Implementing ISO/IEC 17043 for sampling PT/EQA schemes

- Convenors:
  - Owen Butler, Health and Safety Executive, Great Britain
  - Monika Horsky, International Atomic Energy Agency, Austria
Delegates’ statistics

- 44 participants
  - 32 PT Providers
    - of which 6 provide sampling PTs, 2 of them accredited
  - 8 Accreditation Bodies
  - 3 Regulators
  - 5 PT end users
    - of which none have taken part in sampling PTs yet

1. What is understood to be a sampling PT/EQA scheme

- Types of schemes
  - Practical sampling (physically taking samples)
  - Strategy of sampling (e.g., virtual PT)

- Types of sectors
  - Environmental (water, air, emissions, soil)
  - Health and Safety (e.g., workplace air)
  - Consumer products testing (toys, textiles)
  - Blood
  - Mechanical testing
  - Coal sampling
1. What is understood to be a sampling PT/EQA scheme

- Why are they important?
  - Requirement in legislation (certification of personnel)
  - Increases confidence in decision making
  - Picture of quality of the whole chain
  - Sampling is a key component of whole testing process
  - Training
  - Check if requirements of standards are fulfilled

3. Is the demand for sampling PT/EQA schemes likely to change in the future?

Yes.

- New ISO 17025 driver for new demand
  - Recognises sampling as a work activity of a laboratory
  - Emphasis on risk assessment (peer pressure)
- Official bodies are increasingly interested in sampling (e.g. FDA)
- New environmental directives putting more emphasis on sampling
2. What are the challenges for implementing ISO/IEC 17043 for sampling PT/EQA schemes?

What are the difficult requirements of the Standard to implement?

- Homogeneity
- Stability
- Assigned values
- Collusion
- Confidentiality
- Logistics and expense

How can such requirements be addressed for these schemes?

- Virtual PT
- Regulatory funding
- Small scale, local PTs
- Tell participants in advance, that PT is not confidential
4. How is traceability and uncertainty addressed in such schemes?

- Trackability of samples to be ensured
- Metrological traceability difficult??
  - More standardised methods
  - More guidance
- Calibration of sampling devices – theoretical uncertainty of mechanical sampling
- Uncertainty estimation could be improved by professional statistical input
  - Sector specific advice