

HKAS

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Hong Kong Accreditation Service



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P.3

Hong Kong Celebrated World Metrology Day,
World Accreditation Day and
World Standards Day 2017

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Limits of Reporting in Chemical Testing

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Workshop on Assessment of
Calibration Laboratories



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Hong Kong Celebrated World Metrology Day, World Accreditation Day and World Standards Day 2017

Accreditation, metrology and standardisation are three important components of the quality infrastructure that holds the key to the effective and efficient functioning of a society. A robust quality infrastructure supports business and trade, fosters competitiveness and innovation, protects consumer interest, and enhances our quality of life. To raise public awareness of the pivotal role of the quality infrastructure, Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS), in collaboration with the Standards and Calibration Laboratory (SCL) and Product Standards Information Bureau (PSIB) of the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC), the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) and the Government Laboratory (GL) of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, organised this year's World Metrology Day (WMD), World Accreditation Day (WAD) and World Standards Day (WSD) Forum on 6 June 2017.



The WMD, WAD and WSD Forum 2017 in Hong Kong (from left to right: Dr Fung Wai-hong, Mr Yan Yui-kuen, Dr Della Sin, Mr Adrian O'Connell, Dr Toshiyuki Takatsuji, Ms Annie Choi, Ms Kwei-fern Chang, Prof. Albert Yu, Mr Wong Wang-wah and Dr Mckey Ho)

Ms Annie Choi, Commissioner for Innovation and Technology, mentioned in her welcoming remarks that a sound quality infrastructure had become more important than ever in ensuring the continual success of an economy. The Government also recognised this and hence had launched the accreditation, SI-traceable calibration and standards-related services in the 80s to support the growing economy of Hong Kong.



Ms Annie Choi, Commissioner for Innovation and Technology



Dr Della Sin, the Government Chemist

Dr Della Sin, the Government Chemist, welcomed and introduced the guest speakers to the audience. The organising committee had the honour to invite prominent figures in accreditation, metrology and standards to join us in the event. They are Ms Kwei-fern Chang, the Chairperson of Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC), Dr Toshiyuki Takatsuji, the Chairperson of the Asia Pacific Metrology Programme (APMP), and Mr Adrian O'Connell, the Chairperson of the Pacific Area Standards Congress (PASC).



*Dr Toshiyuki Takatsuji,
Chairperson of APMP*

Measurements for transport

Dr Toshiyuki Takatsuji's presentation on 'Role of Metrology for Safe and Reliable Transport' echoed the theme of this year's WMD, reminding us that accurate measurements were essential in raising the effectiveness and trustworthiness of different means of transport. In his talk, Dr Takatsuji introduced the indispensable role of metrology in establishing the quality infrastructure, as well as the aim and mission of APMP and the world's metrology network. He also shared with the audience a couple of interesting examples in which metrology helps ensure the safety and increase the efficiency of cars and mass transit.

Accreditation – Delivering confidence in construction and the built environment

Matching the theme of this year's WAD, Ms Kwei-fern Chang gave a presentation on how accreditation supports the construction and built community. Ms Chang started by talking about the global trend in the built environment in search for more innovative technologies, better project delivery and effective workforce management. Through showcasing case studies from Singapore and other countries, Ms Chang illustrated the important role of accreditation in controlling risk, driving efficiency, demonstrating regulatory compliance and providing supply chain confidence to the construction sector around the world.



Ms Kwei-fern Chang, Chairperson of PAC

Standards make cities smarter

The presentation of the next speaker, Mr Adrian O'Connell, was about recent initiatives in standardisation to support Smart City development, a hot topic in Hong Kong and around the world. Mr O'Connell introduced the overall concept of Smart City and explained why many cities have been striving to become 'smarter'. He then touched upon the current development in the international standardisation community, including the drafting of new standards that caters for different fronts of the Smart City blueprint viz. blockchain, energy grid transition, internet of things and sustainable development.



Mr Adrian O'Connell, Chairperson of PASC

Quality infrastructure for local community

In the second half of the forum, representatives of the Housing Department (HD), GL and SCL delivered talks on conformity assessment activities, physical and chemical metrology, respectively. Dr Mckey Ho, Senior Professional of HD, shared the experience of Housing Authority (HA) in applying conformity assessment services to achieve its quality assurance and management goals. The HA requires service contractors to hold applicable certifications and major materials procured to be tested or certified by accredited conformity assessment bodies in order to safeguard the quality and consistency of the service or products received. Their Material Testing Laboratory is also accredited by HKAS, providing further assurance to the public of the quality of their work.



Dr Mckey Ho, Senior Professional of HD

The next speaker, Dr Fung Wai-hong, Senior Chemist of GL, talked about how chemical metrology supports the search of renewable fuel. As the transportation sector accounts for one-fourth of the world's energy consumption, it is now timely to look for renewable and sustainable fuels for transport. In Dr Fung's presentation, he introduced several choices of renewable resources that potentially could replace fossil fuel. His talk further focused on biofuel and the work of the global chemical metrology network in supporting the measurement and quality control of this alternative fuel source.



Dr Fung Wai-hong, Senior Chemist of GL



Mr Yan Yui-kuen, the Head of SCL

Mr Yan Yui-kuen, the Head of SCL, presented to the audience how accurate and comparable measurements play a part in the development of all means of modern transport - from land, sea, air to the space, as well as from present to future. He also talked about how metrology would contribute in the pursuit of 'smart transport', which could meet people's expectation of being able to travel more safely, quickly and in a more comfortable manner. In the last part of his presentation, Mr Yan introduced the role of SCL in supporting Hong Kong's metrology work and the calibration services it offered.

In addition to the presentations, two question and answer sessions were held where the audience and speakers were engaged in highly interactive discussions about matters relating to the quality infrastructure and the themes of the three World Days.

The celebration attracted over 200 participants, including practitioners from the testing and certification industry, users of testing and certification services, technical experts in the field, teachers, students and those from government departments. It was a great success and the audience enjoyed the forum in that afternoon.



Guest speakers answering questions from the audience

ILAC Chair Visited Hong Kong

Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) invited Ms Merih Malmqvist Nilsson, the Chair of ILAC, to visit Hong Kong on 13–17 February 2017. The aim of this visit is to enable her to see Hong Kong first hand, and to acquire a better understanding about the situation in Hong Kong, especially its economy and opportunities, through site visits and meeting with people.

During her stay, Ms Malmqvist Nilsson visited a number of government departments such as Department of Justice, Independent Commission Against Corruption, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, Housing Department, Government Laboratory, etc. She also met with stakeholders of the testing and certification industry, including HKAS and its Accreditation Advisory Board, conformity assessment bodies accredited by HKAS, the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification, as well as organisations providing human resource and infrastructural support to the industry. In the meetings, she had open discussions with the representatives of different organisations and gained a deeper understanding about Hong Kong and its testing and certification industry. They also exchanged views on how to promote testing and certification services as well as the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangements in Hong Kong.

Ms Malmqvist Nilsson found the visit very enjoyable, and thanked the Hong Kong Government for the arrangement.



Attachment Training on ISO 15189 for MNAS

The Strengthening Accreditation Networks in Asia-Pacific (SANAP) is a project funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development to assist in the development of the accreditation infrastructure in the Asia Pacific region. Its Knowledge Sharing Programme provides support to Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) members to conduct knowledge sharing activities that are focused on transferring accreditation knowledge from developed to developing economy accreditation bodies. One of the activities is to sponsor staff members from a developing accreditation body to receive attachment training at a developed host accreditation body that possesses the appropriate capabilities and is a signatory to the regional mutual recognition arrangement. HKAS participated in this programme as one of the host accreditation bodies.

Through the SANAP programme, HKAS received Ms Dolgorsuren Tsetsegmaa, Senior Officer of the Mongolian Agency for Standardization and Metrology, Accreditation Department (MNAS), for attachment training on 13 – 17 March 2017. The aim of the attachment was to introduce to her how HKAS operates its ISO 15189 medical laboratory accreditation programme according to ISO/IEC 17011. The training programme included presentations by HKAS officers, one-to-one discussion and experience sharing, as well as observing a 3-day on-site assessment at a local medical laboratory. During the training, Ms Tsetsegmaa had the opportunity to gain first-hand experience on how HKAS officers arrange and conduct an onsite assessment. Topics that she was particularly interested in, including method validation, acceptance criteria for proficiency testing performance, estimation of measurement uncertainty for medical tests and risk assessment, were also discussed.

At the end of the programme, Ms Tsetsegmaa expressed that she had a very fruitful experience in Hong Kong and would share the information she obtained with her colleagues in MNAS. Ms Tsetsegmaa was particularly impressed with the discussion among assessors held during preparation of the assessment report before presenting it at the closing meeting.



Ms Tsetsegmaa and the assessment team during the HOKLAS assessment at a local medical laboratory

Seminar on NDT for Building and Civil Application

Non-destructive testing (NDT) is widely used for detection of defects in construction industry. To provide updates on the application of NDT in building and civil engineering fields, on 14 February 2017, representatives from government departments, professional bodies and academic institutions gathered at the seminar titled 'Seminar on NDT for Building and Civil Application' in Hong Kong.



This seminar was jointly organised by Vocational Training Council, HKAS, Association of Construction Materials Laboratories Ltd. (ACML), Buildings Department, Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors.

Ir Dr Jackson Lau, Deputy Academic Director of IVE Engineering Discipline welcomed all the participants and also gave a welcoming speech. Prof. Herbert Wiggerhauser from Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing in Germany gave a talk on the latest development on NDT for civil engineering application. After that, Surveyor Samson Wong from Building Surveying Division of the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors shared his valuable experience on water seepage investigation. Ir Dr Wallace Lai, Assistant Professor of Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University then talked about the method valuation and accreditation of NDT on Engineering and Building Structure in Hong Kong.

Anti-corruption Workshops for HKAS Accredited Organisations

Professional integrity is the cornerstone of the testing and certification industry. A high level of credibility delivers extra confidence to users and consumers, and enhances the industry's competitive advantage internationally. To promote the importance of professional integrity and awareness on anti-bribery legislation to practitioners of the testing and certification industry, HKAS and Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) co-organised two anti-corruption workshops on 11 January 2017. The first workshop on 'Professional Integrity and Hong Kong's Anti-bribery Legislation' was catered for frontline staff, while the second workshop

on 'Professional Integrity and Managing Staff Integrity' was offered to managerial staff. Both workshops were delivered by representatives of the Hong Kong Business Ethics Development Centre of ICAC, and were attended by over 110 participants from accredited organisations. HKAS will continue to collaborate with ICAC to regularly organise similar training for the industry in the future.



Merging of APLAC and PAC

Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) is a cooperation of accreditation bodies in the Asia Pacific region that accredits laboratories, inspection bodies, proficiency testing providers and reference material producers. Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) represents the interests of Asia Pacific economies in the area of certification / registration body accreditation and related activities. Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS) is a member of both cooperations and a signatory of their multilateral mutual recognition arrangements.

Earlier this year, APLAC and PAC decided to merge and create a new regional body by 2019. The new regional body is named Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC). HKAS will keep track of the merger and update in the next issue of HKAS News.



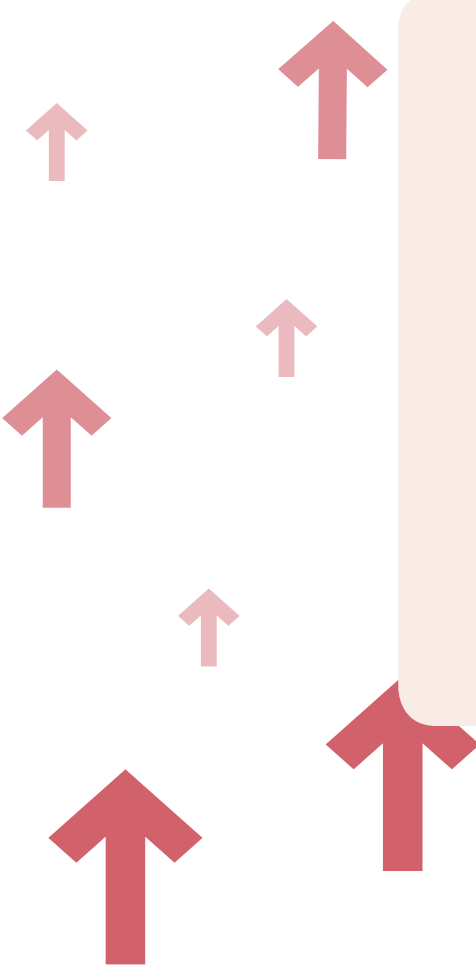
Standards Sales Service - Fee Adjustment

The Product Standards Information Bureau (PSIB) of the Innovation and Technology Commission provides standards sales services to the public. It currently sells original and licensed photocopies of various standards on a full cost recovery basis.

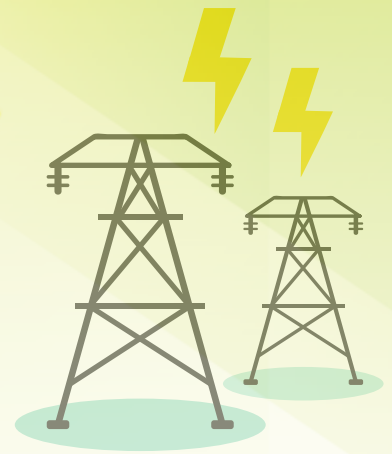
The existing charging mechanism for standards sales service is that customers are charged for the payment to standards bodies (that is, for originals, the discounted price of the standards and charge for delivery to Hong Kong, and for licensed photocopies, royalty required by overseas standards bodies) plus the overhead for processing each standard. If customers need delivery of the standards to a local address, an additional fee will be charged.

With effect from 28 April 2017, the overhead charge has been adjusted from HK\$485 to HK\$505 to recover the cost increased.

If you have any query about standard sales services, please contact Mr Calvin Ho at tel. no. 2829 4815 or email address psib@itc.gov.hk.



HKAS Extended PAC MLA to Energy Management System Certification



HKAS launched the accreditation service of Energy Management System (EnMS) Certification under Hong Kong Certification Body Accreditation Scheme (HKCAS) in December 2012. As at November 2016, five certification bodies (CBs) have been accredited by HKAS for certification of EnMS to ISO 50001: 2011.

With the extension of Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) to cover EnMS in November 2016, HKAS submitted the application for extending the scope of PAC MLA on 22 December 2016. As HKAS has been a PAC MLA for Quality Management System (QMS) and Environmental Management System (EMS) Certifications for years, PAC has adopted documentation review as the evaluation method in assessing this application. In March 2017, HKAS successfully extended its PAC MLA to EnMS Certification and became one of the four inaugural PAC MLA signatories in EnMS certification. The other three signatories are JAB (Japan), SAC (Singapore) and TAF (Chinese Taipei).

New Staff Member



Ir Ivan Chan Chi-pang

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Ir Chan joined HKAS as Accreditation Officer in March 2017. He obtained his Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering from Imperial College London, Master of Science in Electronic Engineering from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and Master of Business Administration from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He has more than 27 years of experience in telecommunications. In HKAS, Ir Chan is responsible for the accreditation of testing laboratories in electrical and mechanical field.

International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mid-Term Meetings 2017

The IAF-ILAC Mid-Term Meetings is an event jointly organised by International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) held between the IAF/ILAC Annual General Assembly Meetings. This year's mid-term meetings were held in Frankfurt, Germany from 31 March to 4 April 2017. The event consisted of a series of meetings, including task force, working group and committee meetings. Matters relating to accreditation of laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies were discussed.

The following are issues covered in the meetings that may be of interest to readers:

ILAC

ILAC Accreditation Committee

The working groups in Accreditation Committee (AIC) have been restructured according to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) framework. Working groups based on accreditation standards at level 3 i.e. ISO/IEC 17025, ISO 15189, ISO/IEC 17043, ISO 17034, ISO/IEC 17020 have been established.

Draft International Standard (DIS) ballot of ISO/IEC 17025 closed at the end of March 2017, over 90% of ISO/CASCO P members agreed on the DIS with 1,800 comments received. The ISO/CASCO working group (WG) 44 met in July in Geneva to work on the comments. The conveners of the working group did not anticipate any major technical change to the DIS at the coming meeting. The main change of the new version of ISO/IEC 17025 from the 2005 version is the adoption of the ISO/CASCO common structure and incorporation of the ISO/CASCO common elements (such as common wording on impartiality, confidentiality, complaint, management system, etc.). Other changes include: a slight change to the scope to make it clearer for the users, a definition of 'laboratory' is added, a concept of risks and opportunities is introduced, emphasis is given to a more logical process for testing, impartiality, information management, new requirements on making compliance statements, measurement uncertainty for sampling and traceability to non-SI units, etc. Publication of the new standard is expected in the third to fourth quarter of 2017. A transition period of three years from the date of publication of the standard has been adopted by ILAC.

ISO 15189 is due for a systematic review in 2017. ILAC has prepared a position paper to clarify the ILAC position on the potential revision of ISO 15189:2012, including (i) any restructuring should not denature the patient oriented content and intent of ISO 15189; (ii) considering ISO 15189 clearly as a stand-alone standard and not as a sector specific standard/annex of/to ISO/IEC 17025; (iii) an alignment between the new version of ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 15189 is acceptable, but this alignment should only concern the requirements that are non-medical specific; (iv) ILAC welcomes if ISO 15189 becomes a more generic standard to enhance its application possibilities to more diagnostic services such as medical imaging.

ILAC Arrangement Committee

ISO/IEC 17011 is being revised by ISO/CASCO WG42. The progress of the revision is now at DIS. On 21 February 2017, ISO/CASCO WG42 reviewed output from the drafting group. WG42 considered that there was no indication of significant technical issues with the DIS and voted (96% agreed) to proceed directly to publication of ISO/IEC 17011:2017. Publication of the new standard is expected in the third quarter of 2017.

As a result of the publication of ISO 17034 in November 2016 replacing ISO Guide 34:2009, ILAC has extended its MRA to include accreditation of reference material producers conducted in accordance with ISO 17034. An implementation period of three years has also been adopted.

ILAC Inspection Committee

Drafting of the following ILAC guidance documents are in progress:

- Guideline for the Formulation of Scopes of Accreditation for Inspection Bodies
- Guidance on measurements performed as part of an inspection process

IAF

The Working Group (WG) on Management System Certification (ISO/IEC 17021) recommended a resolution to Technical Committee (TC) that, the transition period for ISO/IEC 17021-3:2017 will be two years from the date of publication of the revised standard (i.e. 31 March 2019).

A draft guidance document on presentation of accreditation scoping had been developed by Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC). The WG on Product Certification Accreditation (ISO/IEC 17065) proposed to host a half-day workshop in 2017 IAF/ILAC Annual Meetings following the completion of survey on the implementation of ISO/IEC 17065:2012.

The WG on Greenhouse Gases (ISO 14065) and Energy clarified the difference in the audit duration stated in ISO/IEC 17021-1 and ISO 50003. The WG consensus on the use of audit duration is consistent with ISO/IEC 17021-1 but will refer to ISO/TC 301 (Energy Management and Energy Savings) for clarification of intent. The WG introduced CORSIA (Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation) initiated by ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) to members.

The WG on Information Security Management System (ISMS, ISO 27001) MLA Scope presented a report from the liaison to ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC27. In addition, the WG also reported the survey results regarding the issues on application of ISO/IEC 27006:2015 and ISO/IEC 27001:2013 and explored the potential discussion topics for future meetings.

The TF on OHSAS 18001 migration to ISO 45001 reported that DIS2 of ISO 45001 was finalised in March 2017 and the document was circulated for balloting in May 2017. A FDIS ISO 45001 might be published in September 2017 if the balloting of DIS2 is positive. The second 60-day commenting period for a draft Mandatory Document (MD) on the migration to ISO 45001 from OHSAS 18001 completed on 6 March 2017 and the draft MD will be distributed to IAF members for 30-day ballot later.

World Accreditation Day 2017



9 June 2017 marks World Accreditation Day. It is a global initiative, jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation.

This year's theme focuses on delivering confidence in construction and the built environment. This diagram vividly summarises how the construction sector immerses in our lives. All these conformity assessment activities — testing, inspection and certification — are indispensable for creating a green, safe and modern environment.



Accreditation:
Delivering confidence in construction
and the built environment



World Accreditation Day

9 June 2017
(#WAD2017)

Limits of Reporting in Chemical Testing

In quantitative chemical analysis, limit of quantitation, which represents the minimum value of limit of reporting (LOR), is the concentration below which quantitative results cannot be obtained with a specified degree of confidence. This parameter can provide an indication of the capability of a chemical laboratory in operating the test method – a laboratory may achieve a lower limit than others by e.g. equipping with an instrument with higher sensitivity, steps optimisation, maintaining a cleaner operating environment, etc.

LOR is considered an essential element in the scope of accreditation of laboratories for many chemical tests, especially those involving quantitative analysis at trace levels. When a laboratory applies for accreditation, it needs to specify LORs for all quantitative chemical tests for which accreditation is sought. HKAS officers, in collaboration with technical assessors or technical experts, will assess the laboratory for the testing activities listed in the scope of accreditation application, including the laboratory's competence in achieving the specified LORs.

Currently, LORs for quantitative chemical tests are specified in Appendix I "Scope of Accreditation Assessed" of assessment reports. HKAS specifically makes reference to the relevant Appendices I in notification letters in granting accreditation to or continuing accreditation of laboratories for quantitative chemical tests. In the long run, HKAS will consider incorporating the LOR information in the scope of accreditation of laboratories.

From time to time and for various reasons, accredited laboratories may need to apply for an update of its scope of accreditation. This can be achieved by submitting either an application for extension of scope of accreditation or a notification of changes to HKAS. As far as LOR is concerned, there are essentially two scenarios. If a laboratory seeks to lower the LORs of its accredited chemical tests (usually involving an enhancement of testing capability), the laboratory is required to formally submit an application for extension of scope of accreditation (i.e. completed HOKLAS 005 and HOKLAS 007 forms), together with the required application fee and the supporting documents. However, if a laboratory wants to raise the LORs of its accredited chemical tests (for reasons such as replacement of instrument), it may simply notify HKAS of the new LORs by completing section 6 of HKAS 009 'Notification of Changes'. The laboratory should state the reason for such changes in the notification and ensure that the changed LORs still meet the need of the intended application of the test results.

Change-tracked Version of Revised Supplementary Criteria

HKAS publishes Supplementary Criteria documents in different areas to clarify and supplement the requirements in accreditation standards and HKAS regulation. They are considered as 'normative' criteria documents for accredited or applicant conformity assessment bodies (CABs). HKAS Executive periodically reviews these Supplementary Criteria to ensure their continuous suitability and revises them as necessary. In order to alert CABs of the changes made, HKAS now provides a 'change-tracked' version of revised Supplementary Criteria. When a new issue of Supplementary Criteria is released, an email will be sent to relevant CABs to notify them of the publication. In the same email, HKAS will provide a version of the Supplementary Criteria with all changes marked within the text. In the downloadable version of Supplementary Criteria available at HKAS website, revision will be indicated by side-bars. HKAS hopes this new measure helps CABs identify the differences between the new and previous issues of Supplementary Criteria, and facilitates their timely implementation of any new requirement.

Insufficient Postage

HKAS has recently received notifications from the Hongkong Post of several underpaid mail items sent to HKAS.

Mail items bearing insufficient postage will be subject to surcharge payment which is double the deficiency in the case of local mail. Since 19 April 2016, Hongkong Post has ceased to provide door delivery service for underpaid mail items. The recipient will be requested to collect underpaid mail items at designated post offices upon settlement of the surcharge payment. If the underpaid mails are not collected after 14 days from the issuance of the notification card, they will be returned to the senders or treated as undeliverable and arranged for disposal, where appropriate.

As senders should have obligation to ensure their mail items bearing sufficient postage, HKAS does not accept underpaid mail items, i.e HKAS would not collect any underpaid mail items at designated post offices or settle any surcharge payment regarding the underpaid mail items. As such, conformity assessment bodies should ensure sufficient postage for mail items sent to HKAS, in order to avoid delay of process of accreditation, payment, etc.

HKAS Assessor and Lead Assessor Forum 2017

HKAS treats assessors as important collaborators in the accreditation process. The success of HKAS accreditation cannot be achieved without their valuable contribution. Every year, HKAS invites assessors to the HKAS Assessor Forum to update them about the work of HKAS and to share other interesting stories in the world of accreditation.

Assessor Forum

7 March 2017 marked this year's Assessor Forum. As always, Mr Wong Wang-wah, Executive Administrator, HKAS, thanked assessors for their relentless support to HKAS. Assessors' hard work is paid off as reflected in the encouraging results from the biennial survey. Almost all the respondents rated HKAS assessors as professional and objective. Mr KT Ting, Assistant Director, Market Research Business and Subsidiary Operations of Hong Kong Quality Assurance Agency, shared his view on the evolution of ISO 9001 in the past 25 years. HKAS also invited an experienced technical assessor, Mr Lau Siu-hung, to review what makes a good assessor – thorough preparation, good interpersonal skills and effective time management. Mr Lau's speech resonated with other assessors. Assessors then split into different groups to talk about technical issues such as common nonconformities found in assessments, how to conduct a signatory interview, etc.

Certificate presentation ceremony

Prof. Vivian Yam, the Chair of the Accreditation Advisory Board, presented certificates of accreditation to 12 new accredited conformity assessment bodies granted from February 2016 to January 2017. In addition, seven technical assessors were awarded a certificate of appreciation for their significant contribution to HKAS assessments.

Lead Assessor Forum

Lead Assessor Forum is dedicated to those who are either HKAS officers or external lead assessors. As integrity is the cornerstone to the credibility of HKAS accreditation, to remind lead assessors of this important attribute, HKAS invited a representative from Independent Commission Against Corruption to give lead assessors a refreshment of integrity management. While ISO/IEC 17025 is under revision, HKAS gave assessors a taste of the proposed changes to this standard. Lead assessors were also interested in knowing more about the web-based computer system HKAS is developing. This computer system is expected to reduce much of the time spent on mailing documents between different parties. HKAS also provided guidance to lead assessors to deal with bad weather during assessments.

This year over 180 assessors joined the forum. Most of them found the event very useful. They were particularly impressed with the experience sharing among fellow assessors.



Workshop on Assessment of Calibration Laboratories

To share experience with laboratories accredited for calibration under HOKLAS, a workshop was organised on 7 June 2017. 52 participants who were laboratory personnel at supervisory level or above joined this workshop.

In the first part of the workshop, HKAS Senior Accreditation Officer, Dr Kwok Moon-keung, highlighted the changes to the presentation format of scope of accreditation for calibration laboratories. Another Senior Accreditation Officer, Mr Chen Kin-wah, then reiterated the importance of measurement traceability in calibration. Some common nonconformities relating to calibration procedures, calibration certificates and interlaboratory comparison were presented.

During the second part of the workshop, laboratory personnel actively participated in a number of group exercises. Based on different scenarios, participants were asked to select a suitable calibration laboratory for interlaboratory comparisons. In another exercise, participants were invited to point out deficiency or room for improvement in calibration certificates. Through these exercises, participants got refreshment on the management and technical requirements of ISO/IEC 17025.

Participants and the speakers also exchanged views on good laboratory practice during the question and answer session.

In response to the positive and encouraging feedback of the participants, HKAS will continue to organise workshops for other technical disciplines in the future.



ILAC-P15 updated

The document ILAC-P15 'Application of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 for the Accreditation of Inspection Bodies' (ILAC-P15:07/2016) 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. 31 January 2018). HKAS will adopt ILAC-P15:07/2016 for assessment after the implementation date.

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

Transition for Accreditation of Reference Material Producers to ISO 17034:2016

ISO 17034:2016 'General requirements for the competence of reference materials producers' was published in November 2016 to replace ISO Guide 34:2009 as the accreditation standard for reference material producers. According to the resolution passed at the last general assembly of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the transition period for reference material producers to migrate to ISO 17034:2016 will end on 31 October 2019. All accreditations to ISO Guide 34:2009 will become invalid after that date.

HKAS has recently announced the transition arrangement for the new standard. HOKLAS 022:2017 'Technical Criteria for Accreditation of Reference Material Producers', which contains requirements of ISO 17034:2016 and related HOKLAS policy, was also published in April 2017. HKAS now accepts applications for accreditation to ISO 17034:2016. The accredited reference material producers currently using ISO Guide 34:2009 is expected to complete the transition to ISO 17034:2016 before 1 May 2019. The full schedule for implementation of the new standard is available on HKAS website (www.hkas.gov.hk).

PAC Workshop on ISO/IEC 17021-1 for Experienced Accreditation Body Assessors

HKAS hosted the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC) workshop for experienced assessors on 24 – 25 April 2017. The workshop was designated for accreditation body personnel who have extensive experience and recognised competence in the assessment of management system certification bodies against the requirements of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015, including all relevant PAC Peer Evaluators. A total of 27 participants (including the 2 facilitators) from 14 economies joined the workshop. Funding support for participants from eligible developing economies was provided by Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), Germany, under the Strengthening Accreditation Networks in the Asia Pacific (SANAP) programme.

The objectives of the workshop were three-fold: i) to exchange the experience on the implementation of ISO/IEC 17021-1; ii) to discuss the use of ISO/IEC 17021-1; and iii) to harmonise the assessment practices.

Mr Anil Jauhri, Chief Executive Officer of the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB, India) and Ms Azusa Nakagawa, Senior Manager of the Japan Accreditation Board (JAB, Japan) were the facilitators of the workshop.

The workshop was a combination of presentations by the facilitators, participation in case studies and discussions among participants. In the workshop, the facilitators went through clauses 4 to 10 of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015. Their presentations covered key requirements of the standard and their applications. Several controversial requirements e.g. management of impartiality, technical area classification were also highlighted. At intervals, participants were invited to share their views. To strengthen the understanding of standard requirements and facilitate the discussion among participants, case studies were provided to participants in the workshop.

All participants were experienced assessors, and had recent track records in conducting assessments in the field. The workshop provided extensive opportunity for them to exchange their accreditation bodies' processes and assessment experiences, and building consensus on how PAC members can consistently apply specific areas of ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 requirements.

The workshop was fruitful and provided a platform for experienced assessors exchanging their views and assessment experiences. The workshop closed after the facilitators answering various questions from the PAC members raised prior to the workshop.



New and Revised HKAS Documents

Since the last issue of HKAS News, a number of HKAS, HOKLAS, HKIAS and HKCAS documents have been revised or newly published. These 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.

Document Code	HKAS published document	Version	Publication Date	Implementation Date
HKAS 002	Regulations for HKAS Accreditation	5th Ed Amd 1	Jun-2017	Jun-2017
HKAS 002C	認可處認可規例	第五版 第一修訂	Jun-2017	Jun-2017
HKAS 008	Guide for HKAS Lead Assessors, Assessors and Technical Experts	5th Ed Amd1	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HKAS SC-03	HKAS Supplementary Criteria No. 3 'List of accreditation regulations for specific HKAS accreditation schemes and programmes'	Issue 4	Jun-2017	Jun-2017
HKCAS 005	Application for Certification Body / Greenhouse Gas Validation and/or Verification Body Accreditation / Extension of Scope of Accreditation	Mar 2017	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HKCAS 007	Assessment / Reassessment Questionnaire (for Quality and Environmental Management System Certification only based on ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015, ISO/IEC 17021-2: 2016 and ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2017)	May 2017	Apr-2017	May-2017
HKCAS 007	Assessment / Reassessment Questionnaire (for Quality and Environmental Management System Certification only based on ISO/IEC 17021-1: 2015, ISO/IEC 17021-2: 2016 and ISO/IEC 17021-3: 2017)	Mar 2017	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HKCAS 012	Application for an Additional Copy of a Certificate of Accreditation	Jun 2017	Jun-2017	Jun-2017
HKCAS 014	Application for Monitoring Plan B or C	May 2017	May-2017	May-2017
HKCAS 016	Application for using the Combined IAF MLA Mark	Jun 2017	Jun-2017	Jun-2017
HKCAS AP001	HKCAS Application Package 001 'Accreditation of Management System Certification Bodies 管理體系認證機構的認可'	May 2017	Apr-2017	May-2017
HKCAS AP001	HKCAS Application Package 001 'Accreditation of Management System Certification Bodies 管理體系認證機構的認可'	Mar 2017	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HKCAS SC-04	HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 4 'Accreditation Regulations Specific for HKCAS - Certification Body'	Issue 11	Apr-2017	May-2017
HKCAS SC-04	HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 4 'Accreditation Regulations Specific for HKCAS - Certification Body'	Issue 10	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HKCAS SC-05	HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 5 'Use of the Combined IAF MLA Mark'	Issue 4	Jun-2017	Jun-2017
HKCAS SC-06	HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 6 'Accreditation Programme for Food Safety Related Management System Certification'	Issue 4	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HKCAS SC-07	HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 7 'Accreditation Programme for Occupational Health and Safety Management System Certification'	Issue 3	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HKCAS SC-08	HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 8 'Accreditation Programme for Information Security Management System (ISMS) Certification'	Issue 5	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HKCAS SC-10	HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 10 'Accreditation Programme for Energy Management System (EnMS) Certification'	Issue 3	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HKIAS 005	Application for Inspection Body Accreditation / Extension of Scope of Inspection Body Accreditation	Mar 2017	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HKIAS 011	Change of Authorised Representative	Jun 2017	Jun-2017	Jun-2017

Document Code	HKAS published document	Version	Publication Date	Implementation Date
HKIAS 012	Application for an Additional Copy of a Certificate of Accreditation	Jun 2017	Jun-2017	Jun-2017
HKIAS 013	Application for Monitoring Plan B or C	May 2017	May-2017	May-2017
HOKLAS 003:2015	Technical Criteria for Laboratory Accreditation (ISO/IEC 17025:2005, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories, MOD) (Abridged Version)	May 2017	May-2017	May-2017
HOKLAS 003C:2015	實驗所認可技術準則 (ISO/IEC 17025:2005 - 《測試及校正實驗所能力的通用規定》, MOD) (縮略本)	May 2017	May-2017	May-2017
HOKLAS 005	Application for Laboratory Accreditation (including Proficiency Testing Providers and Reference Material Producers) / Extension of Scope of Accreditation	Mar 2017	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HOKLAS 007	Assessment / Reassessment Questionnaire for Non-medical Laboratories	Mar 2017	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HOKLAS 007-A1	Scope of Accreditation Sought (for new application for accreditation or extension of scope of accreditation only)	Mar 2017	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HOKLAS 007-A2	Management System Checklist	Mar 2017	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HOKLAS 011	Change of Authorised Representative	Mar 2017	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HOKLAS 012	Application for an Additional Copy of a Certificate of Accreditation	Mar 2017	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HOKLAS 016	Assessment / Reassessment Questionnaire (Medical Laboratories)	Apr 2017	Apr-2017	Apr-2017
HOKLAS 016	Assessment / Reassessment Questionnaire (Medical Laboratories)	Mar 2017	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HOKLAS 016-A1	Scope of Accreditation Sought	Apr 2017	Apr-2017	Apr-2017
HOKLAS 016-A2	Management System Checklist	Apr 2017	Apr-2017	Apr-2017
HOKLAS 018	Assessment / Reassessment Questionnaire for Proficiency Testing Provider	Mar 2017	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HOKLAS 018-A1	Scope of Accreditation Sought (for application for accreditation or extension of scope of accreditation only)	Mar 2017	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HOKLAS 018-A2	Checklist on conformity with HKAS and HOKLAS accreditation requirements for Proficiency Testing Providers	Mar 2017	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HOKLAS 019	Application for Monitoring Plan B or C	May 2017	May-2017	May-2017
HOKLAS 023	Assessment / Reassessment Questionnaire for Reference Material Producers (for HOKLAS 022:2017)	Apr 2017	Apr-2017	Apr-2017
HOKLAS 023-A1	Scope of Accreditation Sought (for new application for accreditation or extension of scope of accreditation only)	Apr 2017	Apr-2017	Apr-2017
HOKLAS 023-A2	Checklist on conformity with HKAS and HOKLAS accreditation requirements for Reference Material Producers	Apr 2017	Apr-2017	Apr-2017
HOKLAS AP013	HOKLAS Application Package 013 'Accreditation of Reference Material Producers 標準物質生產者的認可'	Apr 2017	Apr-2017	Apr-2017
HOKLAS SC-17	HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 17 "'Construction Materials' Test Category - Accreditation of Building Components and Related Tests"	Issue 4	Jan-2017	Jan-2017
HOKLAS SC-39	HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 39 'Accreditation Regulations Specific for HOKLAS - Reference Material Producers'	Issue 4	Mar-2017	Mar-2017
HOKLAS SC-40	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"	Issue 3	Apr-2017	Apr-2017
HOKLAS SC-47	HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 47 "'Construction Materials' Test Category - Accreditation of Fire Testing"	Issue 2	Mar-2017	Mar-2017

Proficiency Testing Updates

An update on the proficiency testing programmes organised by HKAS is given below (as at 15 Jun 2017):

Test Category	Programme and Organiser	Status
Food	HFD/2016/01 - Determination of Trace Elements in Water	Final report was issued on 27 Jan 2017. Seventeen laboratories participated. Results are satisfactory
Construction Materials	HCM/2017/01 - Determination of Density and Fineness of Cement 水泥密度與細度試驗	Samples dispatched in Jun 2017. Fourteen laboratories participated.

Progress in programmes organised by regional cooperations of accreditation bodies:

Test Category	Programme and Organiser	Status
Chinese Medicine	APMP-APLAC T106 - Organochlorine Pesticides in Ginseng Root	Final report was issued on 27 Jan 2017. Seventeen laboratories participated. Results are satisfactory
Food	APLAC T103 - Determination of Acesulfame Potassium and Sucralose in Cake Mix Flour Organised by SAC, Singapore	Final Report to be issued at end of June. One laboratory participated.
	APMP-APLAC T107 - Elements in Food Supplement Organised by GLHK, Hong Kong	Interim report scheduled for issue in Jun 2017. Two laboratories participated.
Electrical and Electronic Product	*APLAC T101 - Winding temperature- rise test (resistance method) (CNAS/SMEC, China)	Final report was issued on 4 May 2017. Two laboratories participated.
Calibration Service	APLAC M027 - Calibration of E2 Weights Organised by KAN/Puslit KIM LIPI	Draft Final report was issued in Jun 2017 for comments. Two laboratories participated.

Accreditation Updates

New Accreditation Granted (1 January 2017 to 15 June 2017)

Five laboratories have been accredited since the last issue of HKAS News. Their names, registration numbers and accredited areas are summarised below. HKAS wishes to congratulate them on their success in obtaining accreditation.

HOKLAS

Registration No.	Name of Conformity Assessment Body	Test Category	Clientele
HOKLAS 264	Soil Services Testing Company Limited	Construction Materials	Public
HOKLAS 265	Hong Kong Productivity Council – Reliability Testing Centre	Electrical and Electronic Products	Public
HOKLAS 266	Eurofins Product Testing Hong Kong	Toys and Children's Products	Public
HOKLAS 839S	ProGene Molecular Diagnostic Center Limited	Medical Testing	Private hospitals, clinics and medical centres
HOKLAS 840P	iPath Laboratory Limited	Medical Testing	Private physicians, medical centres, hospitals and other medically related institutions

HKCAS

Registration No.	Name of Conformity Assessment Body	Test Category	Clientele
HKCAS 026	AsiaInspection Limited	Product certification	Public

Accreditation Suspended

Voluntary Suspension (as at 15 June 2017)

HOKLAS

Registration No.	Name of Conformity Assessment Body	Test Category	Effective Date (dd.mm.yyyy)
004	CMA Industrial Development Foundation Limited	Testing Required By The China Compulsory Certification (CCC) System — Electrical and Electronic Products	28.07.2016
058	Bureau Veritas Hong Kong Limited - Kowloon Bay Office	Food — Preservatives	09.01.2017
073	TÜV Rheinland Hong Kong Limited	Environmental Testing — All tests	30.12.2016
231	Smith & Associates Far East Limited – Counterfeit Detection Laboratory	Physical and Mechanical Testing — All tests	18.07.2016
235	TÜV SÜD Hong Kong Limited	Chemical Testing — All tests	05.04.2017
235	TÜV SÜD Hong Kong Limited	Electrical and Electronic Products — All tests Testing Required By The China Compulsory Certification (CCC) System — All tests	10.04.2017
238	The Hong Kong University of Science & Technology - Laboratory for Molecular Testing	Chemical Testing — All tests	01.07.2016
242	Chemical Laboratory (HK) Pte Limited	Food — All tests	30.04.2017
817P	Hospital Authority - United Christian Hospital, Department of Pathology	Medical Testing — Anatomical Pathology	27.06.2016
818S	PHC Medical Diagnostic Centre Ltd.	Medical Testing — All tests	29.08.2016

HKIAS

Registration No.	Name of Conformity Assessment Body	Test Category	Effective Date (dd.mm.yyyy)
024	Health, Safety and Environment Office, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Indoor Air Quality	31.03.2017

The above list only shows those accredited organisations with the whole test category / area suspended or terminated. In addition, the list does not display those suspended and terminated activities individually. Readers are advised to refer to the scope of accreditation displayed on HKAS website for the latest accreditation of the specific activities of an accredited organisation.

Accreditation Terminated

Voluntary Termination (1 January 2017 to 15 June 2017)

HOKLAS

Registration No.	Name of Conformity Assessment Body	Test Category and Test Area	Effective Date (dd.mm.yyyy)
010	Civil Engineering and Development Department - Public Works Laboratories	Construction Materials Public Works Regional Laboratory (Siu Ho Wan) — All tests	01.04.2017
195	ICQ (HK) Limited	Chemical Testing — All tests Textiles and Garments — All tests	01.03.2017
222	Eyeglass Testing & Inspection Company Limited	Chemical Testing — Consumer Products Nickel Physical and Mechanical Testing — Spectacles Testing	08.08.2016
814P	Hospital Authority - Queen Mary Hospital, Microbiology Department	Medical Testing — All tests	29.05.2017
200	Leading Edge Construction Materials Testing Company Limited	Construction Materials — Metallic Materials (Zhaoqing)	25.04.2017

Accreditation of all activities of the conformity assessment body is terminated.

The above list only shows those accredited organisations with the whole test category / area suspended or terminated. In addition, the list does not display those suspended and terminated activities individually. Readers are advised to refer to the scope of accreditation displayed on HKAS website for the latest accreditation of the specific activities of an accredited organisation.

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