

HKAS



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Hong Kong Accreditation Service

Assessor Forum Series 2022

- P.3 Assessor Forum Series 2022
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Assessor Forum Series 2022

Lead assessors, assessors and technical experts (assessors) are very important partners of HKAS. Without their valuable support, it would be impossible for HKAS to perform the function of accreditation. Every year, HKAS arranges to meet assessors in the annual Assessor and Lead Assessor Forum to keep them up-to-date of the development of HKAS, and to foster the exchange of ideas, views and experience among assessors and HKAS officers.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event this year was held online in October 2022. The event consisted of five group discussion sessions for different technical disciplines. Altogether 144 assessors joined the Forum this year.

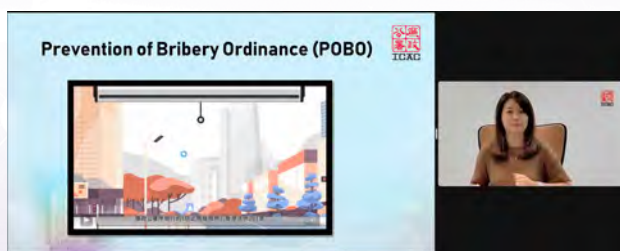
Mr Wilson Shum, Executive Administrator of HKAS, opened each session by reporting the work of HKAS in 2021 and introducing new developments in 2022. Mr Shum congratulated the following conformity assessment bodies for obtaining HKAS accreditation since May 2021: –



Mr Wilson Shum, Executive Administrator of HKAS



Ms Bonnie Lau, Community Relations Officer from ICAC



Ms Karen Wong, Community Relations Officer from ICAC

Registration Number	Name of Newly Accredited Organisations
HKCAS030	CARES Hong Kong Limited
HKCAS031	Fraser Certification Services Ltd.
HKIAS035	South China Inspection & Testing Limited
HKIAS036	Acumen Laboratory and Testing Limited
HOKLAS300	Labon Testing Limited
HOKLAS301	Water Supplies Department - Material Testing Laboratory
HOKLAS302	ESG Matters Limited – Acoustic Calibration Centre
HOKLAS303	Department of Health - Regulatory Affairs, Chinese Medicine Regulatory Office, Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute
HOKLAS304	Honest Testing Services Limited
HOKLAS854S	The Hong Kong Polytechnic University - Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory
HOKLAS855S	FZ Public Health Laboratory Company Limited
HOKLAS856S	Medtimes Molecular Laboratory Limited
HOKLAS857S	CaTAGene Limited
HOKLAS858S	CUHK Medical Centre - Department of Pathology
HOKLAS859S	Sunrise Diagnostic Centre Limited
HOKLAS860S	Lee's Pharm Genomics Lab Limited
HOKLAS861S	St. Teresa's Hospital - Clinical Laboratory
HOKLAS862S	Pangenia Lifesciences Limited
HOKLAS863S	Evangel Hospital - Laboratory
HOKLAS864S	ProCare Medical Laboratory Centre Limited
HOKLAS865S	Hong Kong Precision Pathology Laboratory Limited
HOKLAS866S	New Life Laboratory Testing Limited

Mr Shum also thanked all assessors for their effort and continuous support to our work, in particular the following assessors who were awarded the certificates of appreciation for their significant contribution to HKAS assessments.



Certificate of Appreciation	Name of Assessors
For more than 250 assessment days	Mr CHAN Wai-pong
	Dr Helen WU Wai-yin
For more than 200 assessment days	Dr LEUNG Ka-sing
	Dr Norman TSE Chung-fai
For more than 150 assessment days	Mr NG Kam-kwong
	Ms Eunice THAN Kit-yiu
	Mr Stephen FOK Wai-pang
	Mr Raymond KWOK Chik-tung
For more than 100 assessment days	Ms Joyce CHAN Sik-foon
	Ir WONG Chun-fai
	Mr WAN Kai-fan
For more than 50 assessment days	Mr Jeffrey LAU Kai-sum
	Ir Corey HO Kam-chiu
	Mr LEUNG Kin-wa
For more than 50 assessment days	Ir Rick TAM Chun-kwong
	Mr Andy TAM Siu-wa
	Ir Dennis LEE Wah-kwan
	Mr LAM Chuen-ming
	Ir Prof WONG Yuk-lung
	Dr Van MAK Wing-leung

Mr SHUM's speech was followed by a presentation by Ms Bonnie Lau and Ms Karen Wong, Community Relations Officers from the Independent Commission Against Corruption. Ms LAU and Ms WONG gave the audience a refreshment on the provisions of the Prevention of Bribery Ordinance (Cap. 201) relevant to their work as integrity is the cornerstone of the credibility of HKAS accreditation.

HKAS officers of different technical disciplines then hosted the online group discussion sessions to foster common understanding of accreditation criteria and promote consistency of assessment practices. Matters related to specific technical fields, e.g. common assessment findings, update on HKAS publications and their applications, use of HKAS Accreditation Service System etc., were discussed.



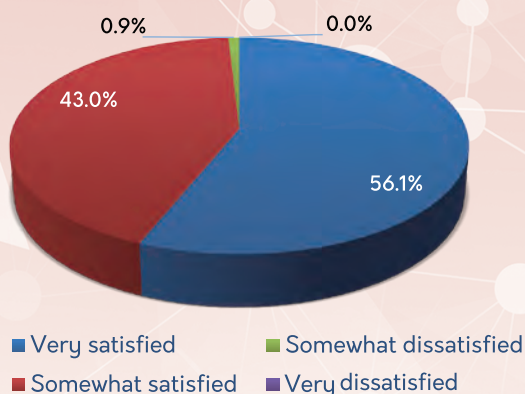
HKAS Feedback Survey 2022

To deliver quality services and seek opportunities for improvement, HKAS invites accredited organisations to complete a feedback survey once every two years. The latest survey conducted in June this year aims at collecting feedback on the following subjects:

- Accreditation services
- International recognition
- Training courses, workshops and seminars
- HKAS website and online Accreditation Service System

A questionnaire was sent to all accredited organisations and 40% of whom responded (114 out of 285 invitations sent). 99% respondents indicated that they were 'very satisfied' or 'somewhat satisfied' with our accreditation services in general.

Overall satisfaction with HKAS Services



Responses on each subject are summarised below.

Accreditation Services

- Organisations were asked to provide feedback on specific aspects of the accreditation services, including 'degree of rigor of assessments', 'processing time', 'simplicity of procedures', 'levels of fee', 'monitoring frequency', 'variety of services' and transition arrangements'. Over 95% of responses were 'very satisfied' or 'somewhat satisfied' in all areas except the 'levels of fee', of which about 88% expressed satisfaction.
- A few respondents commented that accreditation fees were high. This was likely due to the financial difficulties faced by accredited organisations in the past two years. HKAS has therefore frozen its fees

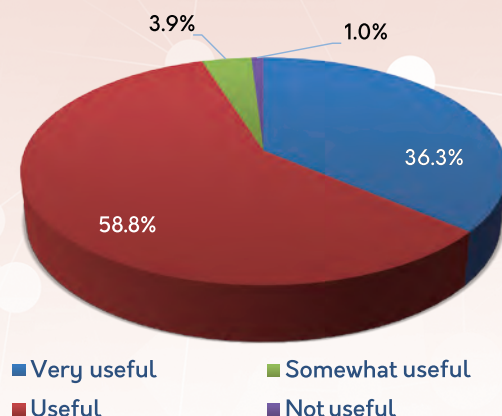
since 2019 to help ease the financial burden of businesses.

- The survey also asked the accredited organisations to provide feedback on remote assessments conducted by HKAS. About 60 organisations responded that they had participated in remote assessments, and over 98% were satisfied with the arrangement and effectiveness of those assessments.
- About 55% of the respondents had plans to expand their scope of accreditation in the next two years. HKAS will make use of the information collected in planning future assessment schedules.
- Some respondents have provided suggestions for new services and other constructive comments for improvement. HKAS officers have also contacted some of the respondents to address their comments on specific issues.

International recognition

- Most respondents (99%) found the mutual recognition arrangements concluded by HKAS with other accreditation bodies useful in promoting acceptance of their reports and certificates.

Usefulness of mutual recognition arrangements (MRA) concluded by HKAS

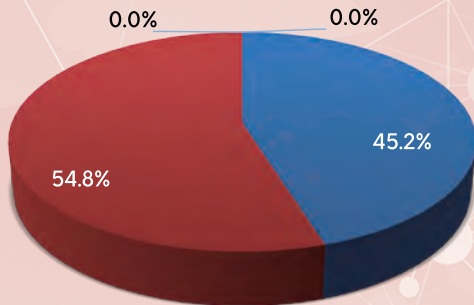


- However, 70% of the respondents indicated that they had no intention to apply for using the Combined ILAC MRA or IAF MLA Mark. It was mainly because those organisations served local markets only, or because their clients did not ask for the Mark.
- HKAS will continue to promote the value of the MRA and the Combined Marks to its stakeholders.

Training courses, workshops and seminars

- 80% of the respondents had participated in training courses, workshops and seminars organised by HKAS in 2020 - 2022. Participants were all satisfied with the activities.

Overall satisfaction with courses/ workshops/seminars

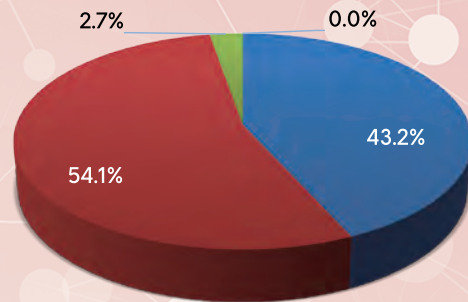


- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

- HKAS appreciates the input from accredited organisations on their training needs and will take them into account when planning future activities. It was noted that some training courses suggested by the respondents, such as internal audit training, were readily available in the market. HKAS therefore will not offer those fee-charging courses.

- 65% of the respondents indicated that they had used the HKASSYS, a web-based platform launched in May 2021 to facilitate communication and exchange of documents between accredited organisations and HKAS. Feedback received towards the system was quite positive, with about 97% of the responded users giving a satisfactory rating. While all respondents found the HKASSYS useful, few of them (4) expressed that the platform's ease of use could be improved. Taking their suggestions, HKAS will continue to enhance the HKAS website and HKASSYS to make them more user friendly.

Overall satisfaction with the HKASSYS



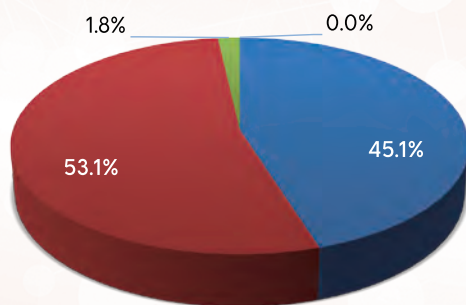
- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

HKAS would like to thank all participants of the survey for their valuable input and suggestions. We will carefully consider all comments received and strive to enhance our service quality to meet the community's needs.

HKAS website and online Accreditation Service System (HKASSYS)

- Over 98% of the respondents were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the HKAS website. They found the website useful and its content adequate, and were satisfied with the ease of navigation around the site in general.

Overall satisfaction with HKAS website



- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied



Webinar on Construction Product Certification

Mass Transit Railway Corporation (MTRC) is a key user of conformity assessment services in Hong Kong. It engages many testing and certification service providers in its operations and construction work. To promote the use of accredited services, MTRC invited HKAS to give a webinar on 'Construction Product Certification' on 31 August 2022.

In the webinar, Ir Dr Clief TANG, HKAS Accreditation Officer, introduced the concept of testing and certification as well as the importance and benefit of accreditation. Dr TANG then briefed the audience of the functions of HKAS and its accreditation schemes. He also talked about some accredited certification schemes in the construction field and the requirements of establishing an accreditable certification scheme. Over 100 staff from MTRC attended the webinar.



(From left to right) Ir Dr Clief TANG from HKAS and Mr Andrew CHANG Wing-kin from MTRC

Webinar on Physical Tests of Steel Fabric and Verification of Ageing Treatment

To promote experience sharing among construction material laboratories and harmonise the practice of conducting physical tests of metallic materials, HKAS organised a technical webinar on 29 September 2022.

Mr Raymond KWOK Chik-tung, HKAS Technical Assessor, opened the webinar by talking about rebend tests of steel fabric. He introduced the major international and national standards applicable for the tests and critical issues to note when carrying out such test methods. Then, Mr Jackie LEUNG Chak-kei and Mr NG Kei-pui from the Civil Engineering and Development Department were invited to talk about the verification of ageing treatment. In the presentation, they explained in detail the ageing requirements, the procedures applied in verification and the application of ageing method when testing steel reinforcing bars. Lastly, Ir Dr Fiona CHAN Wan-yin, Senior Accreditation Officer of HKAS, presented common nonconformities relating to physical tests of steel fabric that were identified in the recent accreditation assessments.

About 100 participants, including staff from accredited laboratories and technical assessors, attended the webinar. They actively expressed their views and gave valuable suggestions during the Q&A session. Very positive feedback was received and participants found the webinar practical and useful.



Speaker: Mr Raymond KWOK Chik-tung (HKAS Technical Assessor)



Speakers (from left to right): Mr Jackie LEUNG Chak-kei (Senior Geotechnical Engineer, Civil Engineering and Development Department) and Mr NG Kei-pui (Senior Technical Officer, Civil Engineering and Development Department)

Technical Seminar for Microbiological Testing Laboratories



Speakers (from left to right): Mr Edmund TSE, Mr Danny Cheung, Dr HO Chun-wah

HKAS has accredited laboratories for performing microbiological examination of various types of samples, including food, pharmaceutical, toys and environmental samples. An on-line technical seminar was conducted on 21 September 2022 for microbiological testing laboratories to introduce to them the latest development in the field.

The seminar consisted of two parts. In the first part, Mr Danny CHEUNG Tze-leung, HKAS technical assessor with over 30 years of experience in the field of microbiological testing, was invited to talk about 'Protocol for verification of standard methods in food microbiology laboratories'. The presentation was mainly based on a newly published standard: ISO 16140-3:2021 Microbiology of the food chain — Method validation — Part 3: Protocol for the verification of reference methods and validated alternative methods in a single laboratory.

According to Mr CHEUNG, ISO 16140-3:2021 applies to the verification of methods for analysis of microorganisms in products intended for human consumption and animal feeding, environmental samples in food & feed production as well as samples from the primary production stage. The standard classifies food items into 69 types in 15 categories, and provides examples for each food type. The standard considers method verification a 'two-step' process, consisting of 'implementation verification' and 'item verification'. 'Implementation verification' is to demonstrate that a laboratory can properly perform a method. 'Item verification' is more extensive and is based on the food categories tested in the laboratory. Its purpose is to demonstrate that a laboratory is capable of performing the method on food items

within laboratory's scope of testing. Since not all food items can be included in the verification, the laboratory is required to select more 'challenging' food samples with respect to the microbial, physical, chemical and process induced aspects. Mr CHEUNG then explained the factors to be considered in selecting suitable food items for method verification. He further introduced the method performance characteristics to be determined when verifying qualitative and quantitative methods, and explained in detail the procedures for determining different method performance characteristics with illustrative examples.

In the second part of the seminar, Mr Edmund TSE, HKAS Accreditation Officer, provided a presentation on 'Evaluation of measurement uncertainty for microbiological enumeration methods'. Mr TSE explained the basic statistical distributions relevant to the evaluation of measurement uncertainty (MU) in microbiological testing, including the Gaussian, lognormal, Poisson and binomial distributions, as well as the MU calculation associated with these distributions. He then introduced an MU evaluation model for microbiological methods based on the ISO 19036:2019 Microbiology of the food chain – Estimation of measurement uncertainty for quantitative determinations. The standard provided a harmonised approach for MU evaluation of quantitative determinations in microbiology of the food chain, in which three main uncertainty components were considered:

1. technical uncertainty: implementation of a method in a given laboratory;
2. matrix uncertainty: distribution of the microorganisms in a given matrix; and
3. distributional uncertainties: intrinsic variability due to particle distribution (colony-count techniques: Poisson uncertainty, partial confirmation uncertainty; Most Probable Number technique: MPN uncertainty).

Mr TSE further illustrated the implementation of the model by examples with actual calculations.

A total of 94 participants from 31 accredited laboratories joined this online seminar. Participants in general found the seminar very informative and useful.

Experience Sharing Seminar for Chemical Testing Laboratories on Gold Testing

Analysis of precious metals or alloys for fineness, particularly that of gold and gold alloys, has a long history. The analysis is not only important to ensuring regulatory compliance but also providing accurate trade description of precious metals for consumer confidence. HOKLAS accredited its first gold testing laboratory in 1990. Currently, 7 chemical testing laboratories are accredited by HKAS for precious metal analysis.

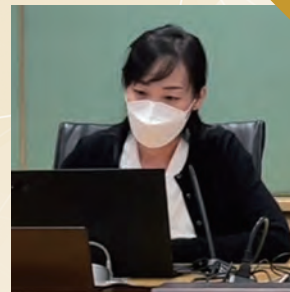
On 11 October 2022, HKAS conducted an on-line technical seminar for experience sharing in gold testing. A total of 32 laboratory personnel from 13 accredited laboratories joined the seminar.

We were delighted to have an expert from the Government Laboratory, Dr CHENG Leung-shi, joining the seminar to share his experience in applying standard methods for gold testing. Dr CHENG first introduced an array of the analytical techniques for determination of gold fineness, from basic techniques such as density and touchstone to more advanced ones including X-ray fluorescence, fire assay (or cupellation) and inductively coupled plasma (ICP). Discussion was next focused on the fire assay methods and the ICP methods. Dr CHENG provided a detailed presentation on ISO 11426:2021 *Jewellery and precious metals – Determination of gold – Cupellation method (fire assay)* and ISO 15093:2020 *Jewellery and precious metals – Determination of high purity gold, platinum and palladium – Difference method using ICP-OES*. Concerning the determination of impurities in gold, Dr CHENG emphasised that some parameters, such as the reporting limit of individual element and the associated measurement uncertainty, were not specified in the test standard and had to be determined by the laboratory. He then further introduced three GB/T standards for determination of fineness of high purity gold by difference method, viz. GB/T 25934.1-2010, GB/T 25934.3-2010 (both based on ICP-OES) and GB/T 25934.2-2010 (based on ICP – mass spectroscopy), for laboratories' reference.

In the second part of the seminar, Dr Toby CHOW Wai-shan, HKAS Accreditation Officer, shared the common nonconformities identified in the assessments of gold testing laboratories. Some key points of Dr CHOW's discussion are summarised below:-



Dr CHENG Leung-shi



Dr CHOW Wai-shan

- special attention shall be paid to the upper and lower reporting limits specified by standard methods. When the test result falls outside the reporting range, no numerical values shall be reported. For example, for a test result of 999.6‰ and the test standard specifies an upper reporting limit of 999.5‰, the result should be reported as 'Not less than 999.5‰' but not as '999.6‰';
- when reporting test results with 4 significant figures in ‰, measurement uncertainty shall always be reported with the test results;
- for determination of gold fineness by difference method (i.e. fineness based on 1000‰ - sum of contents of elemental impurities in ‰), the method reporting limit shall always be validated. For example, for fineness determination of 999.0‰ or above, $RL(\text{total}) = \sum RL(\text{individual}) + k [\sum u(\text{individual})^2]^{1/2}$ shall be $< 100\text{ppm}$ or 0.1‰ , where $RL(\text{total})$ is the method reporting limit; $RL(\text{individual})$ is the reporting limits of individual elemental impurities, k is the coverage factor as a function of coverage probability and number of effective degrees of freedom;
- in any case, supporting evidence (e.g. method validation data) shall be available to demonstrate the reporting of results;
- when using CRMs as proof gold samples in determination of gold fineness, laboratories shall observe the requirements in HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No.1.

The seminar was well received by the participants, who found it very useful. In view of the good response, HKAS will continue to organise similar seminars in the future.

A vibrant, abstract graphic featuring a central circular motif with a gradient from orange to blue. The background is a complex pattern of colorful geometric shapes (triangles, squares, circles) in shades of red, yellow, green, blue, and purple, all set against a light blue background with a subtle network of white dots and lines. The text "World Standards Day 2022" is prominently displayed in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the graphic.

World Standards Day 2022

World Standards Day, celebrated on 14 October every year, raises awareness about the need for international standardization of products and its importance in facilitating global trade. It is also a day to honour the efforts of experts who are behind the standards that have had great impact on our daily lives.

The history of the World Standards Day dates back to 1970 and is celebrated by economies around the globe. On this day, members of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) come together and pay tribute to the concerted efforts of thousands of experts around the globe who formulate voluntary technical agreement published as the 'International Standards'. The event also draws public's attention to the importance of written standards on the global economy.

Last year, IEC, ITU and ISO kicked off a multi-year campaign on supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (sdgs.un.org/goals) with the theme "Shared Vision for a Better World". The SDGs are 17 goals adopted by the United Nations as a universal call for action to create a fairer, more sustainable world by 2030. To reach the goals, the cooperation of many public and private partners, and the use of all available tools, including international

standards and conformity assessments, will be required. This multi-year campaign aims to reinforce the crucial importance of standards enabling the sustainable changes our world needs the most.

IEC, ISO and ITU have created a designated website to help everyone participate in the World Standards Day:

<https://www.worldstandardsday.org/home.html>

Hong Kong has been a Correspondent Member of the ISO for nearly 50 years since the days when manufacturing industry was the largest contributor to our economy. Although no longer heavily relying on manufacturing, our economy is still a major user of different ISO standards. There is no central standards body developing and issuing domestic standards in Hong Kong for we embrace international standards readily and we are often an early adopter of new ISO standards. As a small and externally oriented economy, it is essential that our goods and services meet the standards of major overseas markets. Accreditation is a classic example of how international standards are used to assess the competence of conformity assessment providers, whose services in turn uphold the quality and safety of products in the market.

To learn more about the importance of standards and obtain latest standards-related information, please visit www.qsdiv.gov.hk.

The Accreditation Advisory Board

The Accreditation Advisory Board (AAB) is the top advisory structure for Hong Kong Accreditation Service (HKAS). Its Chairman and members are appointed by the Secretary for Innovation, Technology and Industry under the delegated authority from the Chief Executive normally for a term of two years. The AAB advises HKAS on its development and accreditation policy, regulations and criteria. It also reviews accreditation reports and makes recommendation on the granting of accreditation and appointment of assessors.

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

Chairman :

Professor Paul LAM Kwan-sing, SBS, JP

Vice-chairman:

Head of Hong Kong Accreditation Service or his representative

Members :

Ms Cindy CHAN leng-kei*

Dr CHAN Kui-fat

Professor Henry CHUNG Shu-hung

Dr Emmie HO Ngai-man*

Ms Miranda KWAN Ching-yi

Mr LEE Wai-kwok

Ir Professor Irene LO Man-chi, JP

Dr NG Ho-leung

Ir SHIU Chi-yung

Ms Gloria TANG Yuk-yea*

Mr Bernie TING Wai-cheung

Professor Karl TSIM Wah-keung

Ir Professor Michael YAM Chi-ho*

Ms Nina YIU Shui-sang*

Government Chemist of Government Laboratory or his representative

Deputy Director of Housing (Development & Construction) or his representative

Head of Laboratory of Standards and Calibration Laboratory of Innovation and Technology Commission or his representative

The AAB normally meets twice a year to discuss the progress report of HKAS and deliberate on policy issues and proposals for future development. Under the AAB, Working Parties are established to work on specific issues or technical disciplines. Working Parties may also establish Task Forces to work on specific technical tasks. Currently, there are 13 AAB Working Parties and 16 Task Forces.

The AAB has just started a new term on 1 November 2022. In this term, Prof. Paul LAM Kwan-sing, SBS, JP is re-appointed as the Chairman. Prof. LAM is the President of the Hong Kong Metropolitan University and Chair Professor of Environmental Chemistry. In addition, 17 members, including five new members (marked with * below), are appointed. Members are shown below –

Updates from ILAC/IAF/APAC

Accreditation : Updates at Regional and International Level

Below are highlights of recent developments in International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) regarding accreditation-related matters:

ILAC (www.ilac.com)

- In 2022, ILAC and IAF Joint Mid-term and Annual Meetings were held virtually. The Mid-term Meetings were held between 14 – 20 April, while the Annual Meetings including the General Assemblies were held from 4 October to 17 November.
- As at November 2022, there are 108 Signatories to the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA), representing 116 economies. Four new accreditation bodies joined the ILAC MRA in the past year. ILAC also has 18 Associates Members and 22 Stakeholders Members.
- In 2022, the ILAC Accreditation Committee (AIC) updated and published G19:06/2022 Modules in a Forensic Process. Revision of ILAC P9:06/2014 ILAC Policy for Participation in Proficiency Testing Activities is in progress.
- ISO 15189:2022 'Medical Laboratories – Requirements for quality and competence' has just been published in December 2022. ILAC has passed a resolution in November's General Assembly (GA) to adopt a 3-year transition period from the date of publication, which is now December 2025. HKAS will announce the transition arrangement for this revised standard shortly.
- ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment Working Group 57 (ISO/CASCO WG57) is reviewing ISO/IEC 17043, the accreditation standard for proficiency testing providers. The revision is now at the Draft International Standard (DIS) stage. As the new version is expected to be published in late 2022 or early 2023, ILAC has passed a resolution in the recent GA to adopt a transition period of 3 years from the date of publication.
- ISO 13528:2022 'Statistical methods for use in proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparison' was published in August 2022. Only editorial amendments were made in this version of standard.
- The International Vocabulary of Metrology – Basic and General Concepts and Associated Terms (VIM) is being revised by the Joint Committee for Guides

in Metrology / Working Group 2 (JCGM/WG2). A Committee Draft was circulated for comments in 2021. ILAC members' comments on the draft had been provided to JCGM/WG2 for consideration.

- ISO/IEC 17034:2016 was due for systematic review by ISO in 2021. According to the ISO website, the review is now considered closed. The standard is expected to stay for another five years before another round of review takes place.
- The inaugural meetings of ISO Technical Committee 334 (ISO/TC 334 Reference materials) resolved that the ISO Guides under the remit of the ISO Committee on reference materials (ISO/REMCO), i.e. ISO Guides 30, 31, 33, 35 & 80, would be transformed into international standards within specified timeframes.

IAF (www.iaf.nu)

- As at November 2022, IAF has 94 Accreditation Bodies Members and 82 Signatories to its Multilateral Recognition Arrangements (MLA). Six new accreditation bodies joined the IAF MLA in the past year. IAF also has 28 Association Members.
- In 2022, IAF Technical Committee (TC) published the following new documents: MD24 'Transition Requirements for ISO 50003:2021'; MD25 'Criteria for Evaluation of Conformity Assessment Schemes'; MD26 'Transition Requirements for ISO/IEC 27001:2022'; and ID 14 'Guidance on the Determination of Audit Time for Integrated Audit of Multisite Management Systems'. IAF TC also updated and published MD4, MD9, MD21 and MD 13.
- Two separate Working Groups (WG) were established to deal with accreditation/certification issues relating to Information Technology Management System (ISO 20000) and Information Security Management System (ISO 27001). As these two WGs were working on similar or related issues, shared the same convener and had similar membership, the TC Chair proposed to merge them into a single WG. A new WG on Information and Communications Technology and Data Security (ICTDS) has thus been formed.

- In IAF, there is a mechanism for stakeholders including accreditation bodies, certification bodies (CB) and users of accredited services to submit papers to TC for discussion. Subject matters are mainly clarification sought on the application of accreditation standards and IAF mandatory documents. In April's TC meeting, two papers were discussed. The issues and outcomes are summarised below:-

- i. The first issue referred to clause 4.4 of IAF MD5 on the provision of audit time determination and justification in the contract between the CB and the client during initial certification. The TC agrees that this requirement is not only applicable for initial certification. The CB shall provide the audit time determination and its justification to the client as part of the ongoing contract. The contract shall be revised when there are changes. The intention of such requirement is to maintain transparency, and thus should not be limited to initial certification.
- ii. The second issue was about the development of an ISO document for conducting management system certification audits using remote methods. IAF in general supports the idea, but a wider scope (not just limited to management system certification) is expected to better align with IAF MD4. On the other hand, since IAF is an A liaison to ISO, it may submit a New Work Item Proposal (NWIP) on revising ISO 19011: 2018 - Guidelines for auditing management systems to include more details on adopting remote techniques in management system audits, instead of issuing a new guidance document.

- As a result of a recent ballot, IAF will implement a set of amended principles for the IAF CertSearch certificate database. All CBs accredited by IAF members will be asked to provide data on their accredited certifications to the database mandatorily. IAF will develop a Mandatory Document (MD) outlining the process for managing data upload and database maintenance, with appropriate exemptions and sanctions where requirements are not met. Management system CBs already accredited by an IAF MLA signatory will have 12

months from the date of publication of the MD to provide the required data, and those accredited in the future will have to provide data within 12 months from their date of accreditation. Besides, users of the database will have to pay for the search service based on their usage. More details about the changes proposed for IAF CertSearch is available at the FAQ section of the IAF website (<https://iaf.nu/en/faq/>).

APAC (www.apac-accreditation.org)

- The online APAC General Assembly and Annual Meetings were held between 10 May to 29 June 2022.
- Currently, APAC has 56 Full Members and Signatories to its MRA from 33 economies. In 2022, six new Signatories were added. APAC also has 11 Associates Members and 12 Affiliates.
- Ms Jennifer Evans of NATA, Australia was elected as the new APAC Chairperson. Her 3-year term started in June 2022. Mr Raj Nathan of IAS, USA was elected as the new Vice-Chair. Mr Wilson Shum, HKAS Executive Administrator, is a member of the APAC Executive Committee. Dr John Ho, HKAS Senior Accreditation Officer, is now the Vice-Chair of the APAC Technical Committee – Laboratories, Inspection, PTP and RMP (TC 1).
- APAC has published the following technical guidance documents since it was last reported: TEC1-001 'APAC Guidance on Scopes of Accreditation for Biobanks'; TEC1-008 'APAC Guidance on Accreditation of RMPs'; and TEC4-004 'Guidance on Accreditation of VVBs for Carbon Footprint of Products'.

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 2	Sep-2022	Sep-2022
HKAS 002C	認可處認可規例	第五版 第二修訂	Sep-2022	Sep-2022
HKAS IN003	Guidance on Calibration and Performance Verification of Temperature Chambers (Informative)	Issue 4	Jul-2022	Jul-2022
HKAS SC-02	HKAS Supplementary Criteria No. 2 'Nonconformities and their grading'	Issue 8	Sep-2022	Sep-2022
HKAS SC-02C	認可處補充準則第 2 號 '不符合項及其評級'	第八版	Sep-2022	Sep-2022
HKCAS AP002	HKCAS Application Package 002 'Accreditation of Product Certification Bodies 產品認證機構的認可'	Oct 2022	Oct 2022	Oct 2022
HKCAS SC-11	HKCAS Supplementary Criteria No. 11 'HKAS Policy on Product and Management System Certification Schemes'	Issue 4	Oct-2022	Jan 2024
HKIAS AP003	HKIAS Application Package 003 'Accreditation of Consumer Products Inspection Body'	Aug 2022	Aug-2022	Aug-2022
HOKLAS SC-01	HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 1 'Acceptability of Chemical Reference Materials and Commercial Chemicals Used for the Calibration of Equipment'	Issue 9	Jul-2022	Jul-2022
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 9	Aug-2022	Aug-2022
HOKLAS SC-13	HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 13 'HOKLAS Policy on Evaluation of Measurement Uncertainty and Reporting of Measurement Result under the Test Category of "Calibration Services"'	Issue 8	Jun-2022	Jun-2022
HOKLAS SC-48	HOKLAS Supplementary Criteria No. 48 'Qualitative Screening of Consumer Products for Radioactivity Within Laboratory under the Test Category of "Physical and Mechanical Testing"'	Issue 4	Jul-2022	Jul-2022

Accreditation Updates

New Accreditation Granted (01 June 2022 to 31 October 2022)

Six laboratories 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
HOKLAS864S	ProCare Medical Laboratory Centre Limited	Medical Testing	Private physicians, medical centres, private and public hospitals and other medically related institutions
HOKLAS303	Department of Health - Regulatory Affairs, Chinese Medicine Regulatory Office, Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute	Chinese Medicine	In-house laboratory, normally not available for public testing
HOKLAS865S	Hong Kong Precision Pathology Laboratory Limited	Medical Testing	Private physicians, medical centres, private and public hospitals and other medically related institutions
HOKLAS304	Honest Testing Services Limited	Construction Materials	Public
HOKLAS866S	New Life Laboratory Testing Limited	Medical Testing	Private physicians, medical centres, private and public hospitals and other medically related institutions
HOKLAS305	Acurweight Technology Limited	Calibration Services	Public

Suspended Accreditation (as at 31 October 2022) Voluntary Suspension

HOKLAS

Registration No.	Name of Conformity Assessment Body	Test Category	Effective Date (dd.mm.yyyy)
294	Gain Up Corporation Limited - Gain Up Testing Laboratory	Electrical and Electronic Products -All tests	01.09.2022
809S	Department of Health - Clinical Genetic Service, Neonatal Screening and Genetic Laboratory	Medical Genetics -All tests	01.09.2022
129	Eurofins MTS Consumer Product Testing Hong Kong Limited	Toys and Children's Products -Electrical tests	05.10.2022
058	Bureau Veritas Hong Kong Limited – Kowloon Bay Office	Testing Required by The China Compulsory Certification System (CCC) -All tests	13.10.2022

The above list shows only 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.

Terminated Accreditation (1 June 2022 to 31 October 2022) Voluntary Termination

HOKLAS

Registration No.	Name of Conformity Assessment Body	Test Category and Test Area Terminated	Effective Date (dd.mm.yyyy)
182	Consumer Testing Laboratories (Far East) Ltd.	Textiles and Garments -All tests except flammability tests	02.06.2022
#164	ISPL Consulting Limited – Testing Laboratory	Construction Materials -All tests	15.06.2022
815P	Hospital Authority - Tseung Kwan O Hospital, Department of Pathology	Medical Testing -Immunology	01.08.2022
050	Intertek Testing Services Shenzhen Ltd.	Toys and Children's Products -Microbiological Tests	15.08.2022
210	Foodscan Analytics Ltd.	Environmental Testing -Saline Water - All tests	15.10.2022
#169	Suntech Testing Limited	Construction Materials -All tests	17.10.2022

HKIAS

Registration No.	Name of Conformity Assessment Body	Inspection Field and Inspection Activity Terminated	Effective Date (dd.mm.yyyy)
#023	Suntech Testing Limited	Welding Inspection – All activities	17.10.2022

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

The above lists show only those accredited organisations with the whole test category / area suspended or terminated. In addition, the lists do 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.

Proficiency Testing Updates

Test Category	Programme and Organiser	Status
Food	APMP-APLAC T111 –Event-specific quantitative analysis for genetically modified (GM) Maize Line MON87427 Organised by NIM, China	Draft Final Report to be issued in Nov 2022. One laboratory participated.
	APAC T112 – Non-polar analytes in high carbohydrate food matrix: trans-Zearalenone in Maize Powder Organised by NIM, China	Test results to be sent out after the KCRV of CCQM-K168 discussed at Organic Analysis Working Group (OAWG) meeting in Nov 2022. One laboratory participated.
	APAC T113 – Benzoic Acid in Fish Sauce (Organised by GLHK, Hong Kong)	Draft of Final Report further submitted to the APAC PT Subcommittee for comment and review. One laboratory participated.
	APEC SCSC 01 2021 – Trace Elements in Natural Water (Organised by GLHK, Hong Kong)	Interim Report to be issued in Dec 2022. Two laboratories participated.

Reply Form

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