

Eurachem Policy on Copyright of Guides and Other Documents produced by Working Groups

The following policy was agreed at the General Assembly held in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 24 and 25 May 2007.

Issue

To agree a policy for assigning the copyright on any guide or other publishable document produced by Eurachem's Working Groups, or any Joint Working Group to which Eurachem contributes. This is becoming increasingly important when third parties ask for permission to publish such material in books or CD-ROMs.

Background

The current Eurachem policy on copyright assigns the copyright of individual documents to the authors. These documents are made freely available to other Eurachem organisations (e.g. national Eurachem bodies) for translation into national languages. The authors will normally be the active members of the appropriate Working Group. Problems have been encountered recently with requests for permission to reproduce Eurachem documents and guides by third parties some years after original publication, when a number of authors have proved difficult to contact. Eurolab have also raised the issue of copyright following the recent publication of the Guidelines for the use of Computers and Software in Laboratories, jointly produced with Eurachem.

Recommendations

Eurachem should adopt the following policy:

- All Working Groups must agree the position regarding copyright of any guide or document prior to the voting stage.
- This agreement must be communicated to the Secretariat via the meeting minutes.
- The form of agreement is to assign copyright to all individual contributors, except where agreed with the Executive.
- All copyright holders grant permission for reproduction of documents for Eurachem use, including free distribution, sale, hire or rent via any medium. Any proceeds from this to be used to support the Secretariat.
- Working Groups should also grant permission to the Executive to allow publication by third parties, subject to appropriate controls of integrity and any liabilities.
- Member nations may translate documents into their national language(s) and disseminate via their media of choice.
- The agreement for the assignment of copyright and publication for documents produced jointly with other organisations (e.g. Eurolab or CITAC) should also be agreed within the Working Group and communicated to the Secretariat.