

Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS)

What's New (Archive)

01.2024 HKAS Arrangement for Implementation of ISO 14066: 2023

ISO 14066: 2023 was published in August 2023. The IAF passed a resolution (2023-15) endorsing a two-year transition period of ISO 14066: 2023 from 31 August 2023.

As such, greenhouse gas validation and verification bodies shall conform to ISO 14066: 2023 on or before 31 August 2025. For details, please refer to 'Schedule for Implementation of ISO 14066: 2023 for Accreditation of Validation and Verification Bodies for Greenhouse Gas Validation and Verification'.

https://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/Schedule_for_Implementation_of_ISO_14066_2023_GHG.pdf

If you have any query, please contact Ms Rebecca WONG at 2829 4863.

12.2023 New HKAS Fee Schedules (Effective from 5 January 2024)

The current HKAS fee schedules have been effective since March 2018. Accreditation fees have not been adjusted since then as the government has frozen all fee review exercises in 2019 to 2021. When the moratorium ended on 31 December 2021, all government departments, including HKAS, resumed the regular review and adjustment of fees and charges.

After taking into account the operating costs of HKAS, the inflation rate and the current business environment, HKAS decided to increase all accreditation fees by 3%, starting from 5 January 2024.

The new HKAS fee schedules will be effective on 5 January 2024. They are also available at the links provided below:-

HOKLAS HOKLAS 006 (for organisations in Hong Kong)

<https://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/hoklas/HOKLAS006.pdf>

HOKLAS 013 (for organisations outside Hong Kong)

<https://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/hoklas/HOKLAS013.pdf>

HKIAS

HKIAS 006

<https://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/hkias/HKIAS006.pdf>

HKCAS

HKCAS 006

<https://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/hkcas/HKCAS006.pdf>

Please note that:

All initial applications and applications for extension of scope of accreditation received by HKAS on or after 5 January 2024 will be charged based on the new fee schedules. If the application is submitted by post, the post stamp date will be considered as the date of receipt.

If you intend to submit an application based on the old fee schedules, please ensure that the correct application form (e.g. HOKLAS 005), completed assessment questionnaire (e.g. HOKLAS 007 and HOKLAS 007-A1) and payment reach HKAS before 5 January 2024.

Otherwise, the application will be charged by the new fee schedules.

Assessment fees for any assessment of which date(s) and team composition are confirmed on or after 5 January 2024, as marked by the issuance of the confirmation letter by HKAS, will be calculated based on the new schedules.

If you have notified us of a change in your organisation's information that will lead to the issuance of new certificate(s) of accreditation, the charge of such certificate(s) will be based on the new fee schedules if the notification letter for confirming the change is issued on or after 5 January 2024.

Payment for all other requests for additional certificates of accreditation received by HKAS on or after 5 January 2024 shall be made as per the new fee schedules.

To avoid any misunderstanding on the fees to be charged or delay in processing your application, if your organisation has assessment(s) due in the next two months, please confirm details of assessment visits with HKAS Executive as soon as possible. Should you have any questions, please contact the responsible officer of your assessment cases.

According to the government's financial policy, accreditation fees are classified as 'full-cost fee' and should be set at a level aiming at full cost recovery. HKAS will continue to review its fees regularly and notify all accredited organisations in due course when there are changes.

10.2023 HKAS Arrangement for Implementation of ISO 22003-1: 2022

HKAS Arrangement for Implementation of ISO 22003-1: 2022

ISO 22003-1: 2022 was published in June 2022. The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) has published IAF MD 27: 2023 'Transition Requirements for ISO 22003-1: 2022' endorsing a 36-month transition period for the implementation of ISO 22003-1: 2022.

As such, food safety management system certification bodies shall conform to ISO 22003-1: 2022 by 30 June 2025. For details, please refer to 'Schedule for Implementation of ISO 22003-1: 2022 in Accreditation of Food Safety Management System Certification Bodies'.

https://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/Schedule_for_Implementation_of_ISO_22003-1_2022_FSMS.pdf

If you have any query, please contact Ms Rebecca WONG at 2829 4863.

06.2023 Transition to ISO/IEC 17043:2023

ISO/IEC 17043:2023 'Conformity assessment - General requirements for the competence of proficiency testing providers' was published in May 2023.

International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) has endorsed a three-year transition period.

Accredited Proficiency Testing Providers shall conform to the requirements in ISO/IEC 17043:2023 by the tentative deadline of 31 May 2026. For details, please refer to Transition Schedule for ISO/IEC 17043:2023.

https://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/Transition_Schedule_for_ISO_17043_2023.pdf

If you have any query, please contact Mr Raymond LEUNG (email: wmleung@itc.gov.hk).

05.2023 Testing and Certification Manpower Development Award Scheme 2023-2024

'Testing and Certification Manpower Development Award Scheme 2023-2024' organised by the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) is now open for application from accredited organisations.

For details, please visit <https://tcmpaward.hk/>

03.2023 Transition to ISO 15189:2022

Transition to ISO 15189:2022

ISO 15189:2022 was published in December 2022.

International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) has endorsed a three-year transition period.

Accredited medical laboratories shall conform to the requirements in ISO 15189:2022 by 31 December 2025. For details, please refer to Transition Schedule for ISO 15189:2022.

https://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/Transition_Schedule_for_ISO_15189_2022.pdf

If you have any query, please contact Dr Lillian Chow (email: lsnchow@itc.gov.hk) or Dr Alex Chan (email: yc.chan@itc.gov.hk).

05.2022 World Accreditation Day 2022

9th June is the World Accreditation Day (WAD), a global initiative established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to promote the value of accreditation.

This year, the theme of WAD is Accreditation: Sustainability in Economic Growth and the Environment. Accreditation, alongside other quality infrastructure tools including metrology, standardisation, conformity assessment and market surveillance, promotes the shift to more sustainable forms of production and economy (e.g. circular economy). Accredited conformity assessment activities provide assurance that organisations are fulfilling regulations and requirements for environmental protection and sustainable development.

IAF and ILAC have produced a brochure for this year's WAD to highlight worldwide examples of the role accreditation plays in supporting the environment and sustainable growth:

<https://iaf.nu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/WAD2022-Brochure-WEB-V2.pdf>
(suggest using front page of the brochure as graphical icon for the hyperlink)

A video introducing this year's WAD is also available:
<https://youtu.be/WmvYvV0X6uk>

Besides, IAF and ILAC will be holding a virtual WAD celebration event on 9 June 2022 at 16:00 (08:00 UTC). If you are interested, please register via the following link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZlkdOygrDItH9NqJzbxzp-iEL3xDX1jahn>

The Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) will also host an online WAD webinar at 19:00 – 21:00 (11:00 – 13:00 UTC) on the same day. You may join via the following link:
<https://tinyurl.com/2krh4w64> (Passcode: 513072)

HKAS invites conformity assessment bodies and stakeholders in the testing and certification community to join us in celebrating the World Accreditation Day on 9th June 2022.

#WAD2022

01.2022 HKAS Arrangement for Implementation of ISO 50003: 2021

ISO 50003: 2021 was published in May 2021. The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) has published IAF MD24 'Transition Requirements for ISO 50003: 2021' endorsing a 30-month transition period for the implementation of ISO 50003: 2021.

As such, the energy management system (EnMS) certification bodies shall conform to ISO 50003: 2021 by 30 November 2023. For details, please refer to the 'Schedule for Implementation of ISO 50003: 2021 in Accreditation of Energy Management System Certification Bodies'

'Schedule for Implementation of ISO 50003: 2021 in Accreditation of Energy Management System Certification Bodies' °

If you have any query, please contact Mr Nick LEUNG at 2829 4846.

11.2021 New Accreditation Services on Underground Utility Survey

To facilitate the construction industry to plan and conduct the underground works efficiently, Department of Land Surveying and Geoinformatics of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University had developed a series of local test standards for six non-destructive testing methods for surveying, imaging and diagnosis (NDTSID) applied in underground utility surveys. The six NDTSID methods include (1) electromagnetic pipe cable locating, (2) ground penetrating radar, (3) Laser scanning survey, (4) visual inspection, (5) leak detection by acoustic methods, and (6) flow survey & monitoring for drains/sewers. Water Supplies Department and Drainage Services Department are considering applying these NDTSID techniques in their projects and also requiring relevant testing laboratories to obtain accreditation. A high demand for accreditation services on underground utility survey is thus anticipated. HKAS now offers accreditation services on underground utility survey in accordance with these local test standards. HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 55 (HOKLAS SC-55) was also issued on 1 November 2021 to lay down specific accreditation requirements for these tests.

For more information about accreditation services in relation to underground utility survey, please contact our Senior Accreditation Officers, Ir Dr Fiona CHAN Wan-yin (Tel: 2829 4870 / email: wychan@itc.gov.hk) or Mr Jeffrey LEUNG Tsz-tao (Tel: 2829 4806 / email: jttleung@itc.gov.hk).

05.2021 World Accreditation Day 2021 – Accreditation: Supporting the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

9th June every year marks the World Accreditation Day (WAD), a global initiative established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to promote the value of accreditation.

This year, the theme of WAD focuses on the use of accreditation in supporting the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs are 17 goals adopted by the United Nations as a universal call for action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030 (sdgs.un.org/goals). Accreditation helps meeting these objectives in many ways, including through facilitating trade, addressing health and safety concerns, promoting environmental awareness and improving the general overall quality of output in an economy.

IAF and ILAC have produced a brochure for this year's WAD to highlight worldwide examples of the role accreditation plays in supporting the implementation of the SDGs.

Three videos, in the themes of People, Planet and Prosperity, are also produced to introduce how accreditation supports the SDGs in these three aspects.

People: <https://youtu.be/qqViC-qA6Ww>
Planet: <https://youtu.be/J9N7Hn5tUV4>
Prosperity: <https://youtu.be/7IPF2pSV1Vk>

HKAS invites conformity assessment bodies and stakeholders in the testing and certification community to join us in celebrating the World Accreditation Day on 9th June.

05.2021 Deployment of HKAS Accreditation Service System

With the aim of improving the efficiency of the operations, HKAS has started implementing a new online service platform, viz HKAS Accreditation Service System. It is a web-based platform to be used by HKAS accredited organisations, HKAS staff and assessment team members for communication and exchanging documents for accreditation process and registration of training events, etc.

To promote the utilisation and get all users prepared for the use of this new system, two sessions of online training through Zoom were held on 13 and 27 April 2021 to all users including our lead assessors, technical assessors and technical experts and representatives from accredited organisations. The login accounts for access of the system were released to all authorised users by post in May 2021.

Users can access the system at <https://hkasonline.itc.gov.hk/> or using the link in HKAS' web site.
https://www.itc.gov.hk/assets/images/hkas/whatsnew/20210524/hkas_link_screen_en.jpg

02.2021 HKAS Arrangement for Implementation of ISO/IEC 17029: 2019, ISO 14065: 2020 and ISO 14064-3: 2019

ISO/IEC 17029: 2019 was published in October 2019. The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) passed a resolution (2019-14) endorsing this standard as an IAF normative document.

ISO 14065: 2020 was published in December 2020. The IAF passed a resolution (2019-19) endorsing a three-year transition period from the date of publication of ISO 14065: 2020. In addition, the Resolution (2019-19) stated that all accreditation against ISO 14065: 2020 shall require accreditation to ISO/IEC 17029: 2019.

ISO 14064-3: 2019 was published in April 2019. The IAF passed a resolution (2019-18) endorsing a four-year transition period of ISO 14064-3: 2019 from 30 April 2019.

To sum up, the deadlines for Greenhouse Gas Validation and Verification Bodies to conform to the above standards are:

31 December 2023 (for ISO/IEC 17029: 2019 and ISO 14065: 2020); and
30 April 2023 (for ISO 14064-3: 2019).

For details, please refer to the 'Schedule for Implementation of ISO/IEC 17029: 2019, ISO 14065: 2020 and ISO 14064-3: 2019 for Accreditation of Greenhouse Gas Validation and Verification Bodies'.

If you have any queries, please contact Ms Rebecca WONG Wan-ha at 2829 4863.

10.2020 HKAS Arrangement for Implementation of ISO/IEC 17029: 2019, New Version of ISO 14065 and ISO 14064-3: 2019

ISO/IEC 17029: 2019 was published in October 2019. The International Accreditation Forum (IAF) passed a resolution (2019-14) endorsing this standard as an IAF normative document.

The new version of ISO 14065 is being developed by ISO. The IAF passed a resolution (2019-19) endorsing a three-year transition period from the date of publication of the new version of ISO 14065. In addition, the Resolution (2019-19) stated that all accreditation against the new version of ISO 14065 shall require accreditation to ISO/IEC 17029.

ISO 14064-3: 2019 was published in April 2019. The IAF passed a resolution (2019-18) endorsing a four-year transition period of ISO 14064-3: 2019 from 30 April 2019.

To sum up, the deadlines for Greenhouse Gas Validation and Verification Bodies to conform to the above standards are:

- three years after the publication of the new version of ISO 14065 (for ISO/IEC 17029: 2019 and the new version of ISO 14065); and
- 30 April 2023 (for ISO 14064-3: 2019).

For details, please refer to the 'Schedule for Implementation of ISO/IEC 17029: 2019, the new version of ISO 14065 and ISO 14064-3: 2019 for Accreditation of Greenhouse Gas Validation and Verification Bodies'.

[https://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/Schedule_for_Implementation_of_New_and_Updated_ISO_Accreditation_Standards_\(GHG\).pdf](https://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/Schedule_for_Implementation_of_New_and_Updated_ISO_Accreditation_Standards_(GHG).pdf)

If you have any queries, please contact Ms Rebecca WONG Wan-ha at 2829 4863.

06.2020 Update on HKAS arrangement for transition to ISO/IEC 17025:2017

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) has officially announced to extend the transition due date for ISO/IEC 17025:2017 from November 2020 to 1 June 2021.

According to ILAC, this extension has been adopted due to the global impact of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. The extension will ensure all accreditation bodies and the accredited laboratories are able to achieve the remaining transitions in a robust manner.

Accordingly, the due date for all on-site ISO/IEC 17025:2017 transition assessments by HKAS is extended to 30 November 2020, i.e. 6 months before the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 transition due date as announced by ILAC. All existing laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 shall closely observe this new deadline for completing the assessment to ISO/IEC 17025:2017.

The 'Joint ILAC-ISO Communiqué on the recognition of ISO/IEC 17025 during a Three-Year Transition' has been revised to reflect this extension to the transition period. The latest version of the document is available from <https://ilac.org/about-ilac/partnerships/international-partners/iso/>

06.2020 World Accreditation Day 2020 – Accreditation: Improving Food Safety

The World Accreditation Day (WAD) is a global initiative established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to promote the value of accreditation. It takes place annually on 9th June, and is celebrated by ILAC and IAF members in over 100 economies around the world.

This year, the theme of WAD focuses on how accreditation and accredited conformity assessment activities enhance the confidence of consumers, suppliers, traders and regulators in the quality and safety of food. Accreditation ensures competent and impartial testing, inspection and certification services in all parts of the food supply chain. Accredited conformity assessment activities also contribute to the prevention and treatment of the adverse effects of unsafe food.

The below video and brochure, co-produced by IAF and ILAC, illustrate the important roles that accreditation plays in improving food safety.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1rKwVClahw>

Brochure: <https://ilac.org/?ddownload=122996>

HKAS invites conformity assessment bodies and stakeholders in the testing and certification community to join us in celebrating the World Accreditation Day on 9th June.

04.2020 Accreditation Service for Medical Face Mask Testing

HKAS now offers accreditation service for medical face mask testing according to international, regional or national standards under the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (HOKLAS). Accreditation criteria for the tests include ISO/IEC 17025:2017, HKAS Policy Document No. 1, HOKLAS SC-08, HOKLAS SC-09 and other relevant HKAS and HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria. For further enquiries, please contact Mr K W CHEN (email: kwchen@itc.gov.hk) or Dr C W HO (email: cwho@itc.gov.hk).

03.2020 Update on HKAS arrangement for transition to ISO/IEC 17025:2017

According to the Schedule for Implementation of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 in Accreditation of Testing and Calibration Laboratories published by HKAS in February 2018, on-site assessment of all accredited laboratories for transition to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 shall be completed by 1 May 2020. However, due to the recent outbreak of coronavirus, some of our laboratory assessments are required to be postponed. In view of the possible delay, and with consideration of the government's work-at-home arrangement during the period from 29 January to 1 March 2020 (23 working days in total), we hereby announce that the due date for on-site assessment for laboratories to transit to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 will be extended from the original 1 May 2020 to 3 June 2020. All existing laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 shall closely observe this new deadline for completing the assessment to ISO/IEC 17025:2017.

https://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/Schedule_for_Implementation_of_ISO_17025.pdf

10.2019 Accreditation of Greenhouse Gas Validation and Verification Bodies – Validation and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Statements at Project Level

The 2019 version of ISO 14064-2 was published in April 2019. ISO 14064-2: 2019 cancels and replaces ISO 14064-2: 2006, which has been technically revised.

In response to the publication of ISO 14064-2: 2019, the accreditation requirements given in 'HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 9, Accreditation of Greenhouse Gas Validation and Verification Bodies – Verification of Greenhouse Gas Statements at Organisation Level, and Validation and/or Verification of Greenhouse Gas Statements at Project Level (Issue No. 7)' have been updated to facilitate the provision of relevant accreditation service in HKAS.

If you have any queries, please contact Ms Rebecca WONG Wan-ha at 2829 4863.

10.2019 HKAS is now a signatory to the ILAC MRA for PTP accreditation

HKAS successfully extended its International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) signatory status to cover the accreditation of proficiency testing providers (PTP) using ISO/IEC 17043 on 2 October, 2019. Before gaining the PTP recognition, HKAS has long been a signatory to the ILAC MRA for testing (including medical), calibration and inspection. The full list of signatories to the ILAC MRA is available from <https://ilac.org/signatory-search/>.

09.2019 No adjustments of accreditation services fees until the end of 2020

To ease the burden of the testing and certification sector and reduce enterprises' operating costs under the current economic situation, Hong Kong Accreditation Service will freeze the fees of accreditation services until the end of 2020. For details, please refer to <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201909/25/P2019092500605.htm?fontSize=1>.

09.2019 HKAS arrangement for issuing of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Certificates of Accreditation

Further to the announcement of the Schedule for Implementation of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 in Accreditation of Testing and Calibration Laboratories in February 2018, we would like to provide further information on the arrangement for issuing ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Certificates of Accreditation to laboratories. Laboratories that have successfully completed the transition assessments for all activities within their scope of accreditation and satisfactorily rectified all identified nonconformities are eligible to obtain the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Certificates of Accreditation for all Test Categories within their scope of accreditation. Such Certificates of Accreditation will be issued collectively. A laboratory can only obtain the Certificates when it has successfully completed the transition for all Test Categories within its scope of accreditation. No individual Certificate will be issued for any partial transition i.e. for any Test Categories for which transition has been completed while there are still activities in scope for which transition is not yet completed.

06.2019 Accreditation of Greenhouse Gas Verification Bodies – Verification of Product Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Statement

The 2018 version of ISO 14067 was published in August 2018. ISO 14067: 2018 cancels and replaces ISO/TS 14067: 2013, which has been technically revised.

In response to the publication of ISO 14067: 2018, the accreditation requirements given in 'HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 13, Accreditation of Greenhouse Gas Verification Bodies – Verification of Product Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Statement (Issue No. 3)' have been updated to facilitate the provision of relevant accreditation service in HKAS.

If you have any queries, please contact Ms Rebecca WONG Wan-ha at 2829 4863.

06.2019 HKAS Arrangement for Accreditation of Greenhouse Gas Verification bodies for Transition from ISO 14064-1: 2006 to ISO 14064-1: 2018

The 2018 version of ISO 14064-1 was published in December 2018.

IAF Resolution 2017-15 endorsed a 3-year transition period for greenhouse gas verification bodies to complete the transition with accreditation bodies for ISO 14064-1: 2018.

For details, please refer to the 'HKAS Arrangement for Accreditation of Greenhouse Gas Verification bodies for Transition from ISO 14064-1: 2006 to ISO 14064-1: 2018'.

https://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/GHG_Transition_for_ISO14064_2018.pdf

If you have any queries, please contact Ms Rebecca WONG Wan-ha at 2829 4863.

06.2019 World Metrology Day (WMD), World Accreditation Day (WAD) and World Standards Day (WSD) Forum 2019

The "World Metrology Day (WMD), World Accreditation Day (WAD) and World Standards Day (WSD) Forum 2019", jointly organised by Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS), Standards and Calibration Laboratory (SCL) and Product Standards Information Bureau (PSIB) of the Innovation and Technology Commission, the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) and the Government Laboratory (GL), will be held on 26 June 2019 (Wednesday). This forum, organised in celebration of the WMD, WAD and WSD, will introduce the pivotal roles of metrology, accreditation and standards in supporting the quality infrastructure.

[Http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/3WD_Forum_2019-Flyer.pdf](http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/3WD_Forum_2019-Flyer.pdf)

02.2019 HKAS Arrangement for Accreditation of Certification Bodies for Transition from ISO 50001: 2011 to ISO 50001: 2018

The 2018 version of ISO 50001 was published in August 2018.

IAF Resolution 2017-14 endorsed a 3-year transition period for certification bodies to transit their clients from ISO 50001: 2011 to ISO 50001: 2018.

For details, please refer to the 'HKAS Arrangement for Accreditation of Certification Bodies for Transition from ISO 50001: 2011 to ISO 50001: 2018'.

[Http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/Transition_Arrangement_for_ISO_50001_2018.pdf](http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/Transition_Arrangement_for_ISO_50001_2018.pdf)

If you have any queries, please contact Mr Nick CC LEUNG at 2829 4846.

01.2019 Merger of APLAC and PAC to form the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC)

In June 2018, the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) agreed to combine to form a new single regional accreditation body cooperation called the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) which has started on 1 January 2019.

Previous members of APLAC or PAC, including HKAS, have been transferred to the relevant membership category of APAC, and previous mutual recognition status within APLAC and PAC has been transferred to the APAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA).

The APAC MRA has been recognised by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). This means conformity assessment bodies (for example certification bodies, inspection bodies and laboratories) accredited by HKAS or other accreditation bodies that were signatories to the APLAC MRA or PAC MLA, have retained their international recognition through the APAC MRA from 2019 onwards without interruption and change.

Further information about APAC is available on the website: <https://www.apac-accreditation.org>

11.2018 HKAS Arrangement for Accreditation of Certification Bodies for Transition from ISO 22000: 2005 to ISO 22000: 2018

The 2018 version of ISO 22000 was published in June 2018.

IAF Resolution 2018-15 endorsed a 3-year transition period for certification bodies to transit their clients from ISO 22000: 2005 to ISO 22000: 2018.

For details, please refer to the 'HKAS Arrangement for Accreditation of Certification Bodies for Transition from ISO 22000: 2005 to ISO 22000: 2018'.

http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/Transition_Arrangement_for_ISO_22000_2018.pdf

If you have any query, please contact Ms Rebecca W H Wong on 2829 4863.

07.2018 HKAS Arrangement for Implementation of ISO/IEC TS 17021-10: 2018

ISO/IEC TS 17021-10 was published in March 2018.

IAF Resolution 2012-11 endorsed a 2-year transition period for the implementation of all relevant newly published ISO/CASCO conformity assessment standards from the date of publication. As such, the occupational health and safety management system (OH&SMS) certification bodies shall conform to ISO/IEC TS 17021-10 by 31 March 2020.

For details, please refer to the 'Schedule for Implementation of ISO/IEC TS 17021-10: 2018 for Accreditation of Management System Certification Bodies'.

[Http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/ScheduleofISOIECTS_17021-102018.pdf](http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/ScheduleofISOIECTS_17021-102018.pdf)

If you have any query, please contact Mr SHUM Wai-leung on 2829 4806.

06.2018 World Metrology Day (WMD), World Accreditation Day (WAD) and World Standards Day (WSD) Forum 2018

The "World Metrology Day (WMD), World Accreditation Day (WAD) and World Standards Day (WSD) Forum 2018", jointly organised by Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS), Standards and Calibration Laboratory (SCL) and Product Standards Information Bureau (PSIB) of the Innovation and Technology Commission, the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) and the Government Laboratory (GL), will be held on 11 July 2018 (Wednesday). This forum, organised in celebration of the WMD, WAD and WSD, aims at providing participants with a deeper understanding on how metrology, accreditation and standards play a pivotal role in supporting the quality infrastructure.

[Http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/3WD_Forum_2018-Flyer.pdf](http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/3WD_Forum_2018-Flyer.pdf)

03.2018 HKAS Arrangement for accreditation of certification bodies for migration from OHSAS 18001: 2007 to ISO 45001: 2018

ISO 45001 was published in March 2018 and replaced OHSAS 18001: 2007.

IAF Resolution 2016-15 endorsed a 3-year migration period for certification bodies to migrate their clients from OHSAS 18001: 2007 to ISO 45001: 2018.

For details, please refer to the 'HKAS Arrangement for accreditation of certification bodies for migration from OHSAS 18001: 2007 to ISO 45001: 2018'.

If you have any query, please contact Mr SHUM Wai-leung on 2829 4806.

03.2018 New fee schedules of HOKLAS, HKCAS and HKIAS have been published.

New fee schedules of HOKLAS, HKCAS and HKIAS have been published. They are available for downloading at following links:

HOKLAS 006 and HOKLAS 013

HKCAS 006

HKIAS 006

The new fees will become effective on 30 March 2018. Please note that

- a. All initial applications and applications for extension of scope of accreditation received by HKAS on or after 30 March 2018 will be charged based on the new fee schedules. Such kinds of applications received by HKAS before 30 March 2018 without all relevant application forms (e.g. HOKLAS 005 and HOKLAS 007) and payment submitted together will also be charged based on the new schedules;
- b. Assessment fee for the assessment dates and team composition confirmed on or after 30 March 2018, as marked by the issuance of the confirmation letter by HKAS, will be calculated based on the new schedules; and
- c. Payment for additional certificates of accreditation received by HKAS on or after 30 March 2018 must be made as per the new schedules.

To avoid any misunderstanding on the fees to be charged or delay in processing your application, please submit necessary payment and confirm details of upcoming assessment visits of your organisation with HKAS Executive as early as possible. Should you have any questions, please contact the responsible officer of your assessment cases.

03.2018 Recognition of HKAS by US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the EPA Toxic Substances Control Act Title VI Third-Party Certification Program as Product and Laboratory Accreditation Body

HKAS has been admitted by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the EPA Toxic Substances Control Act Title VI Third-Party Certification Program and become a recognised product and laboratory AB to provide related accreditation service. HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 15 'Accreditation of US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Title VI Third-Party Certifiers Certifying Production of Composite Wood Products for Compliance with EPA TSCA Title VI Formaldehyde Emission Standards' has been published to explain the arrangement.

http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/SupplementaryCriteria/HKCAS_SC-15.pdf

If you have any queries, please contact our Senior Accreditation Officer Dr C W HO at (email) cwho@itc.gov.hk or (tel.) 2829 4808.

02.2018 HKAS arrangement for implementation of ISO/IEC 17025: 2017

Further to the publication of ISO/IEC 17025: 2017 in November 2017, HKAS has published a "Schedule for Implementation of ISO/IEC 17025: 2017 in Accreditation of Testing and Calibration Laboratories". Starting from 1 July 2018, HKAS will accept applications for accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025: 2017. We recommend that initial applications for accreditation should be made to this accreditation standard. Initial applications for accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025: 2005 will not be accepted after 31 December 2018. Existing laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025: 2005 shall submit a transition plan detailing the changes to their management system and the time frame for implementation of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025: 2017 to HKAS by 1 September 2018 (or within one month from the date of obtaining accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025: 2005 for any newly accredited laboratories). The transition plan shall ensure that all on-site assessments by HKAS for confirming conformity with ISO/IEC 17025: 2017 will be completed by 1 May 2020. For more details, please refer to the implementation document with link:

http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/Schedule_for_Implementation_of_ISO_17025.pdf

If you have any queries, please contact Dr HO Chun-wah at 2829 4808.

12.2017 Accreditation Service for Scene of Crime Investigation

HKAS now offers accreditation service for scene of crime investigation under the Hong Kong Inspection Body Accreditation Scheme (HKIAS). The accreditation criteria for scene of crime investigation are ISO/IEC 17020 (i.e. HKIAS 003), HKIAS Supplementary Criteria No. 7, and other relevant HKAS/HKIAS requirements. To learn more about this new service, please contact Dr Daria WONG at (tel.) 2829 4801 or (email) chwong@itc.gov.hk.

12.2017 ISO/IEC 17025: 2017 was published

The international standard, ISO/IEC 17025: 2005 on 'General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories' has been revised. The revised standard, ISO/IEC 17025: 2017, was published on 1 December 2017. In accordance with the ILAC Resolution GA 20.15 of the Twentieth ILAC General Assembly held in November 2016, a transition period of 3 years from the date of publication has been adopted. At the end of the transition period, accreditation of a laboratory to ISO/IEC 17025: 2005 will not be recognised under the ILAC Arrangement. In this respect, laboratory currently accredited by HKAS has to complete the transition to the revised standard before the transition deadline on 1 December 2020. Accredited laboratories are urged to prepare their own transition plan and details of the transition arrangement will be announced by HKAS shortly.

10.2017 Accreditation Service for Veterinary Testing Laboratories

HKAS now offers accreditation service for veterinary testing laboratories under the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (HOKLAS). The accreditation criteria for veterinary testing laboratories are ISO/IEC 17025 (i.e. HOKLAS 003), HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 52 'Veterinary Testing' Test Category and other relevant HKAS/HOKLAS requirements. To know more about this new service, please refer to Application Package HOKLAS AP015, contact Dr Lillian Chow at 2829 4816 or lsnchow@itc.gov.hk.

07.2017 HKCAS - Multilateral Recognition Arrangements

HKAS has been a signatory to the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) of both the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) for Quality Management System (QMS), Environmental Management System (EMS) and Product Certifications for many years. HKAS has also been a PAC MLA signatory to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) validation and verification and Energy Management (EnMS) certification since June 2015 and March 2017 respectively.

In June and July 2017, HKAS successfully extended its PAC MLA and IAF MLA to Food Safety Management System (FSMS) certification.

05.2017 World Metrology Day (WAD), World Accreditation Day (WAD) and World Standards Day (WSD) Forum 2017

The "World Metrology Day (WAD), World Accreditation Day (WAD) and World Standards Day (WSD) Forum 2017", jointly organised by Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS), Standards and Calibration Laboratory (SCL) and Product Standards Information Bureau (PSIB) of the Innovation and Technology Commission, the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) and the Government Laboratory (GLHK), will be held on 6 June 2017 (Tuesday). This forum is a key event in Hong Kong for the celebration of the World Metrology Day 2017, the World Accreditation Day 2017 and the World Standards Day 2017.

04.2017 HKCAS - Multilateral Recognition Arrangements

HKAS has been a signatory to the Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) of both the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) for Quality Management System (QMS), Environmental Management System (EMS) and Product Certifications for many years. HKAS has also been a PAC MLA signatory to Greenhouse Gas (GHG) validation and verification since June 2015. In March 2017, HKAS successfully extended its PAC MLA to Energy Management System (EnMS) certification and became one of the inaugural PAC MLA signatories in EnMS certification.

04.2017 HKAS Arrangement for implementation of ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2017

International Standard ISO/IEC 17021-3 was published in March 2017. This standard cancels and replaces Technical Specification ISO/IEC TS 17021-3: 2013.

IAF Resolution 2012-11 endorsed a 2-year transition period for the implementation of all relevant newly published ISO/CASCO conformity assessment standards from the date of publication. The IAF TC meeting held in April 2017 has agreed that quality management system certification bodies are required to conform to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021-3 by 31 March 2019.

For details, please refer to the 'Schedule for Implementation of ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2017 for Accreditation of Management System Certification Bodies' with link:

http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/Schedule-ISOIEC_17021_3_2017_Implementation.pdf

If you have any query, please contact Mr SHUM Wai-leung on 2829 4806.

03.2017 Publication and Transition Arrangement for Accreditation of Reference Material Producer to ISO 17034:2016

ISO 17034:2016 was published on 1 November 2016 to replace ISO Guide 34:2009 as the accreditation standard for reference material producer (RMP). According to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the transition period for the implementation of ISO 17034:2016 ends on 31 October 2019. All accreditations to ISO Guide 34:2009 will become invalid after that date.

HOKLAS 022: 2017 has been published. Requirements and notes of ISO 17034:2016 are reproduced verbatim as the main text and relevant HOKLAS polices are given in the document. HKAS Executive will accept initial applications for accreditation based on ISO 17034:2016 starting from 3 April 2017. Applications for initial accreditation based on ISO Guide 34:2009 will not be accepted after 1 May 2017.

The transition arrangement of ISO 17034:2016 can be found in the "Schedule for Implementation of ISO 17034:2016 for Accreditation of Reference Material Producer" with link:

http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/Schedule_for_Implementation_of_ISO_17034.pdf

Should you have any questions, please contact Dr Daria WONG Ching-hang at 2829 4801.

03.2017 An update of ILAC document 'Application of ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies' (ILAC-P15:07/2016)

The document of ILAC-P15 provides information for use by inspection bodies on the application of ISO/IEC 17020. An amendment to clarify clause 8.1.3 was proposed by the ILAC Inspection Committee (IC) and endorsed by the ILAC membership in July 2016. The implementation date for ILAC P15:07/2016 is 18 months from the date of publication of this document (i.e. from July 2016). Please pay attention to this amendment and note that the implementation date of this document is 31 January 2018. HKAS will adopt this document (i.e. ILAC P15:07/2016) for assessment after the implementation date.

The updated version of document ILAC-P15 (i.e. ILAC-P15:07/2016) can be downloaded via this weblink <http://ilac.org/publications-and-resources/ilac-policy-series/>.

Should you have any enquiries, please contact HKAS Executive.

03.2017 HKAS Arrangement for implementation of ISO/IEC 17021-2: 2016

International Standard ISO/IEC 17021-2 was published on 1 December 2016. This standard cancels and replaces Technical Specification ISO/IEC TS 17021-2: 2012.

IAF Resolution 2016-14 endorsed a 2-year transition period for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17021-2: 2016. Environmental management system certification bodies are required to conform to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021-2 by 1 December 2018.

For details, please refer to the 'Schedule for Implementation of ISO/IEC 17021-2: 2016 for Accreditation of Management System Certification Bodies'.

If you have any query, please contact Mr SHUM Wai-leung on 2829 4806.

05.2016 Seminar on World Metrology (WMD), World Accreditation Day (WAD), World Standards Day (WSD) 2016

The "Seminar on the World Metrology Day (WMD), World Accreditation Day (WAD), and World Standards Day (WSD) 2016", jointly organised by Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS), Standards and Calibration Laboratory (SCL) and Product Standards Information Bureau (PSIB) of the Innovation and Technology Commission, the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) and the Government Laboratory (GLHK), will be held on 8 June 2016. This seminar is a key event in Hong Kong for the celebration of the World Metrology Day 2016, the World Accreditation Day 2016 and the World Standards Day 2016.

04.2016 Recognition of test results for the importation of oil products in Mexico

The government of Mexico has recently announced that it is accepting test results issued by a foreign laboratory for the importation of oil products if the laboratory is registered with the Directorate General of Standards of the Ministry of Economy in Mexico. Laboratories that are eligible for the registration shall be accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 by signatories to the mutual recognition arrangements (相互承認安排) under the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (國際實驗室認可合作組織) or the Asia-Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (亞太區實驗室認可合作組織), including Hong Kong Accreditation Service (香港認可處). In addition, the scope of accreditation of the laboratories shall cover ASTM test methods for compliance testing of oil products as specified in NOM-EM-005-CRE-2015 issued by the Energy Regulatory Commission of Mexico. Laboratories that are interested in seeking Mexican authority's recognition of their test results shall apply for registration directly to the Directorate General of Standards. For further details, please contact Dr Daria WONG at chwong@itc.gov.hk.

01.2016 New Area – Accreditation of certification bodies for certification of quality and environmental management systems

HKAS is pleased to announce that the scope of accreditation service has been extended to the area 'Recycling' in accreditation of certification bodies for certification of quality and environmental management systems.

Details of the application process are given in the HKAS website at www.hkas.gov.hk.

If you have any queries, please contact Mr SHUM Wai-leung on 2829 4806.

10.2015 HKAS Arrangement for accreditation of certification bodies for transition of ISO 9001: 2015 and ISO 14001: 2015

The new version of ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 were published on 15 September 2015 and replaced ISO 9001: 2008 and ISO 14001: 2004 respectively.

According to the 'Joint IAF-ISO Communiqué on the publication and transition of ISO 9001: 2015' dated 1 October 2015, the transition of certified organisations to ISO 9001: 2015 and ISO 14001: 2015 must be completed by 15 September 2018.

For details, please refer to the 'HKAS Arrangement for accreditation of certification bodies for transition of ISO 9001: 2015 and ISO 14001: 2015'.

If you have any query, please contact Mr SHUM Wai-leung on 2829 4806.

09.2015 Accreditation for testing of lead content in solder or filler metal

HKAS is pleased to announce that accreditation service is available for testing of lead content in solder or filler metal used in soldering, brazing and welding construction methods. Interested laboratories may apply for accreditation for these chemical tests. Details of the application process are available at the HKAS website.

If you have any queries, please contact Dr Daria WONG at 2829 4801 or chwong@itc.gov.hk.

08.2015 The Accredited CAB Combined ILAC MRA Mark – Ready to receive application from interested accredited inspection bodies

International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) has published an updated version of ILAC-R7:05/2015 covering the use of the Accredited CAB Combined ILAC MRA Mark. One of the major changes is that all accredited inspection bodies are now eligible to apply for using the Accredited CAB Combined ILAC MRA Mark. The use of the mark is voluntary and free of charge. If inspection bodies wish to apply for the use of this mark, please complete application form HKIAS 015 and submit it to HKAS Executive for approval. Upon approval, HKAS Executive will provide the applicant with the Accredited CAB Combined ILAC MRA Mark. The terms and conditions for using the Accredited CAB Combined ILAC MRA Mark by accredited inspection bodies are given in a newly published HKIAS Supplementary Criteria No. 6 which can be downloaded via the following link:
http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/SupplementaryCriteria/HKIAS_SC-06.pdf

Should you have any enquiries, please contact HKAS Executive.

08.2015 30th Anniversary of Hong Kong Accreditation Service – Launching of Webpage of “Milestones of HKAS”

07.2015 Reminder on Use of HKAS Accreditation Symbols and Claims of Accreditation Status

Recently, we have encountered incidents where HKAS accreditation symbols were misused on advertising materials or websites.

We would like to remind all accredited organisations that it is your organisation's responsibility to minimise the risk of a client or reader being misled as to the status, extent and limitation of their accreditation status. When using HKAS accreditation symbols, they shall not be used in such a manner as to bring HKAS or its accreditation into disrepute. Any statement made by an accredited organisation in connection with its accreditation status shall not, in the opinion of HKAS Executive, give a false or misleading impression to any third party of its accreditation status.

07.2015 Testing of lead and other heavy metals in water

HKAS has recently received a number of enquiries on water quality testing. If you wish to conduct testing of lead and other heavy metals in water to the WHO's guideline values, it is advised to engage a testing laboratory accredited by HKAS under the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (HOKLAS) for such analyses, and request the accredited laboratory to issue 'HOKLAS endorsed test reports' for the analyses conducted. Links to lists of laboratories accredited by HKAS to perform analyses of lead, cadmium, chromium and nickel in water, with their reporting limits meeting the WHO guideline values, are provided below for easy reference. For further information, please contact us at 2829 4802 or hkas@itc.gov.hk.

07.2015 Publication and Transition Arrangement for Accreditation of Management System Certification Bodies to ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015

ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015 has been published to replace ISO/IEC 17021: 2011 as the accreditation standard for management system certification bodies. According to the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), the transition period for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015 ends on 15 June 2017. All accreditations to ISO/IEC 17021: 2011 will become invalid on that date.

HKCAS 003: 2015 (First Edition) has been published. Requirements and notes of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 are reproduced verbatim as the main text and relevant HKCAS polices are also given in the document. HKAS Executive will accept initial applications for accreditation based on ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015 from 15 August 2015. Applications for initial accreditation based on ISO/IEC 17021: 2011 (HKCAS 003 Second Edition) will not be accepted after 15 September 2015.

The transition plan for accreditation of management system certification bodies is detailed in the 'Schedule for Implementation of ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015 for Accreditation of Management System Certification Bodies' with link: http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/Schedule-ISOIEC_17021_1_2015_Implementation.pdf

Should you have any questions, please contact Mr SHUM Wai-leung at 2829 4806.

07.2015 Supplement X to Mainland and Hong Kong (CEPA) Liberalisation Measure Relating to the Movement of Natural Persons in the Area of Certification and Accreditation

Supplement X to CEPA was signed between the Mainland China and HKSAR on 29 August 2013. In the area of certification and accreditation, the Annex of Supplement X to CEPA includes contents relating to the movement of natural persons, i.e. "To allow contractual service providers employed by Hong Kong service suppliers, in the mode of movement of natural persons, to provide services under this sector or sub-sector on the Mainland". Hong Kong certification bodies who intend to undertake certification activities on the Mainland using the mode of movement of natural persons shall have the relevant certification activities accredited by Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) under the Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme (HKCAS).

HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 14 'Requirements for Hong Kong Certification Bodies Sending Staff to the Mainland to Provide Certification Service' has been prepared to explain on the liberalisation measure. Implementation details of relevant measures are available from the website of Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) at <http://www.hkctc.gov.hk>.

If you have any queries, please contact Mr K W Chen on 2829 4826.

06.2015 Arrangements for implementation of ISO 50003: 2014 for accreditation of Energy Management System (EnMS) certification bodies

ISO 50003: 2014 "Energy management systems - Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of energy management systems" was published on 15 October 2014. This International Standard is intended to be used in conjunction with ISO/IEC 17021: 2011 for accreditation of EnMS certification bodies. In accordance with the resolution of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), the deadline for accredited certification bodies to conform with ISO 50003: 2014 will be 14 October 2017.

HKAS will accept applications for accreditation based on ISO/IEC 17021: 2011 in conjunction with ISO 50003: 2014. Application for accreditation of EnMS certification based on ISO/IEC 17021: 2011 alone will not be accepted after 14 October 2015.

Transition arrangements for accredited EnMS certification bodies are detailed in the "HKAS arrangements for implementation of ISO 50003: 2014 for accreditation of certification bodies for energy management systems certification" with link: http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/HKAS_Arrangement_for_EnMS_Certification-150612.pdf

Should you have any query, please contact Dr KWOK Moon-keung at 2829 4846.

05.2015 Seminar on World Metrology (WMD), World Accreditation Day (WAD), World Standards Day (WSD) 2015

The "Seminar on the World Metrology Day (WMD), World Accreditation Day (WAD), and World Standards Day (WSD) 2015", jointly organised by Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS), Standards and Calibration Laboratory (SCL) and Product Standards Information Bureau (PSIB) of the Innovation and Technology Commission, the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) and the Government Laboratory (GLHK), will be held on 29 May 2015. This seminar is a key event in Hong Kong for the celebration of the World Metrology Day 2015, the World Accreditation Day 2015 and the World Standards Day 2015.

05.2015 Change in wording of the statements for claiming accreditation status by conformity assessment bodies accredited under HOKLAS

New issue of HOKLAS SC-33 (for laboratories); HOKLAS SC-34 (for PTPs) and HOKLAS SC-39 (for RMPs) had been released on 8 May 2015. Accredited conformity assessment bodies (CABs) are reminded that wording of the statements used to claim the accreditation status in their reports and certificates had been updated. These latest supplementary criteria can be downloaded from HKAS website under 'HOKLAS Publications'.

04.2015 Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) – Further liberalization in 2014

Since Supplement VII to CEPA, the Mainland of China has been gradually opening up its market to Hong Kong's testing and certification industry. In December 2014, the Agreement between the Mainland and Hong Kong on Achieving Basic Liberalization of Trade in Services in Guangdong (Guangdong Agreement) was signed under the framework of CEPA. It includes measures allowing testing organisations in Hong Kong to cooperate with designated Mainland organisations to undertake testing of products in the 'audio and visual apparatus' category of the China Compulsory Certification (CCC) system that are designed and prototyped in Hong Kong, as well as processed or manufactured in Guangdong Province. The scope of testing services that can be provided by Hong Kong testing organisations in the area of voluntary certification has been expanded to products manufactured or processed in Hong Kong or Mainland. Hong Kong testing organisations that intend to undertake the relevant testing activities shall be accredited by Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) as competent in performing the relevant testing activities.

HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 45 'Accreditation Requirements for Hong Kong Testing Laboratories to Undertake Product Testing to China Compulsory Certification System' and No. 49 'Accreditation Requirements for undertaking Testing Services for Mainland Voluntary Certification' have been prepared to explain on the arrangement. Implementation details of relevant measures under the Guangdong Agreement are available from the website of Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) at <http://www.hkctc.gov.hk>.

If you have any queries, please contact Dr CW Ho on 2829 4808.

03.2015 The implementation of 'Application of ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies' (ILAC-P15:06/2014)

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) has published a document 'Application of ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies' (ILAC-P15:06/2014) which provides information on the application of ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 to the accreditation of inspection bodies. According to the ILAC's requirement, HKAS shall implement the document within 18 months from the date of publication (i.e. from June 2014). All applicant and accredited inspection bodies are required to conform to the requirements of ILAC-P15:06/2014 as well as ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 starting from the implementation date (i.e. 31 December 2015). Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) Executive will assess the effectiveness of the implementation of applicant and accredited inspection bodies during assessments after the implementation date.

The ILAC-P15:06/2014 document can be downloaded via this weblink <http://ilac.org/publications-and-resources/ilac-documents/procedural-series/>

Should you have any enquiries, please contact HKAS Executive.

03.2015 Change in the registration number for HOKLAS accredited proficiency testing providers (PTPs) and reference material producer (RMP)

HKAS revised the numbering system for assigning registration number for accredited proficiency testing providers (PTPs) and reference material producer (RMP) under HOKLAS. Changes in the numbering system for accredited PTPs and RMPs are described in the latest version of HKAS SC-01 released on 4 December 2014, which can be downloaded from HKAS website under "HKAS General Publications". With effect from 26 February 2015, the old numbering system for assigning registration number for accredited PTPs and RMP (i.e. PTP00X and RMP00X) will not be maintained. The updated registration number of accredited PTPs and RMP can be accessed on HKAS website (<http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/hoklas/directory.htm>).

02.2015 ISO-IAF-ILAC revised the joint communique on ISO15189 in Jan 2015 to refer to the 2012 edition of the standard

To reflect the fact that medical laboratories accredited to ISO 15189 do operate a quality management system, a joint ISO-IAF-ILAC communiqué on ISO 15189 accreditation was issued in 2007 to address this issue. This communiqué was revised in January 2015 to refer to the 2012 edition of ISO 15189. Full text of the communiqué is available from the ILAC website at <http://ilac.org/about-ilac/partnerships/>

07.2014 New design of HKAS website has been launched on 11 July 2014

New design of HKAS website has been launched on 11 July 2014. The website has been re-designed with new landing page, layout and structure.

The design of the web pages and the structure of the information have been updated from a user's perspective to improve usability for different users including accredited conformity assessment bodies, applicants and general public. With the new and optimised design, number of clicks that the users need to take to acquire necessary information has been reduced.

For any enquiries on HKAS website, please contact Mr Calvin HO at 2829 4804.

07.2014 Accreditation of Hong Kong testing laboratories under the Supplement X to CEPA

The Supplement X to the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) was signed between the Mainland of China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in August 2013. Starting from January 2014 and on the basis of Supplement IX to CEPA, the new measure has expanded the scope of testing services for the purpose of certification that can be undertaken by Hong Kong testing organizations, on a pilot basis in Guangdong Province, from food to other areas of voluntary certification. (please click here for more information). Hong Kong testing organisations that intend to undertake the relevant testing activities shall be accredited by Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) as competent in performing the relevant testing activities. HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 49 "Accreditation Requirements for Undertaking Testing Services for Mainland Voluntary Certification" has been particularly revised for this accreditation.

If you have any queries, please contact Dr CW Ho on 2829 4808.

06.2014 New Area – Accreditation of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Verification Bodies for verification of GHG assertions at product level

HKAS is pleased to announce that the scope of accreditation service has been extended to verification of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) assertions at product level.

Details of the application process are given in the HKAS website at www.hkas.gov.hk.

If you have any queries, please contact Mr. W L Shum at 2829 4806.

03.2014 HKAS Arrangement for implementation of ISO/IEC TS 17021-3: 2013

Technical Specification ISO/IEC TS 17021-3 was published on 1 May 2013. It includes requirements for the competence of personnel involved in the third-party auditing and certification of Quality Management Systems (QMS).

IAF Resolution 2013-12 endorsed ISO/IEC TS 17021-3 as a normative document to be applied in conjunction with ISO/IEC 17021 for QMS certification. Certification bodies are required to conform to the requirements of ISO/IEC TS 17021-3 by 1 May 2015.

For details, please refer to the "HKAS Arrangement for implementation of the requirements of ISO/IEC TS 17021-3: 2013 by applicant certification bodies / accredited certification bodies for certification of quality management systems".

If you have any query, please contact Mr. W.L. Shum on 2829 4806.

06.2013 Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17065:2012 for Product Certification Bodies

Further to the announcement of the 'Transition Arrangement for Accreditation of Product Certification Bodies to ISO/IEC 17065' in May 2013, HKAS is pleased to announce the official launching of the accreditation service to Product Certification Bodies based on ISO/IEC 17065:2012.

HKAS accepts initial application for accreditation to ISO/IEC 17065:2012 starting from 28 June 2013. Relevant accreditation criteria are given in HKCAS 023 "Technical Criteria for Accreditation of Product Certification Bodies". Relevant application form HKCAS 005 and application questionnaire HKCAS 013 have also been updated. All these updated documents are available in HKAS's website.

Details of the transition plan for accredited and potential product certification bodies are given in the "Schedule for Implementation of ISO/IEC 17065:2012 for Accreditation of Product Certification Bodies". Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. K.W. Chen at 2829 4826 or Mr. K.M. Heung at 2829 4870.

Remark: ISO/IEC 17065 makes reference to ISO/IEC 17067 for the definition of types of certification system in product certification. However, as of 28 June 2013, ISO/IEC 17067 was not officially published. Therefore the definition of types of certification system in ISO/IEC Guide 67 shall be used until ISO/IEC 17067 is published.

06.2013 New Areas – Accreditation of certification bodies for certification of quality and environmental management systems

HKAS is pleased to announce that the scope of accreditation service has been extended to three new areas in accreditation of certification bodies for certification of quality and environmental management system. The three new areas are "Mining and Quarrying", "Printing Companies" and "Education".

Details of the application process are given in the HKAS website at www.hkas.gov.hk.

If you have any queries, please contact Mr. Tommy K. Y. Fung on 2829 4868.

06.2013 Accreditation Service for Testing of Maleic Acid in Food

Accreditation Service for Testing of Maleic Acid in Food pleased to announce that Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) accepts applications for laboratory accreditation for testing of maleic acid in food. The HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 37 and other relevant documents apply. Interested laboratories may apply following the normal application procedure, i.e., by completing appropriate application forms and returning them to HKAS together with necessary documents. Details of the application process are given in the HKAS website.

For further information, please contact our accreditation officer Dr. Daria Wong (Tel. 2829 4801).

06.2013 New Service – Accreditation of certification bodies for certification of management system of Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Service Providers

HKAS is pleased to announce that the scope of accreditation service has been extended to accreditation of certification bodies for certification of management system of Residential Care Homes (Elderly Persons) Service Providers. This service is provided under the Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme (HKCAS).

Accreditation criteria of this new accreditation programme are given in the HKCAS SC-12. Interested certification bodies may visit here for more information.

If you have any queries, please contact Mr. W. L. Shum on 2829 4806.

05.2013 Transition Arrangement for Accreditation of Product Certification Bodies to ISO/IEC 17065

ISO/IEC 17065:2012 has been published to replace ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996 as the accreditation standard for product certification bodies. According to the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) Resolution, the transition period for accreditation of product certification bodies based on the requirements of ISO/IEC 17065:2012 will end on 14 September 2015. All accreditations to ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996 will become invalid after that date.

HKAS Executive will accept initial applications for accreditation based on ISO/IEC 17065:2012 starting from 28 June 2013. No application for initial accreditation based on ISO/IEC Guide 65:1996 will be accepted after 14 September 2013.

The transition plan for accreditation of product certification bodies is detailed in the "Schedule for Implementation of ISO/IEC 17065:2012 for Accreditation of Product Certification Bodies". Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. K.W. Chen on 2829 4826 or Mr. K.M. Heung on 2828 4870.

04.2013 Publication and Transition Arrangement for HOKLAS 015 (5th Edition)

The new edition of ISO 15189 was published on 1 November 2012. According to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Resolution, the transition period for the implementation of ISO15189:2012 will conclude on 1 March 2016. Current accreditations to ISO15189:2007 will become invalid after 29 February 2016.

A new edition of HOKLAS 015 (5th Edition), which details the accreditation requirements and relevant HOKLAS policies, in accordance with ISO 15189:2012 is published. From April 2013, HKAS Executive will start to accept new applications for accreditation based on the fifth edition. Initial accreditation based on the fourth edition will not be accepted after 1 October 2013.

All accredited medical testing laboratories shall prepare a transition plan detailing the changes to their management system and the time frame for implementation to meet the requirements in the fifth edition. The transition plan shall be submitted to HKAS Executive by 31 July 2013.

Should you have any questions, please contact HKAS Executive. (Please click http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/hoklas/Schedule_HOKLAS015_5th_Ed.pdf to download the detailed "Implementation Schedule for HOKLAS 015 (5th Edition)".

02.2013 Accreditation of Hong Kong testing laboratories under the CEPA Supplement IX

The Supplement IX to the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) was signed between the Mainland of China and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) in June 2012. Starting from January 2013, the new measure expands, on a pilot basis in Guangdong Province, the scope of certification services that can be undertaken by Hong Kong testing organizations to cover food (please click here for more information). These Hong Kong testing organisations shall be accredited by Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) as competent in performing the relevant testing activities.

HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 49 Accreditation Requirements for Undertaking Testing Services for Specified Mainland Food Related Certification has been specifically prepared for this accreditation.

If you have any queries, please contact Dr CW Ho on 2829 4808.

12.2012 Publication and Transition Arrangement to HKIAS 003 (4th Edition)

The new edition of ISO/IEC 17020 was published on 1 March 2012. According to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Resolution, the transition period for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 will conclude on 1 March 2015. Current accreditations to ISO/IEC 17020: 1998 will no longer be valid after 28 February 2015, i.e. 3 years from publication of ISO/IEC 17020: 2012.

A new edition of HKIAS 003 (4th Edition), which reproduces the requirements and notes of ISO/IEC 17020: 2012 as main text with relevant HKIAS policies, is published. From 1 January 2013, HKAS Executive will start to accept new applications for accreditation based on the 4th edition. No more application for initial accreditation based on 3rd edition will be accepted after 28 February 2013. All accredited inspection bodies shall prepare a transition plan detailing the changes to their management system and the time frame for implementation to meet the requirements in the 4th edition. The transition plan shall be submitted to HKAS Executive by 31 March 2013.

Non-conformities raised against additional requirements of the new edition must be rectified by the end of the transition period. A new certificate of accreditation to the new edition will be issued to the inspection body when it has addressed all non-conformities to the satisfaction of HKAS Executive.

Accredited inspection bodies should analyse and understand the HKIAS 003 (4th Edition) and commence identification of new requirements without delay. Should you have any questions, please contact HKAS Executive. (Please click http://www.itc.gov.hk/en/quality/hkas/doc/hkias/Schedule_HKIAS003_4th_Ed.pdf to download the detailed "Implementation Schedule for HKIAS 003 4th Edition".)

12.2012 Accreditation Service for Energy Management System Certification

HKAS is now offering service for accreditation of Energy Management System (EnMS) to certification bodies. This service is provided under the Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme (HKCAS).

Criteria of the accreditation program are given in HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 10. Interested certification bodies may visit here to understand the application process and download application documents.

You may contact our Senior Accreditation Officer Dr. M. K. Kwok (Tel: 2829 4846) for further information.

12.2012 New Accreditation Service – Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Validation and Verification

HKAS is pleased to announce that the scope of accreditation service has been extended to accreditation of greenhouse gas (GHG) validation and verification bodies. This service is provided under the Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme (HKCAS).

Accreditation criteria of this new accreditation program are given in "HKCAS 020 Technical Criteria for Accreditation of Greenhouse Gas Validation and Verification Bodies – Parts 1, 2 and 3" as well as "HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 9". Interested validation/verification bodies may visit here for more information.

If you have any queries, please contact Mr. W. L. Shum on 2829 4806.

11.2012 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 to the ILAC MRA for the accreditation of inspection bodies.

Each signatory to the ILAC MRA recognizes the accreditation of an inspection body accredited by another signatory, as if it were one of its own accredited inspection bodies. This means that inspection reports and certificates issued by an HKAS inspection body will be accepted by the other signatories to the ILAC MRA, for their own purposes, on the same basis as they accept endorsed inspection reports and certificates issued by their own accredited inspection bodies.

10.2012 Publication of HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 37 Issue No. 3

HKAS has published a new issue of HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 37 on "Food Test Category – Chemical Testing" on 16 October 2012. Major changes include new requirements for laboratories that would like to make modifications to an accredited test procedure for the determination of pesticide and veterinary residues in food. Requirements in this document will be fully implemented after 16 December 2012.

If you have any enquiry regarding the new Supplementary Criteria, please contact Dr. Daria Wong on 2829 4801 or email chwong@itc.gov.hk.

07.2012 Accreditation for Within-Laboratory, Qualitative Screening of Consumer Products for Radioactivity

HKAS is now accepting application for accreditation of laboratories to perform within-laboratory, qualitative screening of consumer products for radioactivity.

Supplementary criteria of the accreditation are given in HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 48 "Physical and Mechanical Testing" – Within-Laboratory, Qualitative Screening of Consumer Products for Radioactivity". Interested laboratories may apply in accordance with the normal application procedure, i.e. by completing appropriate application forms and returning them to HKAS together with the necessary documents. Details of the application procedure are given in the HKAS website at www.hkas.gov.hk.

If you have any queries, please contact Dr. C. W. Ho on 2829 4808.

11.2011 Accreditation Service for Information Security Management System Certification

HKAS is now accepting application for accreditation of Information Security Management System (ISMS) certification bodies. This service is provided under the Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme (HKCAS).

Criteria of the accreditation program are given in HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 8. Interested certification bodies may visit here to understand the application process and download application documents.

You may contact our Senior Accreditation Officer Mr. Nick C. C. Leung (Tel: 2829 4846) for further information.

11.2011 New HKAS Supplementary Criteria No. 6 on Code of Conduct

A new HKAS Supplementary Criteria No. 6 on Code of Conduct was published on 3 November 2011. Accredited organisations are required to establish and implement a code of conduct based on their own circumstances. Details of the requirements are given in the HKAS Supplementary Criteria No. 6. Accredited organisations shall comply with the requirements of this document after 3 February 2012.

07.2011 Accreditation service extended to Occupational Health and Safety Management System Certification

HKAS is pleased to announce that its scope of accreditation service offered under the Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme (HKCAS) has been extended to Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS) Certification. Certification bodies are welcome to apply for this new accreditation.

The relevant criteria are given in HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 7. Interested certification bodies may download this document and relevant application forms from our website at www.hkas.gov.hk.

If you have any queries, please contact Dr. Wanthy Leung on 2829 4871.

06.2011 Accreditation Service for Phthalate Plasticisers Concentration Testing in Food

In response to the recent incident of finding phthalates (including DEHP and DINP) in food, we are pleased to announce that Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) accepts applications for laboratory accreditation for testing of phthalate plasticisers in food. The HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 37 and other relevant documents apply (A list of relevant documents is available from our website at [here](#)). Interested laboratories may apply following the normal application procedure, i.e., by completing appropriate application forms and returning them to HKAS together with the necessary documents. Details of the application process are given in the HKAS website.

05.2011 Laboratory Accreditation Service for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) ENERGY STAR® Program

Hong Kong Accreditation Service has been recognised by US EPA as an Accreditation Body for laboratories of the ENERGY STAR program. We are now ready to accept applications for this program for electrical and electronic products. Accreditation will be granted under the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (HOKLAS).

Interested laboratory may [click here](#) for more details.

05.2011 Accreditation Service of Radiation Measurement

Hong Kong Accreditation Service is now ready to accept applications for accreditation for laboratory radiation measurement for food and other products. The accreditation applications will be assessed using the requirements of the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (HOKLAS). Interested laboratories may apply in accordance with the normal application procedure, i.e., by completing appropriate application forms and returning them together with the necessary documents. Details of the application procedure are given in the HKAS website of www.hkas.gov.hk.

You may already be aware that the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification has organized a seminar on 11 May 2011 to share technical issues related to radiation measurement. You are encouraged to take part. Details of the seminar are in the HKCTC website of www.hkctc.gov.hk.

Our officer responsible for the quality system of your organization is ready to provide additional information on this new service. You may also contact our senior accreditation officer Mr. W. W. Wong (Tel. 2829 4813) for details.

03.2011 Accreditation service extends to chemical and physicochemical testing

HKAS is pleased to announce that the scope of accreditation has been extended to the chemical and physicochemical testing in accordance with the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica (HKCMM) Standards. HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 44 "Chinese Medicine" Test Category – Chemical and Physicochemical Testing to the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica (HKCMM) Standards has been specifically prepared for this accreditation.

Consequential amendments have also been made to the existing criteria document HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 20 "Chemical Testing", "Chinese Medicine", "Construction Materials", "Miscellaneous" and "Toys and Children's Products" - Chemical Testing specifying that for chemical testing to the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica Standards, laboratories shall refer to the new HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 44 for details.

Interested laboratories may obtain the related documents from our website at www.hkas.gov.hk.

If you have any queries, please contact Mr. W. W. Wong on 2829 4813.

03.2011 Accreditation service extends to Food Safety Management System Certification

HKAS is pleased to announce that the scope of accreditation service offered under the Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme (HKCAS) has been extended to Food Safety Management System (FSMS) Certification. HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 6 has been published for FSMS certification. Interested certification body may download this document and relevant application forms from our website at www.hkas.gov.hk.

If you have any queries, please contact Dr. Wanthy Leung on 2829 4871.

02.2011 HKAS Arrangements for transition to ISO/IEC 17021:2011

ISO/IEC 17021 was revised and published on 1 February 2011. It incorporates new requirements for third-party certification auditing of management systems and the competence of personnel involved in the certification process. In accordance with the joint IAF-ISO Communiqué, all new applications for HKAS accreditation for QMS and EMS certification shall be to ISO/IEC 17021:2011. These include new initial applications and applications for extension of scope of accreditation. The joint IAF-ISO Communiqué is available at the IAF website: <http://www.iaf.nu/>.

Current accreditations to ISO/IEC 17021:2006 will no longer be valid after 31 January 2013, i.e., 2 years from publication of ISO/IEC 17021:2011. From now, HKAS will conduct assessments and surveillance visits for QMS and EMS certification based on the requirements of the new version. Non-conformities raised against requirements added to the new version must be rectified by the end of the transition period unless prior agreement with HKAS Executive has been obtained. A new certificate of accreditation to the new version will be issued to the certification body when it has addressed all non-conformities to the satisfaction of HKAS. In general, no additional visits will be conducted by HKAS Executive to confirm conformities with the new requirements.

Accredited certification bodies should analyse and understand the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021:2011 and commence identification of new requirements in the standard without delay. They are also advised to study the document IAF ID 2:2011 available from the IAF website and seek advice from HKAS Executive if necessary.

01.2011 Accreditation of Hong Kong CCC laboratories under the CEPA Supplement VII

Supplement VII to CEPA signed by the Central Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in May 2010 allows for the first time testing organisations in Hong Kong to co-operate with designated Mainland organisations to conduct testing for the China Compulsory Certification (CCC) System on a pilot basis, for selected products processed in Hong Kong. These testing organisations have to be accredited by the Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) to be capable of performing tests for the relevant products.

Four types of products processed in Hong Kong are included in the pilot:

- (1) Toys;
- (2) Switches, protective devices and connection devices for electrical installations;
- (3) Information technology equipment; and
- (4) Lighting apparatus.

HKAS has started to accept applications for accreditation to Hong Kong laboratories for CCC testing of the related products. For more details, please browse here

12.2010 Accreditation service extends to Forensic Testing

HKAS is pleased to announce that the scope of accreditation service offered under the Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (HOKLAS) has been extended to the Test Category of Forensic Testing. In the initial stage, forensic testing within the disciplines of Controlled Substances, Toxicology, and DNA Profiling will be offered. A separate HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No 42 has been published specific for this Test Category. Interested laboratories may download this document from our website at www.hkas.gov.hk.

If you have any queries, please contact Mr. W. W. Wong on 2829 4813.

11.2010 Accreditation service extends to the identification of Chinese Materia Medica by microscopic examination

HKAS is pleased to announce that the scope of accreditation has been extended to the identification of Chinese Materia Medica by microscopic examination in accordance with the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica (HKCMM) Standards. "HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 40 "Chinese Medicine" Test Category – Identification of Chinese Materia Medica by Microscopic Examination in accordance with the Hong Kong Chinese Materia Medica (HKCMM) Standards" has been specifically prepared for this accreditation. Interested laboratories may obtain this document from our website at www.hkas.gov.hk.

If you have any queries, please contact Mr. W. W. Wong on 2829 4813.

11.2010 New design of HKAS accreditation symbols

The accreditation symbols for HKAS accreditation programmes have been revised. For each programme, an identification code is added to the symbol. Organisations accredited for more than one programme under the same accreditation scheme may also use combined accreditation symbols. Criteria for using the new symbols are given in the revised HKAS Supplementary Criteria No. 1. Existing documents including letterheads or promotional leaflets/brochures of accredited organisations bearing the old designs of HKAS accreditation symbols may continue to be used until 1 November 2012. The new symbols have to be used for all new documents starting from 1 November 2010. Accredited organisations sublicensed to use the ILAC Laboratory Combined MRA Mark and/or the IAF Combined MLA Mark (as described below) are required to use the new symbols in the combined marks.

11.2010 ILAC Laboratory Combined MRA Mark – Ready to receive application from interested accredited laboratories

HKAS has signed an agreement with the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to use the Combined MRA mark and to sublicense its accredited laboratories to use the mark together with their registration numbers. Laboratories accredited by HKAS for testing and calibration are eligible to apply for using the mark. The use of the mark is voluntary and free of charge. Interested laboratories are invited to complete application form HOKLAS 024 and submit it to HKAS Executive. Upon successful application, HKAS will arrange for signing a sublicense agreement with the applicant. Criteria governing the use of the ILAC Laboratory Combined MRA Mark are given in HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 41.

11.2010 IAF Combined MLA Mark – Ready to receive application from interested accredited certification bodies

HKAS has signed an agreement with the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) to use the IAF Combined MLA mark and to sublicense its accredited Certification Bodies to use the mark together with their registration numbers. Certification bodies accredited by HKAS for quality management certification are eligible to apply for using the mark. Similar to the ILAC Laboratory Combined MRA Mark, the use of the IAF Combined MLA Mark is voluntary and free of charge. Interested certification bodies are invited to complete application form HKCAS 016 and submit it to HKAS Executive. Upon successful application, HKAS will arrange for signing a sublicense agreement with the applicant. Criteria governing the use of the IAF Combined MLA Mark are given in HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 5.

09.2010 Accreditation Service Extends to Reference Material Producers

HKAS is pleased to announce that the scope of accreditation has been extended to accreditation of reference material producers. In the first phase of this programme, it will cover chemical reference materials, both certified and non-certified. As the need arises, the programme may be extended to cover other types of reference materials.

The accreditation criteria is given in HOKLAS 022 Technical Criteria for the Accreditation of Reference Material Producers. The main text of this document is a verbatim reproduction of ISO Guide 34:2009. In addition, HOKLAS policies on individual elements are given in this document. Reference Material Producers interested in seeking our accreditation may contact HKAS Secretariat to obtain a copy of this document. An abridged version with the main text removed is available from our website at www.hkas.gov.hk. Copies of original ISO Guide 34:2009 are available for purchase from Innovation and Technology Commission and International Organisation for Standardisation.

Accreditation Regulations Specific to HOKLAS - Reference Material Producers are given in HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 39. This document is available from our website.

Interested reference material producers may apply to HKAS using HOKLAS 005 Application for Laboratory Accreditation (including Proficiency Testing Providers and Reference Material Producers)/Extension of Scope of Accreditation, and HOKLAS 023 Assessment/ Reassessment Questionnaire for Reference Material Producers.

If you have any queries, please contact Mr. W. W. Wong on 2829 4813.

07.2010 Request for Comments

The HKAS is going to provide accreditation services on the "Identification of Chinese Materia Medica by Organoleptic and Microscopic Examination". To facilitate the accreditation process, HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No.40–RFC have been drafted by the task force under the Chinese Medicine Working Party of the Accreditation Advisory Board.

The draft supplementary criteria HOKLAS SC040–RFC is open for public comment. Please submit your comments to Dr. W T Tang (email: wttang@itc.gov.hk) on or before 23 August 2010.

03.2010 Change of BMC to CMC

BMC (Best Measurement Capability) has been used by HOKLAS since 1985 to quantify the capability of accredited calibration laboratories. This term is also widely adopted by accreditation bodies in the world. However, it is different from the term CMC (Calibration and Measurement Capability) used by the community of national measurement institutes (NMI's). To reduce confusion that may arise in the dissemination of metrological traceability between NMI's and accredited laboratories, the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) has decided to adopt the term CMC. This is purely a change of term because both terms carry the same meaning.

HKAS Executive will implement the change on 1 April 2010. On that day, the term CMC will replace BMC on the scopes of accreditation of all HOKLAS accredited calibration laboratories. References to BMC in all HKAS publications will also be changed to CMC progressively. Laboratories are recommended to use the new term in their internal documents and operation starting from the same day. There is no need to re-do the calculations to support the CMC as the same calculations used to derive the BMC's can be reused without any change.

The change of term will not affect the competence of accredited calibration laboratories. You may continue to use their accredited service as before.

Further information on the change is available from Mr K W Chen of the HKAS Executive.

02.2010 Misusing marks of ANAB and IAF

We were informed by our mutual recognition partner, ANAB (American National Standards Institute - American Society for Quality National Accreditation Board LLC) that an organisation said to be in Hong Kong had misused their mark and the mark of IAF (International Accreditation Forum, Inc.). The website of the organisation was at <http://www.hkisa.com>. Details are available from the ANAB website <http://www.anab.org/> under "Notices Regarding Unauthorized Use of the ANAB Mark".