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A Focus for Analytical Chemistry in Europe

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Report from WG 1



Implementing the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 by PT/EQA Providers

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What challenges has the new standard presented to PT/EQA providers?

- Proving competence of subcontractors
 - Quality of PT items, raw materials
- Homogeneity
 - Costly, timing of results, nature of samples (volatility)



What requirements of the new standard have caused most problems for PT/EQA providers during the accreditation process?

- Justification of methods, statistics to assessors
- Validation of data software
- Determination of reference value (competence)
- Deputies for key personnel in small organization



What is the experience of PT/EQA providers with regards to technical assessors used in the accreditation against the new standard?

- Positive – balanced knowledge
- Negative – need to justify everything



How the PT/EQA providers ensure the competence of internal assessors?

- Quality Manager trained externally
 - Train internal staff
- Difficult right now because standard is so new
- Exchange assessors with another PT provider



Does the transition from ISO/IEC Guide 43 and ILAC G13 to ISO/IEC 17043 give increased confidence to PT/EQA participants?

- Difficult to answer – invisible to participants
- Hope that new standard will be universally accepted (previous guides were accepted differently in different jurisdictions)



Has the publication of ISO/IEC 17043 driven more PT/EQA providers to seek accreditation?

- Too soon to say
- Increased need for resources may drive small PT providers away
- It would help if it was written into legislation (force PT providers to standardize)



Additional Questions

Q7 How do we handle notes in standard

- Used for both PT providers and assessors to interpret standard for sector

Q8 Should we be more concerned about stability

- Different methods discussed e.g, sending samples to participants and having them returned
- Need to understand and accommodate in evaluation

Q9 Collusion

- Standard requires PT provider to have reasonable precautions to prevent this
- Send different samples to different participants

Q10 Reporting of results to authorities

- Does not breach confidentiality if participants informed prior to entering PT scheme



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Thank you for your attention

