

ILAC - constituted as a new organisation



The 14th International Conference for the accreditation of laboratories - ILAC 96 - took place in Amsterdam from 9 to 13 September 1996. The **International Laboratory Accreditation Conference** was renamed in **International**

Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation.

The organisation, which until now was open to all interested participants from accreditation bodies and laboratories and essentially supported the mutual exchange of experience, shall - as the participants intended - definitely contribute to a harmonisation of the criteria for the laboratories' competence and of the procedures of the accreditation bodies as well as to a worldwide mutual recognition of accreditations and testing.

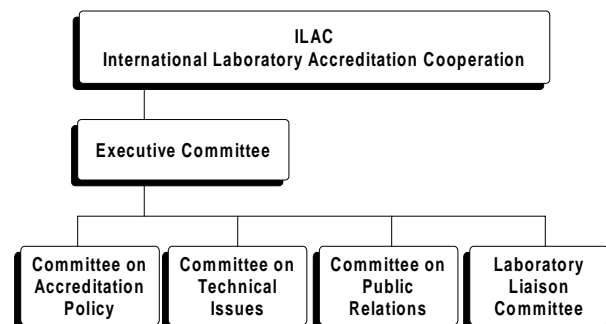
44 national accreditation systems, among them Germany represented by the DAR, signed a Memorandum of Understanding, which shall facilitate a more formal and strict way of working.

The nature of the laboratories' membership has been discussed (e.g. observers or full members). A solution will be soon prepared.

An Executive Committee has been elected and four Committees have been established:

- Committee on Accreditation Policy
- Committee on Technical Issues
- Committee on Public Relations
- Laboratory Liaison Committee.

The new organisational chart is as follows:



DAR representatives will cooperate in all four Committees. It has been agreed to cooperate with ISO/IEC intensively and to contribute to standardisation. Effective forms of cooperation with IAF (International Accreditation Forum), with the accreditation bodies for certification bodies, shall be found as well. For the time being an ILAC-Directory and the following publications are available:

- ILAC - G2: Traceability of Measurements
- ILAC - G3: Guidelines for Training Courses for Assessors
- ILAC - G4: Guidelines on Scopes of Accreditation
- ILAC - G5: Calibration and Maintenance of Test and Measuring Equipment
- ILAC - G6: Guidance under ISO/IEC Guide 25 for Laboratories Performing Sampling
- ILAC - I1: Legal Liability in Testing
- ILAC - I2: Testing, Quality Assurance, Certification and Accreditation
- ILAC Handbook and Directory

The new organisation ILAC set itself the goal to make the accreditations more comparable and to promote quality in testing - e. g. by organising interlaboratory comparison tests between the laboratories, improving the use of reference materials etc. - by using equivalent standards and accreditation criteria in all accreditation systems around the world.

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News from international organisations

EAL/EAC Joint Inspection Group

After the EN 45004 came into force, the accreditation of inspection bodies is applied throughout Europe. Until now in Germany there are no accredited inspection bodies, but some applications for accreditation have been made. In Germany accreditations of inspection bodies are preferably carried out according to EN 45001 or 45011, if the bodies can be assigned thereto.

Inspection means the examination of products, equipment or services to find out their compliance with relevant requirements. Inspection includes reporting about examination results to the client or to supervisory authorities.

The responsibility for inspection lies within the inspection body operating on the basis of the EN 45004 (in force since June 1995). According to the degree of independence of the inspection bodies three types are distinguished: A, B and C (A - third party; B - separate and identifiable part of the organisation dealing with manufacturing, marketing, application, operation, maintenance of the item being inspected; C - deals with the activities named under B and supplies inspection services to third parties, if required). Despite of the task of the inspection bodies to inspect products and installations in use, there are the following differences between inspection (EN 45004) and product certification:

| Activity | Product certification | Inspection (only in-service-inspection) |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Kind of activity | Certification of product series; always by third parties (indirect ascertainment with regard to compliance) | Inspection of individual products; not necessarily by a third party (direct ascertainment with regard to compliance) |
| Issue of approvals | Certificates or approvals can be withdrawn. | Approvals are not issued. |
| Marking of products | The mark may be given to a certified product with approval. | Mark only on inspected product |
| Surveillance | generally necessary | as required |

Starting from previous experiences gained in accrediting testing laboratories, certification and inspection bodies, a joint EAL/EAC Working Group (JIG - Joint Inspection Group) has elaborated a guideline for the application of the EN 45004 by accreditation bodies, which is now available as a draft in German (drawn up by DAP). For the time being there are still discussions on international level, which requirements shall be put upon the accreditation bodies. The DAR Committee ATF is of the opinion that a new standard is not necessary, as the requirements are covered by the EN 45003 and 45010 standards.

News from the DAR

DAR Internet Home Page



For information to all our interested readers: We are pleased to inform you that the DAR Secretariat prepared a **Home Page** about the **DAR** and the **German accreditation system**, which can be retrieved from now onwards and is updated and extended regularly. Furthermore it is planned to offer in this Home Page the last two editions of each of the DAR Newsletters "DAR-aktuell". Please feel free to inform your clients or partners that the DAR Home Page address is:

<http://www.bam.de/dar/darhome.html>

New DAR accreditation bodies

As a consequence of the implementation of the EC-Directives two new accreditation bodies have been established: the "Akkreditierungsstelle der Länder für Meß- und Prüfstellen zum Vollzug des Gefahrstoffrechts" (Accreditation body of the States for Testing Laboratories which Execute the Hazardous Substances Law, AKMP) and the "(Koordinierungsstelle der Länder 'Meßgeräte'" (Coordination Body of the Federal States 'Measuring Instruments' of the Metrology and Verification Authorities of the Federal States, KL-MESS). Both accreditation bodies are active in the mandatory area.

AKMP and KL-MESS are represented in the German Accreditation Council and use the Rules of the DAR.

AKMP

AKMP operates on the basis of the Agreement on the "Zentralstelle der Länder für Sicherheitstechnik" (Central Body of the Länders for Safety) and the "Koordinierungsstelle der Länder für Meß- und Prüfstellen zum Vollzug des Gefahrstoffrechts" (Coordination Body of the Federal States "Measuring Instruments" of the Metrology and Verification Authorities of the Federal States) the so-called "international treaty". At present AKMP is operating in the following working areas:

- Accreditation and surveillance of testing laboratories, which undertake investigations, tests and assessments of airborne concentrations of hazardous substances at workplaces
- Accreditation of testing laboratories, which carry out tests of equipment on the test stand and/or as field trial with regard to wood dust

Office: Ludwig-Mond-Str. 43, D-34121 Kassel, Germany, (0049-561-2000 106/105, Fax: 0049-561-2851 98.

KL-MESS

is a joint administrative body of the German Federal States, i. e. it works for each of the Federal States in which the testing laboratories being accredited have their offices. KL-MESS performs accreditations according to the DIN EN 45000 standards series of testing laboratories for measuring instruments considering legal requirements, technical standards and rules in the area of metrology and verification.

Office: c/o Landesamt für Meß- und Eichwesen Thüringen, Unterpörlitzer Str. 2, D-98693 Ilmenau, Germany, (0049-3677-842784, Fax: 0049-3677-62925.

About the work of the Committee ATF

On its 20th meeting (held on 24.04.1966) the DAR has recommended two essential documents - elaborated by the DAR Committee Technical Questions (ATF) - to be

on trial by the DAR accreditation bodies and assessors for a period of one year.

1. Validation in testing (ATF/27/96)

This guideline has been elaborated in cooperation with the national accreditation bodies of Switzerland and Austria and represents the common understanding of the term "validation of test methods". It indicates those steps leading to a validation. It is intended to be applied by laboratories and assessors of the accreditation system. The "characterisation of the method" as a partial step defines the key parameters of the procedure. The guideline distinguishes between five specific processes for this characterisation:

- systematic investigation/determination of the influence factors,
- calibration,
- comparison with another test method,
- use of results from interlaboratory comparisons,
- estimation of the uncertainty of results.

2. Accreditation for types of testing (ATF/14/96)

This document primarily serves as a German implementation of the European documents EAL-G9 and EAL-G14. The concept of accreditation for types of testing shall enable the laboratory to modify a test procedure with regard to updating, adaptation to new test objects or devices, adaptation to customer wishes or further development, without having obtained before the approval from the accreditation body in each case. The DAR suggests to the accreditation bodies and assessors to use this document in practice and to submit and discuss results during the next revision.

Brochures No. 5 / 6 available now

After a longer preparation time the brochures No. 5 (German version) and No. 6 (English version) about the description of accreditation systems from Europe, Asia, America, Australia and Africa are now available. They offer a good basis to acquire knowledge about the respective accreditation systems and to find contacts in other countries. Purchase is to be made via Wirtschaftsverlag Bremerhaven, Verlag für Neue Wissenschaft GmbH, PF 10 11 10, 27511 Bremerhaven, (0049-471-94544-0, Fax: 0049-471-945 4477.

First joint accreditations DAP with A2LA (USA)

The Department of Laboratory Sciences (DLS), which is the responsible department for instrumental analytics of the Centre for Health and Preventory Medicine of the US Army in Europe, has been accredited according to ISO Guide 25 and EN 45001 by the Deutsches Akkreditierungssystem Prüfwesen (DAP) and the

American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA), after having been jointly assessed by these two bodies. Technical assessors were exchanged and the accreditation criteria compared. This is a great

contribution to a harmonisation of accreditation between Europe and the United States of America.

News from standardisation

The following ISO/IEC Guides have been endorsed:

- 61 „General requirements for assessment and accreditation of certification/registration bodies“
- 62 „General requirements for bodies operating assessment and certification/registration of quality systems“
- 65 „General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems“.

For the time being the European standards EN 45010 "General requirements for assessment and accreditation of certification/registration bodies", EN 45012 "General requirements for bodies operating assessment and certification/registration of quality systems" and EN 45011 "General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems", which are identical in wording, are in discussion. The revision of ISO/IEC Guide 25 led to a first official draft, which ISO/CASCO distributed for comments to the national standardisation bodies.

Events:

In 1997, following the two-day meeting regarding the exchange of experience of tutors (DAR-ABT on 3./4. 2.1997) two one-day meetings each of the DAR and EUROLAB (5.2.1997) and of EUROLAB-D and BAM (6.2.1997) will be held in Berlin on the following topics:

Seminar DAR - EUROLAB (under participation of VMPA, EURACHEM): "Technical requirements for quality management and accreditation of testing laboratories" as information about new trends in accreditation and quality assurance in laboratories.

Workshop EUROLAB-D - BAM: "Uncertainty of results in testing"

Further information on the program and possibilities of participation may be requested at the DAR Secretariat ((0049-30-8104-3713) or the EUROLAB-D Secretariat ((0049-30-8104-3769)

Improvement of assessor training by exchange of experience between tutors

In March 1996 tutors from the accreditation bodies from the D-A-CH countries (Germany, Austria, Switzerland) met for the third time in order to exchange experiences in training assessors for accreditation. (Guests: Slovakia, Slovenia, Poland and Iran). The concept of a joint training programme of the D-A-CH countries, the so-called framework programme to train assessors in the German speaking area, is part of the respective accreditation systems (published in the DAR Brochure No. 9, 1993).

The exchange of experience serves to bring the assessor training courses carried out decentralised on a uniform level. International tendencies, discussions and resolutions of EAL and EAC are imparted to the tutors, uniform written documents are given to them as an information. Therewith the international requirements for a uniform qualification and training of assessors are taken into account.

The assessors are those persons, who need to ensure in practice the keeping and implementation of uniform rules for accreditation procedures. As the accreditation bodies take responsibility for the qualification of their assessors, they must make sure that all their active assessors have an updated state of knowledge. The information flow from the D-A-CH exchange of experience among the tutors is much more important. The assessors receive all necessary information and documents via the tutors.

The DAR Committee "Assessor Training" (ABT) dealt with these suggestions every time, whenever an exchange of experience of tutors took place. After discussions within the ABT the new proposals were passed on to the DAR and partly included in the DAR accreditation system.

The exchange of experience of the tutors gave new impulses for the training programme as well as for an improvement and extension of the assessment techniques.

The ABT was asked to elaborate additional criteria for the assessors of certification bodies, to draw up uniform files for the individual training blocks, to agree upon the introduction of a uniform qualification pass for assessors. The results are submitted to the DAR.

Imprint:

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