



# **Experiences from the Assessment of PT Providers**

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# UKAS



- Sole National Accreditation Body in the UK
- Recognised by the UK Government
- Assess against Internationally agreed standards
- Certification, inspection, testing and calibration
- Based in West London
- 130 employees
- Recently celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary





# Why assess PT Providers?

- PT is a valuable tool for Labs and AB's
- PT must be reliable
- Labs need confidence in the PT Provider's competence
- Accreditation allows for an independent assessment of competence
- PT providers requested accreditation
- ISO17025 requires that Suppliers are evaluated



# PT Pilot

- Original Pilot 1996/97
- Project re- started 2000/01
- 9 Pilot organisations from a range of disciplines





# First Steps

- Set up Steering Group
- Determine Assessment Approach
- Train Staff – UKAS and external assessors
- Update UKAS processes to accommodate PT assessment



# Steering Group

- PT Providers
- Accredited Laboratories
- Laboratory Customers
- UKAS staff and Assessors
- Statistician



# Assessment Criteria

- Combination of Assessment Standards
- ISO Guide 43-1
- ILAC G13
- ISO17025





# Identify and Train Staff

- UKAS - Two Assessment Managers, One Accreditation Manager
- Four external Technical Assessors with ISO17025 experience
- One Statistician
- Internal Training Course



# UKAS processes



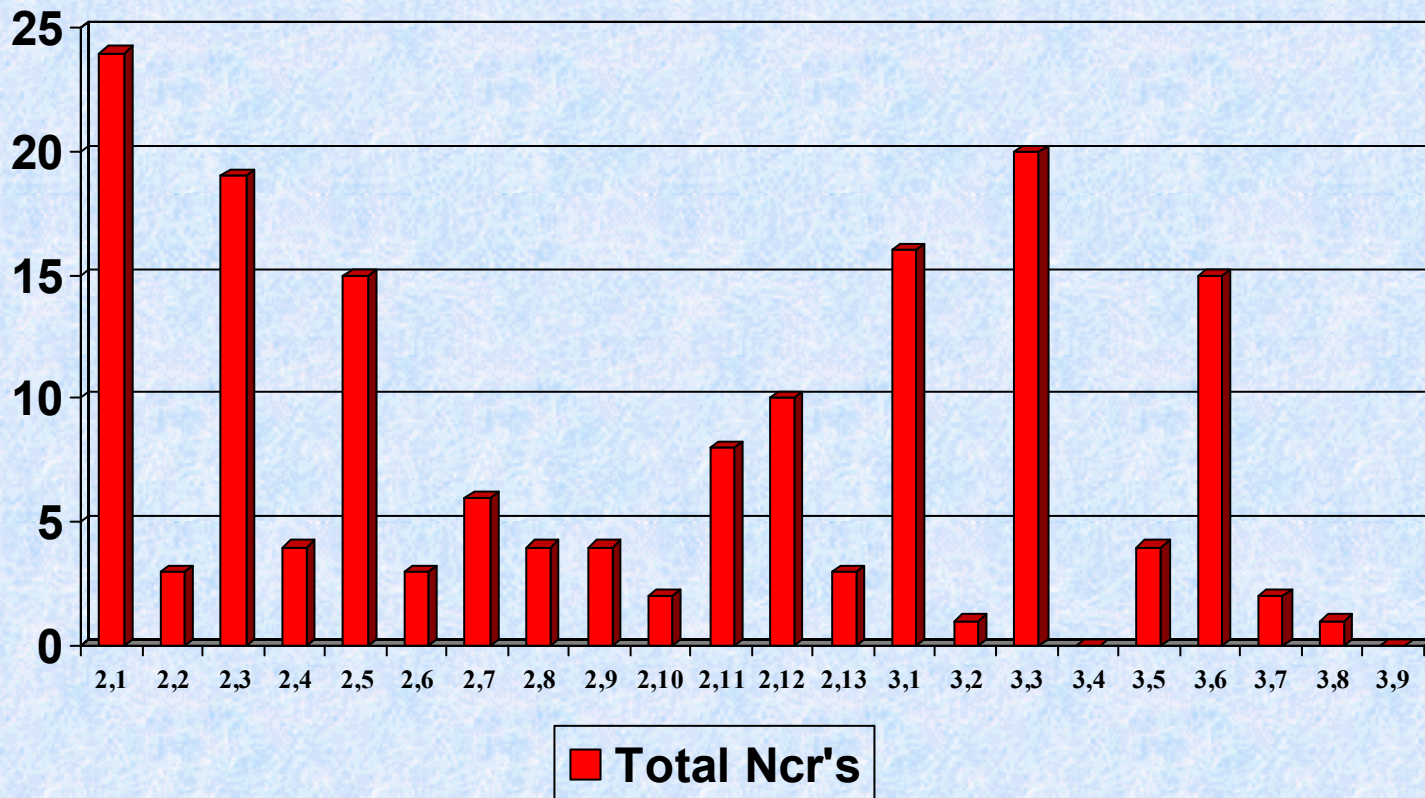
- Assessment Procedure
- Assessment Forms
- Accreditation Schedule
- Accreditation Certificate
- Accreditation Mark

# Outcomes of pilot

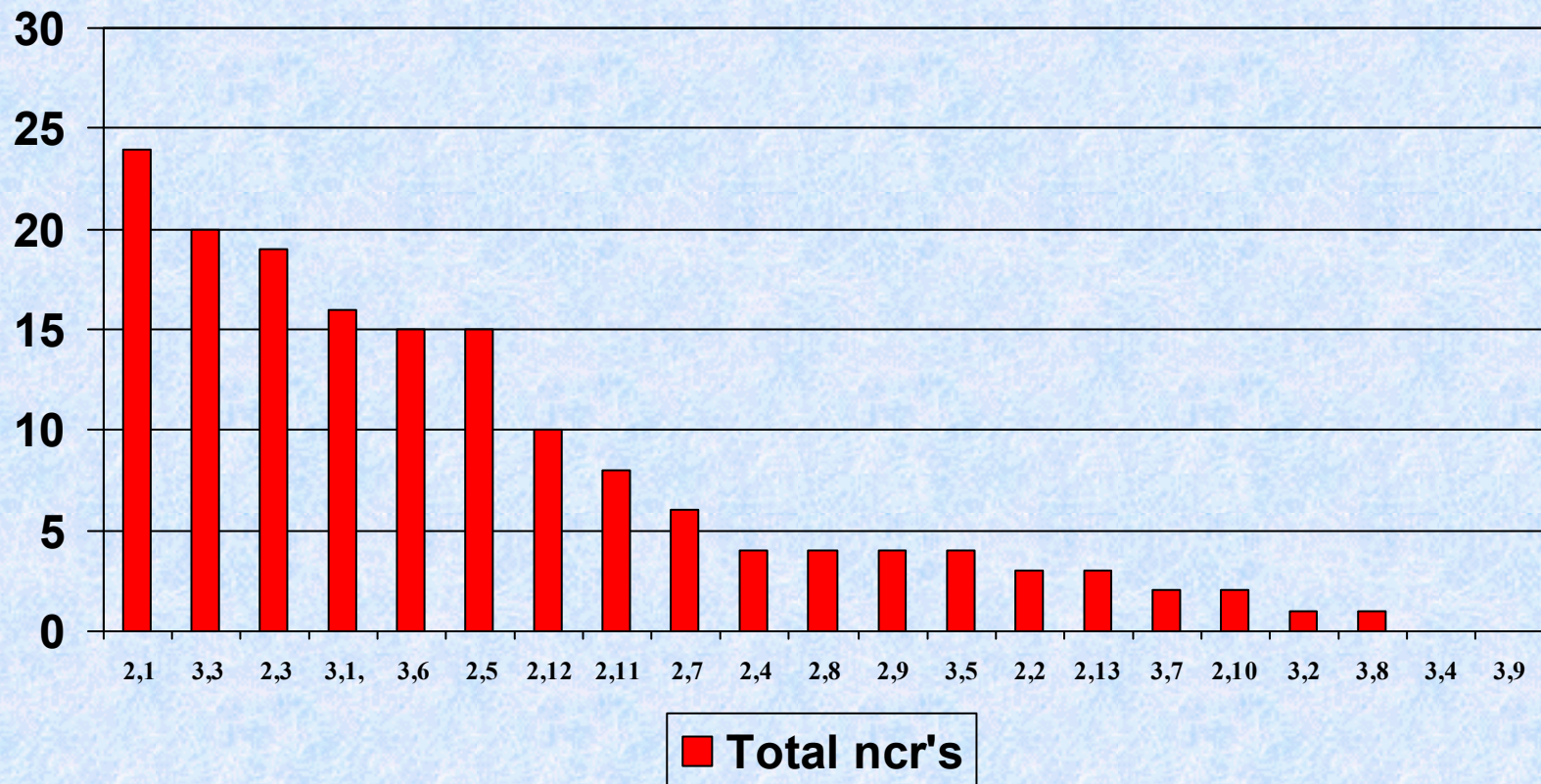
- Areas of Non-compliance
- Guidance Document - PT1
- Accreditation Status
- Feedback from Providers and Labs



# Non-compliances raised against “G13” Clauses



# “Top of the Pops” Non-compliances





# Top 5 (actually 6) Non-compliances



- 2.1 Quality management system
- 3.3 Organisation & Scheme logistics
- 2.3 Document and information control
- 3.1 Management Staffing & training
- 2.5 Use of Collaborators
- 3.6 Data analysis & interpretation of scheme results

# Coverage of Assessment



- 2 areas of no non-compliances:
  - 3.4 Choice of method or procedure
  - 3.9 Collusion & falsification of results
- Since the issues raised covered such a wide scope of the standard this indicates a thorough and significant coverage of the requirements during the assessment processes.



# Guidance Document PT1



- Developed as an output of the pilot
- Amplification of ILAC G13 requirements
- Issued June 2005
- Available on [www.ukas.com](http://www.ukas.com)



# Accreditation Status

- 8 organisations received accreditation in 2002 following the completion of the pilot
- Subsequently 1 organisation has received accreditation
- Currently 6 applicants from a range of disciplines





# Feedback

- Positive feedback received from pilot organisations
- Laboratories have noted an improvement in the service provided
- Technical Assessors have noted better clarity in reporting and increased awareness in lab staff



**Any Questions ?**

**[www.ukas.com](http://www.ukas.com) for  
Guidance Document PT1  
and the schedules of our  
currently accredited  
providers**