

HKAS



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Hong Kong Accreditation Service

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ACCREDITATION

Adding Value to Supply Chains



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THE WORLD METROLOGY DAY, WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY AND WORLD STANDARDS DAY FORUM 2019

The International Network on Quality Infrastructure recently agreed on a new definition of the quality infrastructure (QI): **‘The system comprising the organisations (public and private) together with the policies, relevant legal and regulatory framework, and practices needed to support and enhance the quality, safety and environmental soundness of goods, services and processes’**. The

QI is a crucial platform for promoting sustainable economic growth, as well as for maintaining environmental and social well-being. It does not only support domestic markets, but its international recognition is also essential for accessing foreign markets. To introduce the pivotal roles of metrology, accreditation and standards in supporting the QI, Hong Kong Accreditation Service, in collaboration with the Standards and Calibration Laboratory and Product Standards Information Bureau of the Innovation and Technology Commission, the Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification and the Government Laboratory, organised a forum on 26 June 2019 to celebrate this year’s World Metrology Day (WMD), World Accreditation Day (WAD) and World Standards Day (WSD) together. The forum attracted over 150 participants, including practitioners from the testing and certification industry, users of conformity assessment services, technical experts in the field, and those from academia and government departments.



THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF UNITS - FUNDAMENTALLY BETTER

In the first session of the forum, Dr Walter Copan, the Director of the US National Institute of Standards and Technology, talked about how metrology enables innovation and industrial competitiveness by advancing measurement science. The new generation of measurement technology had supported advanced technology development, including global positioning system and advanced encryption standard, which helped promote economic growth and quality of life. He mentioned that the recent redefinition of the International System of Units (SI) had been the most significant change to the units since



their adoption. With all the key measurement units defined by natural constants, the SI would continue to impact the economy and technology in the future.

ACCREDITATION: ADDING VALUE TO SUPPLY CHAINS



The next speaker, Mr Brahim Houla, the Chairman of the Communication and Marketing Committees of the International Accreditation Forum and the Arab Accreditation Cooperation, shared with the audience the economic value of accreditation. Accredited conformity assessments help businesses to reduce costs, increase productivity and access new markets. They are also valuable tools for governments and regulators to achieve policy objectives and assure public safety. Through showcasing examples from around the world, Mr Houla illustrated how accreditation and conformity assessments actively contribute to economic growth, improve energy performance, reduce traffic accidents, as well as assist in overcoming technical barriers to trade.



Mr Basil Wai, the Chief Executive Officer of the Hong Kong Electronic Industries Association, was invited to share on how accreditation plays a part in the ecosystem of the electronics sector in Hong Kong. The electronic industry has been facing many challenges recently.

For instance, manufacturers are operating in different regulatory environments and products are having much shorter lifecycle. These are putting great demand on businesses. To assure product quality and traceability, testing, inspection and certification are playing critical supportive roles along the supply chains. With accreditation, one can rest assured that those conformity assessment results are trustworthy and accepted worldwide.

VIDEO STANDARDS CREATE A GLOBAL STAGE



This year's WSD recognises the contribution of international standards in meeting the global demand for better video quality and transferability. To address this theme, Mr Dennis Chew, the Director of the Asia-Pacific Regional Centre of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), introduced the standardised video compression algorithms in collaboration of IEC, ISO and International Telecommunication Union. This internationally accepted platform allows video to be encoded on one device and decoded by another, regardless of the device used, which has greatly enhanced modern communication experience. Mr Chew also talked about the development of new IEC standards on emerging technologies including artificial intelligence, 5G network and cyber security.

APAC ANNUAL MEETINGS 2019

The Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) was officially established on 1 January 2019 after the merger of Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC). APAC held its inaugural annual meetings in Singapore from 15 to 21 June 2019. The following are highlights of the meetings.



1. Mr Chee Hong Tat, the Senior Minister of State for Trade & Industry and Education of Singapore, officiated the opening of the 2019 APAC Annual Meetings and the Host Economy Seminar. Mr Xiao Jianhua, Chairman of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), introduced the roles of accreditation in facilitating world trade. There were then two discussion panels on ‘accreditation as a tool for market access’ and ‘how accredited testing, inspection and certification services create greater efficiencies in supply chain’, during which representatives from accreditation bodies, conformity assessment bodies and users of conformity assessment services shared views on each topic.
2. Ms Chang Kwei Fern of Singapore Accreditation Council was elected the new APAC Chairperson. Ms Jennifer Evans of National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia was elected the new APAC Vice-Chair.
3. The strategic plan of APAC for 2019-2021 has identified four priority strategy areas:
 - a. Maintain and enhance APAC MRA
 - b. Strengthen regional and international relationships
 - c. Increase technical competence, learning and capacity building
 - d. Ensure the sustainability of APACA list of actions to be taken has been proposed to address these areas and will be implemented in the next two years.
4. APAC is now a recognised regional accreditation group under the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) and IAF multilateral recognition agreement (MLA). As at June 2019, APAC has 46 Full Members (who are MRA signatories), 20 Associate Members and nine Affiliates.

5. The current scope of APAC MRA covers:
 - a. Calibration*
 - b. Testing*
 - c. Medical testing*
 - d. Inspection*
 - e. Proficiency testing*
 - f. Reference material production*
 - g. Management system certification, including the following sub-scope:
 1. Energy management system (EnMS)*
 2. Environmental management system (EMS)*
 3. Feed additives and premixtures quality system (FAMI-QS)
 4. Food safety management system (FSMS)*
 5. Information security management system (ISMS)
 6. Medical device quality management system (MDQMS)
 7. Occupational health and safety management system (OHSMS)*
 8. Quality management system (QMS)*
 - h. Persons certification including IPC
 - i. Product certification* including Global G.A.P.
 - j. Greenhouse gas (GHG) validation and verification*

* denotes HKAS' scope under the APAC MRA
6. HKAS has extended its scope of recognition to cover OHSMS certification since the last APLAC MRA Council meeting and/or PAC MLA Group meeting.
7. ILAC has evaluated APAC for the extension of scope of MRA to cover proficiency testing. The evaluation is nearly finalised, awaiting the outcome of ILAC members' ballot. APAC has also applied for reference material production scope under the ILAC MRA and MDQMS under the IAF MLA.
8. At the Communication and Promotion Committee (CPC) meeting, it was reported that IAF and ILAC were seeking to gain formal recognition of 9 June as World Accreditation Day from the United Nations.
9. The Capacity Building Committee (CBC) has conducted or planned nine training workshops in 2019, including a 3-day Workshop on ISO 17034 reference material producer (RMP) and ISO/IEC 17043 proficiency testing provider (PTP) accreditation to be held in Hong Kong in September. Eight other workshops have been planned for 2020. HKAS may host some of the workshops that could benefit the capacity building of our work. The CBC has also developed an e-learning platform for APAC members, which currently offers online courses on ISO/IEC 17011, ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17065.

10. Four new APAC-Asia Pacific Metrology Programme (APMP) joint proficiency testing programmes are being proposed at the moment, which will be on testing of heavy metals, preservatives, pesticide residues and genetically modified organisms. HKAS will identify and nominate relevant accredited laboratories to participate in those programmes once they are launched.



11. The APAC Technical Committee (TC) 1 (Laboratories, Inspection Bodies, RMPs and PTPs) and TC2 (Certification, Validation and Verification) will jointly revise the former APLAC TC 013 on assessing sites with key activities. The new version of the document will include guidance on assessing remote sites and virtual sites, taking into account IAF MD 4, ID 12 and APAC members' practice.
12. A new ISO standard, ISO 22117 'Microbiology of the food chain – Specific requirements and guidance for proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparison' was published in February 2019. A new ISO Guide 'Guidance on the production of reference materials having one or more assigned qualitative property values' is under development.
13. TC2 discussed the development of a draft IAF MD on criteria for evaluation of conformity assessment schemes. Members agreed that such a document should solely be applicable to conformity assessment schemes endorsed by IAF.
14. A workshop on risk management in accreditation was held during the annual meetings. The aim of the workshop was to share and discuss issues among APAC members the use of risk management in accreditation. The following were shared and discussed at the workshop:
- Requirements in ISO/IEC 17011:2017 that were related to risk;
 - General approach for risk analysis and treatments;
 - Potential risks to impartiality; and
 - Potential risks from the accreditation process.
- Participants agreed that in order to fulfil the risk-related requirements, accreditation bodies need to bring the concept of risk-based thinking to all stakeholders, including regulators, scheme owners, assessors and conformity assessment bodies.
15. The next APAC annual meetings will be held in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates in June 2020.

SEMINAR ON UNDERGROUND UTILITY SURVEY BASED ON NONDESTRUCTIVE TESTING, SURVEYING, IMAGING AND DIAGNOSTIC APPROACHES CUM CONSULTATION FORUM

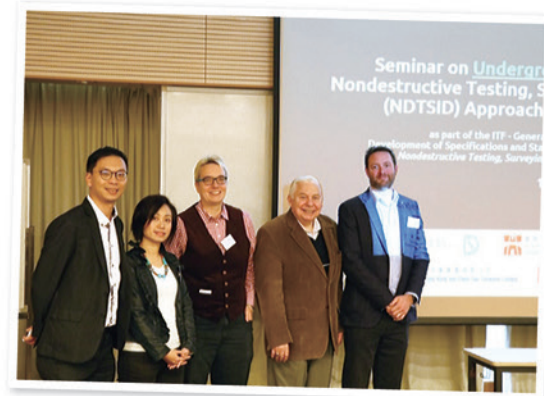
The underground environment of Hong Kong consists of extensive aging utilities networks requiring condition assessment throughout their life cycle. Underground Utility (UU) Survey in Hong Kong currently relies on visual inspection, several non-standardised and non-certified non-destructive methods or simply by digging trial pits. This classical diagnostic approach is heavily biased because the survey accuracies vary from time to time and from company to company. To provide updates on the latest development of Non-destructive Testing, Surveying, Imaging and Diagnosis (NDTSID) techniques, Department of Land Surveying and Geo-informatics of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, HKAS and The Hong Kong Council for Testing and Certification (HKCTC) jointly organised the seminar titled 'Seminar on Underground Utility Survey based on Nondestructive Testing, Surveying, Imaging and Diagnostic Approaches cum Consultation Forum'. The seminar was held on 10 January 2019 at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

At the beginning of the seminar, Ir Dr Wallace Lai Wai-lok, Associate Professor of Department of Land Surveying and Geo-informatics of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University welcomed all participants and also gave a brief introduction of this seminar. Three overseas speakers from UK and USA [including (1) Prof. Nicole Metje from the University of Birmingham in UK (2) Prof. Tom Iseley from Trenchless Technology Center of Louisiana Tech University in USA and (3) Prof.

George Tuckwell from RSK Environmental Ltd. in UK] were also invited to share their experiences on implementing NDTSID in their countries at the seminar. Ir Dr Fiona Chan Wan-yin, Senior Accreditation Officer, Hong Kong Accreditation Service, who was the last speaker of the seminar, introduced HKAS accreditation services.

About 170 participants attended the seminar and they were mostly from government departments, utility undertakers, utility surveyors, contractors, students and accredited laboratories. Many useful and constructive discussions/comments were made during the forum session. Overall, the seminar was well received and most of the participants found the seminar informative and practical.

(From left to right) Ir Dr Wallace Lai from Department of Land Surveying and Geo-informatics of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Ir Dr Fiona Chan from Hong Kong Accreditation Service, Prof. Nicole Metje from the University of Birmingham in UK, Prof. Tom Iseley from the Trenchless Technology Center of Louisiana Tech University in USA and Prof. George Tuckwell from RSK Environmental Ltd. in UK



For more information about accreditation services in relation to construction, please contact our Senior Accreditation Officers, Ir Dr Fiona Chan Wan-yin (tel: 2829 4870 / email: wychan@itc.gov.hk) or Ir Chan Wai-keung (tel: 2829 4812 / email: wk.chan@itc.gov.hk).

IMPLEMENTATION OF IAF RESOLUTION 2018-13 Non – ACCREDITED PRODUCT CERTIFICATION DOCUMENT

IAF Resolution 2018-13 – Non-Accredited Product Certification where the CAB is accredited for the same scope was passed in the IAF 32nd Annual General Assembly held in Singapore on 29 and 31 October 2018.

The General Assembly acting on the recommendation of the Technical Committee resolved that IAF Accreditation Body (AB) members shall have legally enforceable arrangements with their accredited CABs for product certification that prevents the CAB from issuing non-accredited product certification in scopes for which they are accredited. The enforceable arrangements shall require full implementation within three years from 31 October 2018.

Additionally, CABs for product certification must transition certification documentation to include the accreditation symbol and/or must make reference to the accreditation status of the CAB including the identification of the AB, no later than 31 October 2021.

If there is an exception to the above, the CAB must justify the exception to the AB, and if accepted by the AB, the certification is still considered accredited.

As stated in Clause 3.1 of HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 4, all accredited CABs under HKCAS shall at all times comply with the relevant IAF requirements as specified in IAF documents including Mandatory Documents and Resolutions. All accredited product certification bodies are therefore expected to fully conform to this resolution by 31 October 2021.

TRAINING COURSE ON MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY ESTIMATION BASED ON ISO GUM

HKAS organised a 3-day Training Course on Measurement Uncertainty Estimation based on ISO GUM in March 2019 for new HKAS officers and assessors. It covered the estimation of measurement uncertainty for common electrical, physical and mechanical measurements. Both trainers, Mr Lau Siu-hung and Mr Lee Lun-tai, had over 30 years of HOKLAS assessment experience. Sixteen HKAS officers and HKAS assessors participated in this course.

The training course started with a brief review of ISO/IEC Guide 98-3 'Guide to the expression of uncertainty in measurement' (ISO GUM), introducing evaluation methods for uncertainties, calculation of combined uncertainty based on measurement models, presentation of results, etc. Dimensional measurement using a micrometer was used as an example to illustrate how measurement uncertainty is estimated based on ISO GUM. In order to help participants to grasp skills in estimation calculation, trainers also shared common sources of uncertainty and their estimation methods, common faults in handling rounding, significant figures of results, applications of different distribution functions, etc. Class exercises were done to consolidate knowledge gained in the course. The training course also highlighted different issues related to assessing testing laboratories' uncertainty estimation, such as the concept of intermediate precision conditions for replicate measurements, principles in applying measurement uncertainty to reporting statements of conformity.

From the results of evaluation questionnaires returned by participants, it was encouraging to note that participants recommended HKAS to organise similar training course in the future.

APAC WORKSHOP ON ACCREDITATION IN THE MEDICAL SECTOR USING ISO 15189

On 15-16 May 2019, the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) organised a two-day workshop on **Accreditation in the Medical Sector Using ISO 15189** in Hong Kong. HKAS had the honour to host this workshop. We were very grateful to have two experienced experts, Mr Andrew Griffin from the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia and Dr David Ricketts from the Health Services Laboratories, UK to share their knowledge and experience in key elements and requirements in ISO 15189:2012 with the participants. Twenty-seven representatives from 17 APAC members attended this workshop.

The programme of the workshop includes:

- (i) introduction to accreditation of medical laboratories using ISO 15189 in UK and Australia;
- (ii) development of program for accreditation of medical laboratories, with particular reference to ILAC G26;
- (iii) overview of the work of ISO Technical Committee 212 on clinical laboratory testing and in vitro diagnostic test systems;
- (iv) discussion on common findings and critical aspects of ISO 15189 assessments;
- (v) ILAC policy and guidance documents relevant to ISO 15189 accreditation;
- (vi) presentation of ISO 15189 accreditation scope;
- (vii) accreditation for point of care testing according to ISO 22870; and
- (viii) assessment of risks.

The participants appreciated the latest update of the revision of ISO 15189. They also enjoyed the fruitful discussion and sharing with the experts in the workshop.

Mr Andrew Griffin (National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia)



Dr David Ricketts (Health Services Laboratories, UK)



NEW STAFF MEMBERS



DR TIFFANY CHUNG NGA-WAI

Dr Chung joined HKAS as Accreditation Officer in December 2018. She obtained her Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from The University of Hong Kong. Dr Chung has over 10 years of experience working in the Government Laboratory. Her expertise in testing spans a number of technical disciplines including food, environment, pharmaceutical, Chinese medicine and forensic. Dr Chung is now responsible for accreditation of chemical and microbiological testing laboratories.

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IR VINCENT NG CHIU-YEUNG

Ir Ng joined HKAS as Accreditation Officer in April 2019. He obtained his Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering and Master of Science in Building Services Engineering degrees, both from the University of Hong Kong. He has over 20 years of experience in administration and management of electrical and mechanical projects in construction. In HKAS, Ir Ng is mainly responsible for accreditation services related to electrical and mechanical field.

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DR TOBY CHOW WAI-SHAN

Dr Chow joined HKAS as Accreditation Officer in May 2019. Before working with HKAS, she worked at the Government Laboratory as Chemist for more than seven years, with particular experience in environmental and Chinese medicine testing. Dr Chow is a holder of Bachelor of Science in Chemical Technology and Master of Philosophy in chemistry degrees, both from the Polytechnic University of Hong Kong. She also possesses a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Chemistry from The University of Hong Kong. Dr Chow is now responsible for accreditation services related to chemical and microbiological testing.

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INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION FORUM (IAF) AND INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY ACCREDITATION COOPERATION (ILAC) MID-TERM MEETINGS 2019

The IAF-ILAC Mid-Term Meetings is an event jointly organised by International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and held yearly between the IAF/ILAC Annual General Assembly Meetings. In 2019, the mid-term meetings were held in Mexico City, Mexico from 4 to 7 April. The event consisted of a series of meetings, including task force, working group and committee meetings. Matters relating to accreditation of laboratories, certification bodies, verification/validation bodies and inspection bodies were discussed.

■ ILAC

ILAC Accreditation Committee (AIC)

After the publication of the standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017 *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories* for accreditation of non-medical testing and calibration laboratories, the AIC is identifying Working Groups (WGs) to revise various ILAC technical documents, including ILAC P9, P10, P14, G8, G17 and G18, to align with the standard.

The AIC WG on sampling has been discussing accrediting sampling as a standalone activity. In this meeting, HKAS shared a case in accreditation of inspection bodies in Hong Kong for collecting air samples for determination of airborne bacteria.

Five accreditation bodies (ABs), *viz.* SAS, UKAS, NATA, EMA and DANAK shared their experiences and challenges in accrediting medical imaging. In general, either ISO/IEC 17025 or ISO 15189 can be used as the standard for accrediting medical imaging. Some of the ABs (e.g. UKAS and NATA) pointed out that support from professional organisations (e.g. Royal

College of Radiologists and the College of Radiographers in UK and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologist in Australia and New Zealand) is essential for the accreditation programmes to be successful.

ILAC Arrangement Committee (ARC)

Two ILAC documents are being revised by the ARC, *viz.* ILAC G21 on cross frontier accreditation and ILAC P8 on the use of accreditation symbols and claims of accreditation status by accredited laboratories and inspection bodies.

ILAC Inspection Committee (IC)

IC is currently working on two ILAC guidance documents, one on formulation of scope of accreditation for inspection bodies and the other on accreditation of bodies performing non-destructive testing (NDT) activities. A draft of the former document has been circulated among ILAC members for 60-day comment and subsequently been revised taking into account the comments received. The final document is ready for 30-day ballot by ILAC members. Preparation of the NDT document is still in progress.

■ IAF

IAF MD 11 – Mandatory Document for the Application of ISO/IEC 17021-1 for Audits of Integrated Management Systems was issued on 17 January 2019. This MD will be effective from 17 January 2020. A few new requirements have been introduced in the new IAF MD 11 and the Management System Working Group (MS WG) has noticed that there will be potential problems in the implementation of the Extended Audit Approach, i.e. clauses 1.4.2c and 1.4.2e of IAF MD 11. Having considered other factors including numerous comments in the voting results, MS WG has recommended TC to extend the application date of MD 11 by one year, i.e. from 17 January 2020 to 17 January 2021, through a resolution to be endorsed in the next General Assembly in October 2019.

A new standard ISO/IEC 17029 'Conformity Assessment – General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies' will be published in 2019. Since the verification of assertion in green bond market becomes a hot topic in the world, IAF is considering expanding its MLA to cover validation and verification activities under ISO/IEC 17029, i.e. not just limited to validation and verification of greenhouse gas (GHG) assertion under the current MLA scope.

IAF is developing a database of management system certifications (IAF CertSearch). IAF CertSearch is a tool which users can validate accredited certification if they know the 'company/organisation name' or 'certification ID'. Participating in the IAF CertSearch is mandatory for accreditation body members. HKAS has already submitted the data IAF requested in September 2018. On the other hand, it is voluntary for certification bodies to participate in this database. Based on the latest update from IAF, it is expected that the IAF CertSearch will be fully launched in the second quarter of 2019. As the IAF CertSearch database can provide a central repository for all accredited certifications to be validated, HKAS encourages accredited certification bodies to participate in the IAF CertSearch such that the value of accredited certifications can be enhanced.



SEMINAR ON INDOOR AIR QUALITY – CHEMICAL MEASUREMENTS AND SAMPLING



Dr Zhi Ning, Associate Professor, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology shares his experience in the measurement of nitrogen dioxide in ambient air using portable nitrogen dioxide monitors



Dr Belinda Gao Yuan, Assistant Professor, Chu Hai College of Higher Education explains the techniques used for sampling and analysis of formaldehyde in indoor air environment

With an objective to promoting public awareness of the importance in maintaining good indoor air quality (IAQ), the Environmental Protection Department (EPD) has been implementing since 2003 the IAQ Certification Scheme for Offices and Public Places (the Scheme) to encourage property owners and management to adopt good IAQ management practice in their premises. Quite recently, the EPD has completed the revision of the Scheme to align it with the latest IAQ guidelines published by the World Health Organization. Under the proposed framework, the EPD introduces, among other measures, two new chemical objectives viz. 1-hour nitrogen dioxide and 30-minute formaldehyde to strengthen IAQ monitoring. To enable accredited organisations under Hong Kong Laboratory Accreditation Scheme and Hong Kong Inspection Body Accreditation Scheme to have a better understanding of

new objectives, HKAS organized a half-day seminar titled 'Seminar on Indoor Air Quality – Chemical Measurements and Sampling'.

It is our pleasure to have Dr Zhi Ning, Associate Professor, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and Dr Belinda Gao Yuan, Assistant Professor, Chu Hai College of Higher Education as our speakers in the seminar.

In the seminar, Dr Zhi provided an introduction on the health impact of nitrogen dioxide in indoor air, the principles and technologies of nitrogen dioxide measurement in indoor environment, as well as the applications, limitations, calibration requirements and cost comparison of various nitrogen dioxide real time monitors. Dr Zhi particularly pointed out the interference of common real time nitrogen dioxide monitors by ozone for attention by the participants. He further advised

laboratories and inspection bodies to select those monitors with ozone filter to minimise the impact of the interference. Besides, clear drift of zero concentration was observed for common nitrogen dioxide portable monitors and auto zero at suitable intervals could help improvement of sensor performance.

In the second part of the seminar, Dr Gao shared with the participants her experience in the measurement of formaldehyde in indoor air by active sampling according to the USEPA TO-11A method followed by analysis using high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). Dr Gao introduced to participants various types of commonly used absorbent cartridges and their connection to the sample collection system. The sampling procedure and the subsequent steps on sample extraction, analysis by HPLC, results

calculation and method validation were also discussed.

The final part of the seminar touched on the estimation of measurement uncertainty arising from sampling, covering specifically indoor air sampling. Mr Edmund Tse, HKAS Accreditation Officer, provided a comprehensive explanation on various approaches and models used for evaluating measurement uncertainty arising from sampling.

The seminar was well attended by over 80 participants and most of them came from accredited inspection bodies and laboratories. Feedback of the seminar was positive in general. HKAS will continue its effort to organise similar experience sharing seminar in the future.



Participants of the Seminar on Indoor Air Quality – Chemical Measurements and Sampling

2019 ASSESSOR AND LEAD ASSESSOR FORUM

Assessors and technical experts are very important partners of HKAS. Without their valuable support, it would be impossible for HKAS to provide accreditation service. Every year, HKAS organises the Assessor and Lead Assessor Forum to share with them progress of HKAS' work and other interesting topics. This year's Forum was held on 8 March.

Assessor Forum

Mr Chen Kin-wah, acting Executive Administrator of HKAS, opened the Assessor Forum by reporting the work of HKAS in 2018 and introducing new developments in the coming year. He thanked all assessors and technical experts for their dedication and continuous support. Mr Tsui Cho-man, Head of the Standards and Calibration Laboratory of Hong Kong, then talked about the recent redefinition of the International System of Units (SI) and how such changes would impact local testing and calibration laboratories. Another speaker, Mr Vincent Kong from the Sun Hung Kai Properties, shared with participants how the ISO 50001 Energy Management System certification helped his company in achieving sustainable development goals and fulfilling stakeholders' expectation.

Certificate Presentation Ceremony

Following the talks, Professor Paul Lam, the Chairman of the HKAS Accreditation Advisory Board, presented certificates of accreditation to conformity assessment bodies that were newly accredited in 2018-19. In addition, 14



Assessors receiving the Certificate of Appreciation



The Lead Assessor Forum

assessors were awarded the certificate of appreciation for their significant contribution to HKAS assessments, including two assessors who have each served in more than 200 assessment days. After the ceremony, assessors were split into five groups according to their expertise to discuss matters related to specific technical fields.

Lead Assessor Forum

The Lead Assessor Forum held in the afternoon was dedicated to lead assessors including HKAS officers and external lead assessors. The first half of the session focused on the implementation of the new ISO/IEC 17025:2017, during which Mr Tsui was invited again to speak on reporting statement of conformity. Some common findings identified in transition assessments were also discussed. The second half started with the sharing from Ir Samson Wong, an experienced HKAS lead assessor, on some good practices in leading assessment teams. This forum ended with a presentation of some unexpected or difficult situations encountered during assessment visits.

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. 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
HKCAS 007	Assessment / Reassessment Questionnaire (for Management System Certification Bodies)	May 2019	May-2019	May-2019
HKCAS 007-A1	Scope of Accreditation Sought (for New Application for Accreditation or Extension of Scope of Accreditation only)	Feb 2019	Feb-2019	Feb-2019
HKCAS 007-A2C	Management System Checklist (for EnMS Certification)	Feb 2019	Feb-2019	Feb-2019
HKCAS 021	Assessment / Reassessment Questionnaire for Greenhouse Gas Validation and Verification	Jun 2019	Jun-2019	Jun-2019
HKCAS 021-A1	Scope of Accreditation Sought (for new application for accreditation or extension of scope of accreditation only)	Jun 2019	Jun-2019	Jun-2019
HKCAS 021-A2B1	Management System Checklist (for Verification of Greenhouse Gas Assertions at Organisation Level, and Validation and/or Verification of Greenhouse Gas Assertions at Project Level)	Jun 2019	Jun-2019	Jun-2019
*HKCAS 021-A2B2	Management System Checklist (for Verification of Greenhouse Gas Statements at Organisation Level, and Validation and/or Verification of Greenhouse Gas Statements at Project Level)	Jun 2019	Jun-2019	Jun-2019
HKCAS 021-A2C	Management System Checklist (for Verification of Product Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Statement)	Jun 2019	Jun-2019	Jun-2019
HKCAS AP001	HKCAS Application Package 001 'Accreditation of Management System Certification Bodies 管理體系認證機構的認可'	Jan 2019	Jan-2019	Jan-2019
HKCAS SC-04	HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 4 'Accreditation Regulations Specific for HKCAS - Certification Body'	Issue 16	May-2019	May-2019
HKCAS SC-09	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 5	Jun-2019	Jun-2019
HKCAS SC-10	HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 10 'Accreditation Programme for Energy Management System (EnMS) Certification'	Issue 4	Feb-2019	Feb-2019
HKCAS SC-13	HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 13 'Accreditation of Greenhouse Gas Verification Bodies – Verification of Product Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Statement'	Issue 3	Jun-2019	Jun-2019
HKIAS AP002	HKIAS Application Package 002 'Accreditation of Inspection Body for Indoor Air Quality Inspection 室內空氣質素檢驗機構的認可'	Feb 2019	Feb-2019	Feb-2019
HKIAS AP003	HKIAS Application Package 003 'Accreditation of Inspection Body for Consumer Products Inspection 消費產品檢驗機構的認可'	May 2019	May-2019	May-2019
HOKLAS AP012	HOKLAS Application Package 012 'Accreditation of Proficiency Testing Providers 能力驗證提供者的認可'	Feb 2019	Feb-2019	Feb-2019
HOKLAS SC-01	HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 1 'Acceptability of Chemical Reference Materials and Commercial Chemicals Used for the Calibration of Equipment'	Issue 8	Apr-2019	Apr-2019
HOKLAS SC-10	HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 10 "Environmental Testing' Test Category - Accreditation of Site Testing and Sampling (Water, Waste Water, Soil, Sludge and Sediment)"	Issue 8	Apr-2019	Apr-2019
HOKLAS SC-11	HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 11 "Construction Materials' Test Category - Accreditation of Site Sampling"	Issue 5	Mar-2019	Mar-2019
HOKLAS SC-15	HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 15 "Construction Materials' Test Category - Accreditation of Non-destructive Tests for Metallic Material and Weld"	Issue 6	Mar-2019	Apr-2019
HOKLAS SC-16	HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 16 "Construction Materials' Test Category - Accreditation of Foundation Tests"	Issue 7	Mar-2019	Apr-2019
HOKLAS SC-18	HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 18 "Construction Materials' Test Category - Accreditation of Soil and Rock Testing"	Issue 5	Mar-2019	Apr-2019
HOKLAS SC-32	HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 32 "Medical Testing' Test Category - Verification of Biological Reference Intervals from Other Sources"	Issue 5	May-2019	May-2019
HOKLAS SC-38	HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 38 "Medical Testing' Test Category - Performance Verification of Automated Analysers"	Issue 3	May-2019	May-2019
HOKLAS SC-45	HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 45 'Accreditation Requirements for Hong Kong Testing Laboratories to Undertake Product Testing to China Compulsory Certification System'	Issue 7	Mar-2019	Mar-2019
HOKLAS SC-45C	實驗所認可計劃補充準則第 45 號 中國強制性產品認證制度產品檢測的認可要求	第七版	Mar-2019	Mar-2019
HOKLAS SC-48	HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 48 "Physical and Mechanical Testing' Test Category – Qualitative Screening of Consumer Products for Radioactivity Within Laboratory"	Issue 3	May-2019	May-2019

PROFICIENCY TESTING UPDATES

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 Organised by GLHK, Hong Kong	Final report sent out for comments. Four laboratories participated. There was one outlier result. The laboratory was informed to follow up.
Food	APMP-APLAC T108 – Benzo[a]pyrene in Olive Oil Organised by NIM, China	Final Report expected to be released within 2019. Three laboratories participated.
	APMP-APLAC T109 – Cadmium in Milk Powder Organised by NIM, China	Draft Final Report pending to be issued. Four laboratories participated.
	APMP-APLAC T110 – Toxic Metal / Metalloid Species in Powdered Rice Organised by GLHK, Hong Kong	Test sample distributed to laboratory participant in May 2019, with results to be returned in Sep 2019

ACCREDITATION UPDATES

New Accreditation Granted (1 December 2018 to 30 June 2019)

Four laboratories, two certification bodies and two inspection bodies have been accredited since the last issue of HKAS News. The name, registration number and accredited areas are summarised below. HKAS wishes to congratulate the CABs on their success in obtaining accreditation.

HOKLAS

Registration No.	Name of Conformity Assessment Body	Test Category Granted	Clientele
HOKLAS 282	深圳市力信特检测科技有限公司	Construction Materials	Public
HOKLAS 283	Aspec (HK) Limited - Aspec Testing	Environmental Testing	Public
HOKLAS 284	Laboratory Specialist Co., Limited	Construction Materials	Public
HOKLAS 841S	The Chinese University of Hong Kong - Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Obstetrics Screening Laboratory	Medical Testing	Public and private hospitals and clinics

HKCAS

Registration No.	Name of Conformity Assessment Body	Certification Service Granted	Clientele
HKCAS 028	A-Professional Certification Services Limited	Environmental Management System Certification Occupational Health and Safety Management System Quality Management System Certification	Public
HKCAS 029	ACI Certification International Limited	Energy Management System Certification Environmental Management System Certification, Occupational Health and Safety Management System Quality Management System Certification	Public

HKIAS

Registration No.	Name of Conformity Assessment Body	Inspection Field Granted	Type#
HKIAS 032	Environmental Pioneers & Solutions Limited	Indoor Air Quality Inspection	A
HKIAS 033	Vcheck InT Limited	Construction Products	A

#Type A: Provides 'third party' inspection service to the public

ACCREDITATION SUSPENDED

Voluntary Suspension (as at 30 June 2019)

HOKLAS

Registration No.	Name of Conformity Assessment Body	Test Category and Test Area	Effective Date(dd.mm.yyyy)
073	TÜV Rheinland Hong Kong Limited	Textiles and Garments Chemical analysis Flammability test	01.09.2018
120	Vitasoy International Holdings Ltd. – Laboratory Management	Food Chemical composition	31.08.2018
125	SGS IECC Limited	Electrical and Electronic Products All tests	25.05.2019

ACCREDITATION SUSPENDED (CON'T)

Registration No.	Name of Conformity Assessment Body	Test Category and Test Area	Effective Date(dd.mm.yyyy)
182	Consumer Testing Laboratories (Far East) Ltd.	Chemical Testing Toxic Elements – Nickel Food Food contact materials Toys and Children Products Chemical Tests	22.02.2019
213	DEKRA Certification Hong Kong Limited	Electrical and Electronic Products All tests	13.02.2019
272	Balun Technology International Limited	Electrical and Electronic Products All tests	20.09.2018
831S	Hong Kong Health Check and Medical Diagnostic Centre Ltd. – Hong Kong Health Check Medical Laboratory	Medical Testing All tests	10.09.2018

HKIAS

Registration No.	Name of Conformity Assessment Body	Inspection Field	Effective Date (dd.mm.yyyy)
020	Architectural Services Department - Indoor Air Quality Inspection Unit	Indoor Air Quality	08.09.2018

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 December 2018 to 30 June 2019)

HOKLAS

Registration No.	Name of Conformity Assessment Body	Test Category and Test Area	Effective Date
#047	The Hongkong Electric Co. Ltd. - Lamma Power Station Laboratory	Chemical Testing All tests Environmental Testing All tests	20.05.2019
058	Bureau Veritas Hong Kong Limited - Kowloon Bay Office	Chinese Medicine -- Microbiological examination	02.01.2019
058	Bureau Veritas Hong Kong Limited - Kowloon Bay Office	Testing Required By The China Compulsory Certification (CCC) System All tests	10.05.2019
#188	NGTC (HK) Ltd.	Physical and Mechanical Testing All tests	01.12.2018
#222	ANSECO Group (HK) Limited - AI - ETIC	Chemical Testing All tests Physical and Mechanical Testing All tests	07.12.2018
#230	Pilot Testing Limited	Calibration Services All Calibration Environmental Testing All tests	28.01.2019
#246	Vocational Training Council - Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education (Tuen Mun) - Testing and Calibration Centre	Calibration Services All Calibration	12.01.2019
#812S	HealthBaby Biotech (Hong Kong) Co. Ltd - Cord Blood Laboratory	Medical Testing All tests	02.05.2019
#839S	ProGene Molecular Diagnostic Center Limited	Medical Testing All tests	01.01.2019

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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