer products inspection) or our HKAS Senior Accreditation Officer, Mr. K M Heung by phone at 2829 4870 or by email at kmheung@itc.gov.hk (for construction products, welding and indoor air quality inspections) for further information.

New
HKAS Staff Members

Mr. Tse Siu Chuen, Edmund



Mr. Tse joined HKAS as an Accreditation Officer in November 2012. He obtained his BSc (Hons.) in Applied Biology and MPhil degree in Environmental Chemistry and Biology both from City University of Hong Kong. He has more than 10 years of testing laboratory experience particularly in the environmental testing and food test categories. His area of technical expertise is trace organic analyses using GC, LC and MS. In HKAS, Mr. Tse will be responsible for accreditation of chemical tests, microbiological examinations and other tests in related test areas.

Email: sc.tse@itc.gov.hk Tel: (+852) 2829 4871

Dr. Fung Leung Ching, Duncan

Dr. Fung joined HKAS as an Accreditation Officer in November 2012. Dr. Fung obtained his BEng(Hons) degree in Electronics Engineering and PhD degree in Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) area from The City University of Hong Kong. He has more than 10 years of experience on research and testing in EMC and RF fields as well as implementation and maintenance of quality system to ISO/IEC 17025. Prior to his employment in HKAS, he worked as an EMC consultant and technical manager in a local accredited EMC laboratory. In HKAS, Dr. Fung will be responsible for accreditation of physical, electrical and electronics testing.

Email: lc.fung@itc.gov.hk Tel: (+852) 2829 4890

Dr. Chan Yau-Chi, Alex

Dr. Chan joined HKAS as an Accreditation Officer in November 2012. Before joining the family, Dr. Chan worked as an Honorary Research Associate and a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Stem Cell Biology research at The University of Hong Kong (HKU) for 4 years. Dr. Chan holds the degree of Bachelor of Science (Biology) and Master of Philosophy (Physiology) from The Chinese University of Hong Kong, as well as the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Medicine) from HKU. Dr. Chan received training at The University of British Columbia (Canada) in 2004 and was a visiting scholar at The University of California, Davis (U.S.) in 2006. Now, Dr. Chan is a Chartered Biologist and a member of the Society of Biology (U.K.). In HKAS, Dr. Chan will be responsible for the accreditation of medical testing laboratories.

Email: yc.chan@itc.gov.hk Tel: (+852) 2829 4881

HKAS Liaison Meeting with Accredited Organisations

HKAS holds liaison meetings separately with accredited organisations and users of accredited services in about every 6 months. A liaison meeting with accredited organisations was held on 11 October 2012. The following issues were discussed:

- Members noted the work progress of the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) and the new services launched by HKAS.
- HKAS would provide necessary support to HKCTC in implementing the recommendations and continue to expand its services to satisfy the need of society.
- A survey questionnaire was issued to 199 accredited organisations in May 2012 to elicit views on the services provided by HKAS. 65 completed questionnaires were returned. HKAS thanked the accredited organisations for the valuable feedback and the accreditation officers would follow up any concern raised by them to look for the ways of improvement.
- HKAS would make use of the annual assessor seminars to harmonise the practice of the assessors and the assessment team leaders would also endeavor to harmonise the views of different assessors.
- HKAS would endeavour to strike a balance between maintaining the rigor of its accreditation service and exercising an appropriate degree of flexibility in order to streamline the processes.
- HKAS would continue to organise training courses demanded by the testing and certification industry.
- Members anticipated very stringent timeline to get prepared for the impending changes and seeking accreditation from HKAS with the new Toy Safety Directive coming into force in mid 2013.

ILAC-IAF General Assembly and associated meetings

The Joint ILAC/IAF (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation / International Accreditation Forum) General Assembly and associated meetings 2012 were held in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil in October 2012. The following is a summary of the more significant progress made:

ILAC

1. The following accreditation bodies are accepted into mutual recognition arrangement:

   a. Cyprus Organisation for the Promotion of Quality (CYS) Cyprus Accreditation Body (CYSAB) of Cyprus for testing

   b. Organismo De Acreditacion Ecuatoriano (OAE) of Ecuador for calibration and testing

   c. Oficina Guatemalteca de Acreditacion of Guatemala for extension of scope to include calibration

   d. Office Luxembourgeois d'Accreditation et de Surveillance (OLAS) of Luxembourg for extension of scope to include calibration

   e. Mongolian Agency for Standardization and Metrology, Accreditation Department (MNAS) of Mongolia for calibration and testing

   f. Organismo Nacional de Acreditacion (ONA) of Paraguay for testing

   g. Accreditation Board of Serbia (ATS) of Serbia for calibration and testing

   h. Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment (SLAB) of Sri Lanka for extension of scope to include calibration

   i. IARM, The Accreditation Institute of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for calibration and testing

2. The extension of recognition for the following regional cooperation bodies as part of the inaugural signing of the ILAC Arrangement to include the accreditation of inspection bodies:

   a. Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC)

   b. European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA)

   c. Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC)

IAF ILAC Meeting participants group photo taken on the Windsor Barra Hotel, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

meetings

3. 39 accreditation bodies are accepted as inaugural signatories to the extension of the ILAC Arrangement for accreditation of inspection bodies:

4. As ISO Guide 34:2009 includes normative references to ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 15189, the General Assembly resolved that reference material producers will be accredited to ISO Guide 34:2009.

5. The General Assembly agreed that by 1 March 2016, all references to ISO 15189 in accreditation certificates shall refer to the latest edition of ISO 15189. Compliance will be determined during normal surveillance or reassessment activities or as a separate activity. At the end of the transition period, accreditation of a laboratory to ISO 15189:2007 will not be recognised under the ILAC Arrangement.

6. Following an analysis of the current relevance of ILAC-G22:2004 Use of Proficiency Testing as a Tool for Accreditation in Testing, and the conclusion that other documents published on proficiency testing since 2004 provide more relevant information, the General Assembly agreed to the immediate withdrawal of ILAC-G22:2004.

7. The transition period for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 Conformity assessment – Requirements for the operation of various types of inspection bodies performing inspection will expire on 1 March 2015. At this time, all accreditation certificates issued must reference to the 2012 edition of ISO/IEC 17020. Compliance will be determined during normal surveillance or reassessment activities or as a separate activity. After 1 March 2015, inspection bodies accredited to the previous version of ISO/IEC 17020 will not be recognised under the ILAC Arrangement.

IAF

1. The General Assembly, acting on the recommendation of the Technical Committee, resolved that the period for the transition of Information Security Management System Accreditation to ISO/IEC 27006: 2011 from ISO/IEC 27006: 2007 be 18 months from 1 December 2011.

2. The General Assembly, acting on the recommendation of the Technical Committee, resolved that the transition period for ISO/IEC17065: 2012 be three years from 15 September 2012.

3. The General Assembly, acting on the recommendation of the Technical Committee, resolved that the transition for the implementation of all relevant newly published ISO/CASCO conformity assessment standards shall be two years from the date of publication, unless overridden by the need to produce a specific application document as agreed by the IAF Technical Committee.

4. The General Assembly, acting on the recommendation of the Technical Committee, resolved to endorse ISO/IEC TS 17021-2 as a normative document to be applied in conjunction with ISO/IEC 17021 for EMS. The deadline for conformance to ISO/IEC TS 17021-2 shall be the default two years from the date of publication. As the publication date was 15 August 2012, the deadline for Certification Bodies to conform is 15 August 2014.

5. MLA scope of the Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) has been extended to include main scope of ISO/IEC Guide 65 and sub-scope ISO 14001.

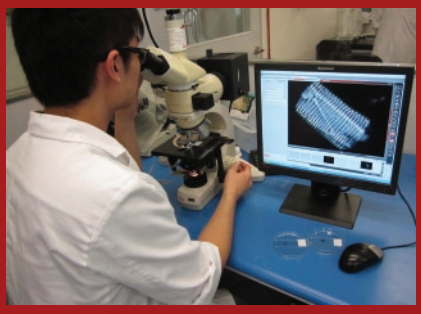
6. ECA (Costa Rica) for QMS and Product, A2LA (USA) for Product, IAS (USA) for Product, IAS (USA) for Product, HKAS (Hong Kong, China) for EMS and Product, OLAS (Luxembourg) for QMS, EMS, Product, OUA (Uruguay) for QMS, EMS, OAE (Ecuador) for QMS and Product, ATS (Serbia) for Product were accepted into the IAF MLA.

First Laboratory Accredited to Perform Testing of Chinese Medicine in Accordance with the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the use of traditional medicine has surged in many developed and developing countries since 1990. Hong Kong is one of the international trading hubs of Chinese medicines with import and re-export of Chinese herbal medicines amounting to HK$2 billion and HK$580 million respectively in 2010.

The Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards (HKCMMS) aims to provide standard methods for the identification as well as safety and quality evaluation of Chinese medicines commonly used in Hong Kong. As of February 2013, five volumes of HKCMMS have been published, which cover the requirements on 140 Chinese Materia Medica (CMM) commonly used in Hong Kong.

In November 2010, Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) launched the accreditation service on the identification of CMM by microscopic examination according to the HKCMMS. In March 2011, the accreditation service was extended to cover chemical and physicochemical testing of CMM to the Standards as well. Two new HOKLAS supplementary criteria, No. 40 and 44, were published to lay down specific accreditation requirements for these two test areas.



A laboratory practitioner performing microscopic examination of CMM sample

Last November, accreditation was granted to a laboratory performing testing of CMM in accordance with the HKCMMS for the first time. This laboratory is accredited to perform identification and assay of Radix Ginseng (人參) and Radix Panacis Quinquefolii (西洋參) using chemical and physicochemical methods. It is also accredited to perform safety testing for toxic elements and pesticide residues in CMM using methods prescribed in the Standards. Currently, several applications for accreditation to the HKCMMS have been received and are being processed. HKAS continues to welcome testing laboratories to seek accreditation on the HKCMMS and interested laboratories may contact Dr. Daria Wong (chwong@itc.gov.hk) or Dr. C.W. Ho (cwho@itc.gov.hk) for further details.

Seminar, workshop and training on statistics, method validation, measurement uncertainty and proficiency testing activities

In 2012, HKAS has organized a series of seminars and training courses related to technical requirements for accreditation of laboratories, proficiency testing providers and reference material producers. The two latest ones were the training on "Statistics, method validation and evaluating measurement uncertainty" co-oragnized by HKAS and Vocational Training Council on 3-7 September, and the seminar, workshop and training on statistics and proficiency testing programmes held on 6-9 November.

Dr. Stephen Ellison and participants at the "Statistics, method validation and evaluating measurement uncertainty" training.

The training on "Statistics, method validation and evaluating measurement uncertainty" was conducted by Dr. Stephen Ellison, the Principal Scientist of Statistics at LGC, and Ms. Vicki Barwick, the Business Leader in Training of LGC, UK. Dr. Ellison is an international expert in measurement uncertainty, who co-wrote the Eurachem/CITAC Guide 'Quantifying Uncertainty in Analytical Measurement'. Ms. Barwick, on the other hand, has over 15 years' experience in the area of analytical quality, and is currently the Chair of the Eurachem Education and Training Working Group. The training course was divided into 3 sessions, which covered topics on statistical tools commonly used in method validation, design of validation protocol to determine method performance, and the estimation of measurement uncertainty based on validation results. 57 participants from 42 organisations attended each session and most of the participants had found the training very useful and practical.

The second training was conducted by Mr. Dan Tholen on method validation and proficiency testing activities. Mr. Dan Tholen is the convenor of the ISO working group responsible for the development of ISO/IEC 17043 "Conformity Assessment – General Requirement for Proficiency Testing". His training was divided into 3 parts, including statistical approaches for medical testing, selection of proficiency testing activities, and a workshop on ISO/IEC 17043 and ISO 13528. During the training, he introduced the latest international views on method validation for medical testing laboratories. He also shared with laboratories on how to choose an appropriate PT and make full use of its results. Lastly, he hosted a 2-day workshop on the organization of PT activities according to ISO/IEC 17043 for interested PT providers and potential technical assessors. He also updated the community on the current development in ISO 13528 "Statistical methods for use of proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparison", which is under revision at this moment.

Ms. Vicki Barwick

Mr. Dan Tholen

Accreditation bodies from Mainland China, Chinese Taipei and Hong Kong exchanged information on accreditation of medical testing laboratories and related fields

Over 40 medical testing practitioners from accredited laboratories in Chinese Taipei participated in the seminar.

HKAS joined TAF and CNAS in Chinese Taipei on 12-15 November 2012 at the seminar on accreditation of medical testing laboratories for discussion of accreditation of medical testing laboratories and related fields. This event, hosted by TAF, was the third meeting of the series. Similar meetings of the three accreditation bodies have been held twice since 2007. The three accreditation bodies anticipated that such meetings will be held on a regular basis in the future.

Progress of accreditation in medical testing laboratories and related fields

The three accreditation bodies started their medical accreditation programmes using ISO 15189 as the accreditation standard in 2003-2004. Till November 2012, the numbers of laboratories accredited by TAF, CNAS and HKAS were 190, 101 and 99, respectively.

While ISO 15189 is employed for accreditation of medical testing laboratories in Hong Kong, our counterpart in Chinese Taipei is actively planning the use of this international standard for accreditation of medical imaging laboratories. A representative from an imaging centre in Chinese Taipei gave a very informative presentation on the preparation of his centre for accreditation. He shared some difficulties encountered in meeting the ISO 15189 requirements, such as those for equipment maintenance and routine check, quality of image output, competency assessment, equipment calibration and traceability, proficiency testing, etc.

Both CNAS and TAF offer accreditation service to health examination centres or health check laboratories. In Chinese Taipei, accreditation is mandatory for laboratory testing performed in health examination centres. Health examination centres are mostly part of a hospital and

the services they provided include not only laboratory testing, but also others such as dermatology, radiology and infection control. These health examination centres (including the part for laboratory testing) are supervised by family medicine doctors. In China, health examination centres are regulated by General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ, 國家質量監督檢驗檢疫總局), which is not part of the healthcare system. Those centres can be directed either by pathologists or doctors of other disciplines. Health check laboratories can be a section of health check centres in hospitals, or private laboratories.

All three accreditation bodies provide accreditation service to proficiency testing providers (PTP) using ISO/IEC 17043 as the accreditation standard. In terms of medical testing related PTP, while HKAS has accredited two PTPs, TAF has accredited one. CNAS has just conducted on-site assessments of the first two applicants; accreditation will be granted to the applicants in the near future.

The Same? Not the same.

It was interesting to note that accreditation-related terminologies in Chinese used by the three accreditation bodies sometimes refer to the same term in English; sometimes not. It was very grateful for TAF summarizing some common terms used in accreditation (Table 1).

	Hong Kong	Chinese Taipei	Mainland China
Accreditation	認可	認證	認可
Certification	認證	驗證	認證
Quality	品質	品質	質量
Conformity	合格	符合性	合格
Assessment	評審	評鑑	評定
Inspection	檢驗	檢驗	檢查
Proficiency Testing	能力驗證	能力試驗	能力驗證

Table 1 : Summary of common terms used in accreditation

Representatives from TAF, CNAS and HKAS met at TAF office for exchange of information and experience on accreditation of medical testing laboratories.

HKAS Harmonizes Medical Testing Accreditation Standards

Harmonization of accreditation standards is always a challenge in laboratory accreditation, accreditation of medical testing laboratories is no exception. HKAS takes every opportunity to collect feedback from stakeholders for continual improvement of our accreditation programme. To achieve this objective, HKAS and The Hong Kong College of Pathologists have jointly organised a series of workshops in medical testing field under the theme of "Harmonisation of Accreditation Standards" (Table 1).

In each of these workshops, one or two experienced overseas assessors were invited to give an overview of the accreditation system of their affiliated accreditation bodies. They also shared common observations identified in assessments they conducted. Not surprisingly, non-conformities identified in Hong Kong and other countries were similar in nature. In the second part of the workshops, our experienced technical assessors led an interactive forum to discuss various case studies. Participants were very active in expressing their views and feedback. Overall, the three workshops attracted 236 medical laboratory practitioners from both accredited and non-accredited laboratories.

This series of workshops were great platforms for exchange of views and knowledge among HKAS, technical assessors and medical testing laboratories. There is also valuable input from the audience for the improvement of our accreditation programme.

Dr. Michael Suen, President of the Hong Kong College of Pathologists, gave welcoming remarks at the workshop on 27 September 2012.

Prof. Yee Khong, President of Royal College of Pathologists Australasia, introduced the preparation and enactment of accreditation standards in Australia.

(Left to right): Dr. KF Wong, Dr. Michael Suen, Ms. Bella Ho, Prof. Claus Luley and Dr. Anthony Shek at the workshop for chemical pathology and haematology on 28 January 2013

Dr. Heidi Schuett-Gerowitt (left), Dr. Janice Lo (middle) and Ms. Janine M. Fenton (right) at the discussion forum for microbiology

Attendees participated actively in the discussion.

Discipline	Date	Number of participants	Speaker	Convenor of the discussion forum
Anatomical Pathology	27 September 2012 (am)	59	**Professor Yee Khong**, President, The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia	**Dr. Wing Yin Lam**, Consultant Pathologist, Department of Clinical Pathology, Tuen Mun Hospital **Mr. Stephen Lo**, Scientific Officer (Medical), Department of Pathology, Caritas Medical Centre
Microbiology	1 November 2012 (am)	63	**Dr. Heidi Schuett-Gerowitt**, Institute of Medical Microbiology, Immunology and Hygiene, University of Cologne, Germany **Ms. Janine M. Fenton**, Supervising Scientist (Microbiology), Pathology Queensland, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Australia	**Dr. Janice Lo**, Consultant Medical Microbiologist, Virology Division, Public Health Laboratory Services Branch, Centre for Health Protection, Department of Health
Chemical Pathology and Haematology	28 January 2013	114	**Professor Claus Luley, Institute of Clinical Chemistry and Pathobiochemistry, University Hospital, Otto-von-Guericke University, Magdeburg, Germany**	**Dr. Anthony Shek**, Consultant Pathologist, Department of Pathology, Queen Elizabeth Hospital **Dr. Chung Shun Ho**, Scientific Officer (Medical), Department of Pathology, Prince of Wales Hospital **Dr. Kit Fai Wong**, Service Director (Pathology), Kowloon Central Cluster, Hospital Authority

Table 1: A brief summary of the workshops on "Harmonisation of Accreditation Standards", jointly organised by HKAS and the Hong Kong College of Pathologists.

New and Revised HKAS Documents

Since the last issue of HKAS News, a number of HKAS, HOKLAS, HKCAS and HKIAS documents have been revised or newly published. They are shown in the following table with their respective dates of implementation. The supplementary criteria are mandatory documents and HKAS accredited organisations are advised to study them carefully and adjust their management system and/or operation procedures accordingly on or before the implementation dates. These documents are available at our website at www.hkas.gov.hk.

	HKAS published documents	Version	Publication Date	Implementation Date
	HKAS 008 Guide for HKAS Lead Assessors, Assessors and Technical Experts	4th Ed	28/11/2012	Nov-2012
	HKAS SC-01 HKAS Supplementary Criteria No. 1 Use of HKAS accreditation symbols and claims of accreditation status	Issue 8	13/12/2012	Dec-2012
	HKAS SC-02 HKAS Supplementary Criteria No. 2 Non-conformities and their grading	Issue 5	13/12/2012	Dec-2012
	HKCAS 005 Application for Certification Body Accreditation / Extension of Scope of Accreditation	Dec 2012	20/12/2012	Dec-2012
	HKCAS 007 Assessment / Reassessment Questionnaire (For quality and environmental management system certification only)	Dec 2012	3/12/2012	Dec-2012
	HKCAS 013 Assessment / Reassessment Questionnaire for Product Certification	Dec 2012	3/12/2012	Dec-2012
	HKCAS 017 Assessment / Reassessment Questionnaire (for Food Safety Management System Certification only)	Dec 2012	3/12/2012	Dec-2012
	HKCAS 018 Assessment / Reassessment Questionnaire (for Occupational Health and Safety Management System Certification only)	Dec 2012	3/12/2012	Dec-2012
	HKCAS 019 Assessment / Reassessment Questionnaire (for Information Security Management System Certification only)	Dec 2012	3/12/2012	Dec-2012
*	HKCAS 021 Assessment / Reassessment Questionnaire for Greenhouse Gas Validation and Verification	Dec 2012	13/12/2012	Dec-2012
*	HKCAS 022 Assessment / Reassessment Questionnaire (For Energy Management System Certification only)	Dec 2012	20/12/2012	Dec-2012
*	HKCAS SC-09 Accreditation of Greenhouse Gas Validation/ Verification Bodies – Validation/Verification of Greenhouse Gas Assertion at Organisation and Project Level	Issue 1	13/12/2012	Dec-2012
*	HKCAS SC-10 HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 10 Accreditation Programme for Energy Management System (EnMS) Certification	Issue 1	20/12/2012	Dec-2012
	HKIAS 003 Criteria for Accreditation of Inspection Bodies (Abridged Version)	4th Ed	10/12/2012	Dec-2012
	HOKLAS 003C 實驗所認可技術準則(縮略本)	第九版	28/11/2012	Nov-2012
	HOKLAS SC-01 HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 1 Acceptability of Chemical Reference Materials and Commercial Chemicals Used for the Calibration of Equipment	Issue 6	21/12/2012	Feb-2013
	HOKLAS SC-06 HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 6 "Environmental Testing" Test Category - Chemical Testing	Issue 6	14/1/2013	Jan-2013

*New publication

Proficiency Testing Updates

An update on the proficiency testing programmes organsied by HKAS is given below:

Test Category	Programme and Organiser	Status
Construction Materials	HCM/2012/01- Foundation Pile - Crosshole Sonic Logging Test Co-organised with Housing Department	Interim report issued in December 2012. Eleven laboratories including one from Shenzhen participated.
	HCM/2012/02- Diagnostic tests on concrete - Covermeter Survey and Half-cell Potential Measurement Co-organised with the Hong Kong Polytechnic University-Department of Civil and Structural Engineering	Revised interim report issued in January 2013. Sixteen laboratories including one from GuangDong participated.
	HCM/2012/03-Tensile Proof Load Test of Anchor Bolts Co-organised with the Civil Engineering and Development Department	Twenty-five laboratories participated. Interim report scheduled for March 2013.
Food	APLAC T081 - Pesticides in Green Tea Co-organised with Government Laboratory	Data analysis in progress. Sixty-two laboratories from thirty-three economies including five Hong Kong laboratories participated. Interim report scheduled for early 2013.
	APLAC T082 - Essential and Toxic Elements in Seafood Co-organised with Government Laboratory	Data analysis in progress. Seventy-three laboratories from twenty-three economies including nine Hong Kong laboratories participated. Interim report scheduled for early 2013.

Progress in programmes organised by regional cooperations of accreditation bodies

Test Category	Programme and Organiser	Status
Food	APLAC T084 - Organochlorine Pesticide Residues in Chicken Fat Organised by BLQS-DMSc, Thailand	Four Hong Kong laboratories nominated.

New Accreditation Granted

Nine laboratories, one certification body and one inspection body have been accredited since the last issue of HKAS news. Their names and registration numbers, accredited test categories respectively are summarised below. HKAS wishes to congratulate them on their success in obtaining accreditation.

HOKLAS

HOKLAS Registration No.	Name of Laboratory	Accredited Test Categories	Clientele
160	API Lab Testing Limited	Food	Public
195	ICQ (HK) Limited	Chemical Testing, Textiles and Garments	Public
221	LNE Asia Limited	Toys and Children's Products	Public
222	Eyeglass Testing & Inspection Company Limited	Chemical Testing, Physical and Mechanical Testing	Public
223	Maxim's Caterers Limited - Maxims Food Production Centre - Microbiological Laboratory	Food	In-house laboratory, normally not available for public testing
224	Permasteelisa South China Factory - Permasteelisa Gartner Testing Laboratory	Construction Materials	In-house laboratory, normally not available for public testing
225	K & N Technical Service Company Limited	Construction Materials	Public
226	Vitargent (International) Biotechnology Limited	Environmental Testing	Public
836S	DiagCor Bioscience Incorporation Limited	Medical Testing	Private physicians, medical centers, private and public hospitals and other medically related institutions

HKIAS

HKIAS Registration No.	Name of Inspection Body	Accredited Inspection Field	Clientele
25	PIT Limited	Indoor Air Quality Inspection	Public

HKCAS

HKCAS Registration No.	Name of Certification Body	Accredited Certification System	Clientele
19	The Hong Kong Standards and Testing Centre Ltd.	Product certification system	Public

Accreditation Suspended

Voluntary Suspensions

HOKLAS

HOKLAS Registration No.	Name of Laboratory	Test Categories and Test Areas / Disciplines Suspended	Effective Date
004	CMA Industrial Development Foundation Limited	**Electrical and Electronic Products** Safety test **Toys and Children Products** Electrical tests	19 Oct 2012
135	City University of Hong Kong Centre for Electronic Packaging and Assemblies, Failure Analysis and Reliability Engineering (EPA Centre)	**Electrical and Electronic Products** Product performance test	30 Oct 2012
135	City University of Hong Kong Centre for Electronic Packaging and Assemblies, Failure Analysis and Reliability Engineering (EPA Centre)	**Physical and Mechanical Testing** Metallic Coatings	3 Jan 2013
159	Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation – IC Failure Analysis Laboratory	**Construction Materials** All tests	29 Nov 2012
215	**Hong Kong Safety Testing and Authentication Limited**	**Food** Chemical Composition Analysis	19 Nov 2012

Accreditation Terminated

Voluntary Terminations

HOKLAS

HOKLAS Registration No.	Name of Laboratory	Test Categories and Test Areas / Disciplines Terminated	Effective Date
053	Bureau Veritas Hong Kong Limited - Kwai Chung Office	Textiles and Garments All tests	7 Sep 2012
#080	Pioneer Asphalts (Hong Kong) Ltd. – Testing Laboratory	Construction Materials All tests	1 Jan 2013
125	SGS IECC Limited	Electrical and Electronic Products Product performance test	8 Jan 2013
173	Acoustic Testing Services Limited	CAC Branch Laboratory Construction Materials All acoustic test	9 Jan 2013

Termination of accredited laboratory

HKCAS

HKCAS Registration No.	Name of Certification Body	Accredited Certification System	Effective Date
008	Hong Kong Certification Services Limited	Environmental Management System	5 May 2012

Upcoming

Upcoming Training Courses

Title	Date
Laboratory Internal Auditor Course (Class 1)	5-6 Mar 2013
Technical Assessor Training Course Based on ISO/IEC 17025	7-8 Mar 2013
Lead Assessor Training Course Based on ISO/IEC 17025 / 15189	11-15 Mar 2013
QMS in ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratories	18-20 Mar 2013
Laboratory Internal Auditor Course (Class 2)	21-22 Mar 2013

HKAS will announce more seminars, workshops and training courses in the HKAS website when they are ready. Interested readers may like to visit our website at www.hkas.gov.hk for the latest information. Please contact HKAS Executive for enrolment in the courses.