

Eco-Management Audit Scheme (EMAS)

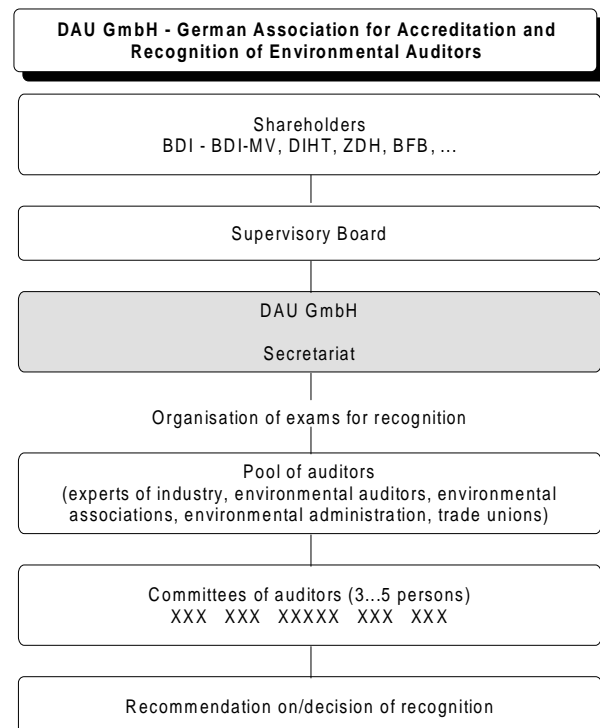
The Deutsche Akkreditierungs- und Zulassungsgesellschaft für Umweltgutachter GmbH (DAU GmbH = German Association for Accreditation and Recognition of Environmental Auditors) is a foundation of the industry. Its shareholders are: member associations of the Bund der Deutschen Industrie (BDI), Deutscher Industrie- und Handelstag (DIHT), Zentralverband der Handwerker (ZDH) and the Dienstleistungs- und Verlagsgesellschaft mbH of the BFB. The Secretariat of the DAU GmbH is located at D-53113 Bonn, Adenauer Allee 148 ((++228-104 560). The DAU GmbH organises the **recognition of environmental auditors** on the basis of the EU Council Directive EEC/1836/93 of 19.06.1993 (Regulation of the Environmental Management Audit Scheme). This Regulation is a service to the industry to establish an environmental management audit scheme (EMAS) in order to enhance and accelerate the environmental protection. Its application by industry and enterprises is voluntary and is linked to the respective locations of the certified firm. This Regulation has been nationally implemented by the "Umweltauditgesetz" (law regulating environmental management audits), which came into force on 15 December 1995. The legal regulation became necessary in Germany, as the regulation contains a "regulation on the admittance to profession" concerning the activities of environmental auditors. The law lays down unambiguous preconditions for a recognition of environmental auditors. Furthermore it provides the foundation of a Committee of Environmental Auditors with 25 seats, in which

- environmental and industry associations,

- representatives of the Federal Government and the länder governments as well as the administration of the economy,
- trade unions are represented.

The Committee of Environmental Auditors elaborates

- regulations for the recognition of the environmental auditors and
- guidelines for the supervision of the environmental auditors that are implemented by the DAU GmbH via auditing committees.



Furthermore the Committee of Environmental Auditors gives recommendations for the members of the Committee of Complaints. These decisions are taken there with a two-thirds majority. As environmental auditors may be recognised both single persons and organisations, provided that the latter are legal entities. In these organisations the proficient persons are recognised before either as environmental auditors or as so-called "Holders of certificates of technical knowledge". Functionaries and employees of the public law are not allowed to be recognised as environmental auditors.

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The **audited enterprise locations are registered** by the trade corporations or by the Chambers of Industry and Commerce. The trade supervision of the German Federal länders is formally not covered by this system. In the DAR there were discussions about the disadvantage of the German industry caused by the complicated procedure for attaining the "certificate of participation" in the environmental management of the enterprises, e.g. in comparison with Great Britain, where considerably easier recognition criteria and procedures are valid.

But it is emphasised that an essential point in implementing the Eco-Audit Regulation in Germany is the consideration of Article 12 of the German Constitution (Admittance to profession), which does not exist in other countries. Furthermore, the necessity of a political compromise between the industry, the Federal Government and the länders governments has been taken into account. Till now the recognition of the "declaration of participation" by the German Authorities is not given without any problem. The DAU GmbH is seeking for becoming a member of the DAR. Apart from the Eco-Audit Regulation there exist the drafted international standards series ISO 14000

describing general criteria for environmental management systems. The Association for Accreditation (TGA GmbH), which among others is an accreditation body for certification bodies for quality systems and personnel, since short time performs accreditations of certification bodies that carry out certification of environmental management systems of enterprises according to the ISO 14000 standards series. Basis for the accreditation are the drafts:

- DIN ISO/DIS 14001: "Environmental management systems: Specifications with guidance for use",
- DIN ISO/DIS 14012: "Guidelines for environmental auditing - Qualification criteria for environmental auditors" and
- EAC-Guidelines on the Application of EN 45012 (modified for Environmental Management System - EMS)".

Further information: Subdepartmental Section S.42, BAM

News from standardisation

New draft of ISO Guide 25

On the basis of the decision of CEN/CLC/TC1 to take the wording of ISO Guide 25 after its endorsement in the revised version as the new EN 45001, this revision is of great interest in Europe.

On 12/13 March 1996 the last draft of the ISO Guide 25 was discussed in ISO/CASCO WG10, before the first official draft will be submitted to ISO/CASCO and released to the national members with the request for comments.

What are the general aims of the revision?

- In ISO Guide 25 all relevant criteria of the ISO 9000 standards series shall be included.
- The Guide is mainly provided for the use by laboratories. When revising the Guide, it should be considered that the Guide may also be used by accreditation bodies.
- The Guide shall be used by routine and non-routine laboratories, but not by pure research laboratories.
- It shall be examined whether the Guide can be raised to a standard.
- When revising the Guide, all presently existing documents that are used for the interpretation of the ISO Guide 25 shall be considered.

- The definitions shall be in compliance with the ISO Guide 2, ISO Guide 8402 and the VIM (International Vocabulary of Metrology).

What are the main points of the revision? What are the latest developments in discussion in the Working Group ISO/CASCO WG10?

Requirements for the quality management:

In Section II "Management Requirements" all requirements of ISO 9001 and ISO 9002, as they can be implemented in the laboratories, are described.

Types of laboratories:

The Guide shall be valid for: testing and calibration laboratories, sampling, routine and non-routine laboratories, "First-", "Second-" and "Third-Party" laboratories as well as laboratories that are working for inspection and certification bodies.

So-called "one-man-laboratories":

In principle such a laboratory shall also be able to fulfil the requirements of the ISO Guide 25. Therefore special measures are necessary.

"Professional Judgement":

The present draft requires that the personnel can perform "professional judgement", i.e. that a competent laboratory can give advice as well as recommendations to clients, and it shall select the proper testing method(s).

Statement of measurement uncertainties:

In cases where the statement of a measurement uncertainty is required, it is intended to reach in future that this statement is estimated and given according to the presently existing ISO Guide "Expression on uncertainty in measurement".

"Measurement Traceability":

The traceability of the performed measurements to SI-units shall be demonstrated by the appropriate measuring instruments through an organisation that can prove its competence.

This can be an accredited calibration laboratory or another laboratory - e.g. an internal one - complying with the requirements of the ISO Guide 25.

Test report:

It shall be possible to give in test reports interpretations, opinions or information on the compliance with specific requirements or similar ones. A footnote "Opinions and interpretations are not part of the accreditation" given on test reports of accredited laboratories shall indicate that for such remarks no competence has been confirmed. It can be expected that the first draft of the ISO Guide 25 will be sent for comments to the national members of ISO in June 1996.

Further information: Subdepartmental Section. S.42, BAM

News from international organisations

First international conference of national accreditation bodies held by EAL/EAC in Berlin from 20 to 21 March 1996

Since the political change in the eighties the Eastern European countries are very much interested in an economic cooperation with Western Europe. In their national activities concerning the "Global Approach to Certification and Testing", the ambition of mutual recognition within the frame of Multilateral Agreements (MLA, see DAR-aktuell 1/95) is playing an increasing role. During several Workshops carried out concerning hitherto existing MOE activities (Middle and Eastern European countries, see the following contribution on the AMOS project) realised by BAM, an additional need of information of these countries concerning the mutual recognition of accreditation and certificates in the European area became apparent. Therefore the BAM initiated a meeting of national accreditation bodies in Berlin.

In several working meetings of the European association of accreditation organisations, EAL and EAC, this proposal has been taken up and realised. EAL and EAC decided to offer information days to third countries to install a way of cooperation with Eastern European countries and other so-called "third countries". The participation of delegations from China, Israel and Brazil seems to be exemplary. The Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM) in Berlin

together with the German Accreditation Council (DAR) organised the meeting. Altogether 70 representatives from 28 countries took part in this conference, among others 20 countries outside the European Union. Reports and discussions on the following problems and points of interest were held:

- ways for a mutual recognition of accreditations and certificates in Europe,
- participation of national accreditation systems on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU, see DAR-aktuell 1/95),
- bilateral/multilateral recognitions,
- organisation, structure and operation of EAC, EAL, EOTC, cooperation with organisations as EURACHEM and EUROLAB,
- presentation of results in committee meetings of EAL and EAC,
- inspection bodies,
- environmental management.

From the Western European area the Chairmen of EAL (R. Kaarls) and EAC (L. Ettarp) and of the respective committees took part and as guests EOTC (D. Stanger), CEN-TCU (Ph. Dengler), EUROLAB (president of BAM - Czichos). Furthermore the Chairmen of the Committees reported on latest developments (R. Visiers, B. Henderson, H.-P. Ischi, K. Brinkmann, H. Ots, B. Steffen from EAL, R. Brockway, D. Pierre and H. Gundlach from EAC). The Workshop helped to reduce the information deficits and to produce a comparable level of informa-

tion on the basis of the existing EAL and EAC documents. The most important documents were handed over to the participants.

Further information: Subdepartmental Section. S.42, BAM

AMOS - Accreditation and Certification for Middle and Eastern Europe

With an increasing acceptance of the systems in the European internal market oriented to the "Global Approach to Certification and Testing" the market participants get used to requiring appropriate certificates from its trading partners as demonstration of conformity. The trading partners outside the European internal market are also interested in a cooperation and in an establishment of own accreditation and certification systems that are compatible with those of the Western European market.

Therefore the Eastern European countries have oriented themselves to the EU and the states of the European internal market in order to get support in introducing the Global Approach. The Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM) as a German Federal Authority nationally and internationally recognised in the field of testing and the Secretariat of the German Accreditation Council (DAR) located at BAM are also often contacted to give support in establishing the described Approach.

The AMOS project (Akkreditierung und Zertifizierung für Mittel- und Osteuropäische Staaten) shall help to reduce the existing lack of information in the field of accreditation and certification, based on a systematic approach and joint training courses. This has the advantage that all 14 countries that were addressed to (including Russia, Belorussia and Ukraine) develop or complete their national systems on the same basis of information. Thus the indispensable mutual recognition of the national systems between each other as also between Western and Eastern Europe is made easier and technical barriers to trade are already removed beforehand.

The structure of the modular training concept consisting of 19 modules about all relevant topics of accreditation and certification as well as its elaboration and the training courses are commonly prepared by Germany, Austria and Switzerland (D-A-CH).

By the training of national "multipliers" the Middle and Eastern European countries shall be brought into the position to disseminate the knowledge about accreditation and certification by means of own training courses.

First experience about that could be gained during training courses held in Slovakia, Poland and Belorussia.

Besides these courses within the frame of the AMOS project also other measures on qualification are performed as e.g. extended special seminars, audits, model accreditations and the continuous exchange of experience.

The financial support is essentially made by the Deutsche Ausgleichsbank, subsidised by the German Federal Ministry of Economy (BMWi). The concept, organisation and coordination of the whole project are made by a "Project Group Eastern Europe" of BAM. As far as possible, the performance of the project is based on persons and laboratories from the sphere of the DAR, SAS (Swiss Accreditation System) and the Austrian accreditation system as well as on the Working Group "Eastern Europe" (ARGEost, for the time being DAP and TGA).

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