

The fifth DAR Tutors' Exchange of Experience

The fifth "Tutors' Exchange of Experience", aiming at preparing training courses for assessors and elaborating uniform information materials and fundamental documents to be used in assessor training courses, has more and more developed into one of the most important events dedicated to the exchange of information and experience among accreditation bodies operating under the aegis of DAR. Meanwhile it is the most important event for the DAR accreditation bodies and is intensively used as a discussion forum for accreditation criteria, approach in accreditation or assessment, interpretation of standards as well as new trends.

This year's "Tutors' Exchange of Experience", which took place from 5 to 6 March, was very well-received by participants with 36 from the DAR and the German-speaking countries Austria and Switzerland and 10 from Eastern European countries. Views expressed by participants of the last year's "Tutors' Exchange of Experience" determined the central topic of this year's event - *accreditation of inspection and certification bodies*. Further discussions were focussed on current international developments (EA, IAF, ILAC) and special experience gained in training assessors and in accreditation practice.

Outcomes of the "Tutors' Exchange of Experience" are:

- Proposals on the maintenance of the assessors' qualification level: It was shown with some examples, how assessors can be valuated according to the requirements set out in the EN 45003 standard.

- Introduction of international interpretation documents on the accreditation of certification bodies released to date: With the example of the *Association for Accreditation* (TGA) it was demonstrated, which technical knowledge on and qualification in the activities of the certification bodies assessors must have and how they can be checked in cooperation with the Sectoral Committees. With the example of the Law on Medical Products, the *Central Body of the Laender for Health Protection with regard to Medical Devices* (ZLG) introduced specific requirements for certification bodies in the mandatory area. The requirements for the impartiality both of the certification body and the assessor (eg no consulting activities through the assessor or his employer) were particularly discussed again.
- On accreditation of inspection bodies reference was made to the DAR recommendation paper DAR-EM12 (*Framework Programme to Train Assessors in Accreditation Related Procedures*), which describes how to use the existing types of accreditation provided by an accreditation body for the additional accreditation as inspection body. Feasibilities were discussed how to estimate the technical competence of assessors, who shall have the same qualification and experience like the inspection body's staff.
- Technical results in accreditation were discussed, thereby informing about results and outputs both of the DAR Committee ATF (Committee for Technical Issues) and of international organisations. Furthermore, the ILAC document ILAC-G10:1996 "*Harmonised Procedures for Surveillance and Reassessment of Accredited Laboratories*" (see also page 3) was introduced as well as important documents released by the DAR-ATF on "*Recommendations on the Accreditation for Types of Testing*" and "*Accreditation of Laboratories with Several Sites*". The ATF ad hoc group "Proficiency Testing" made proposals, how accreditation body and assessor can handle the results gained in interlaboratory comparisons. The German Calibration Service (DKD) spoke about the expression of the uncertainty of measurements and emphasised that according to the requirements of the ATF recommendation paper DAR-EM22 (*Uncertainty of Results in Testing*) and the new ISO Standard 17025 testing laboratories should be able to determine the

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measurement uncertainties of all performed measurements.

- Practical experience was exchanged among the accreditation bodies on the following subjects:
 - * Examples of subcontracting (also in the mandatory area);
 - * Inclusion of borrowed third-party equipment and external services by accredited bodies;
 - * Payment of the assessor and arrangements on the contract made between accreditation body and assessor.

- To enable a smooth and effective exchange of information, the DAR Secretariat will extend its services by providing more information on INTERNET and on a DAR INTRANET currently being established.

Full details on the fifth "Tutors' Exchange of Experience" are available on request by the DAR Secretariat.

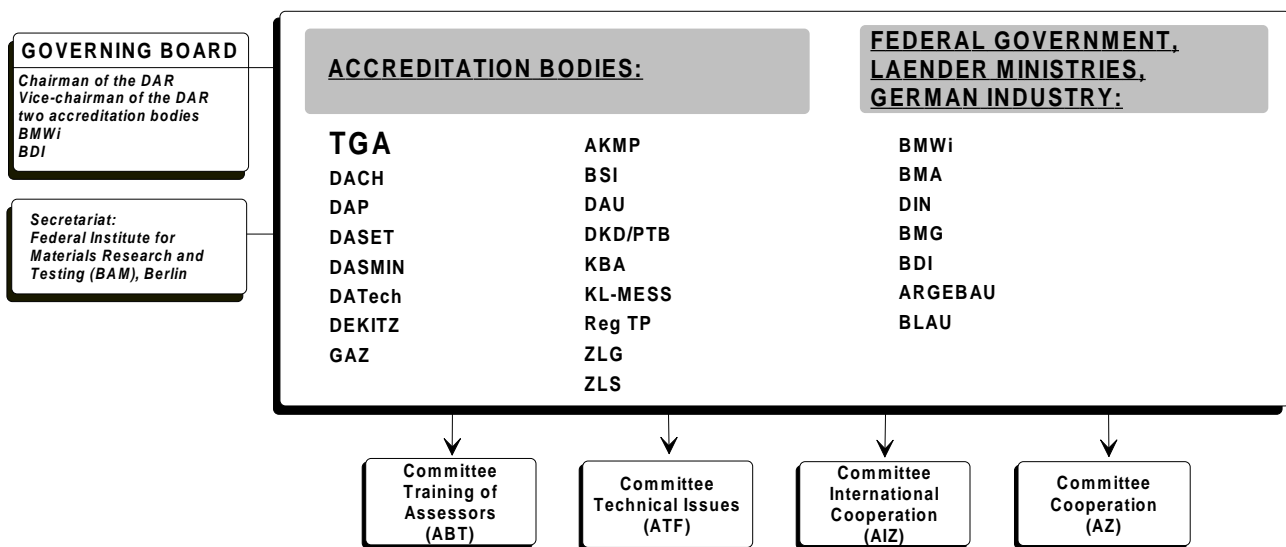
DAR-Secretariat, BAM-S.42

News from the DAR

In issue no. 1/98 of DAR-aktuell, we provided information about the DAR Rules of Procedure amended with regard to membership and organisation, and in this

issue we introduce the resulting new organisational chart:

DAR - GERMAN ACCREDITATION COUNCIL



The following **new members** were admitted to the DAR:

- * **The German Association for Accreditation and Recognition of Environmental Auditors (DAU GmbH)**, which has its seat in Bonn;

In issue no. 1/96 of DAR-aktuell, we reported in detail about the DAU GmbH. To recognise environmental auditors, the DAU applies a procedure accepted by the European Union. In the decision of the Commission of the European Community (CEC) of 16 April 1997 on the recognition of certification procedures according to Article 12 of the EC Council Regulation 1836/93/EEC of 22 June 1993 on the *Voluntary Participation by Companies in the Industrial Sector in the Community Eco-*

Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS Regulation), the Commission laid down that it recognises both the EAC-Guidelines on accreditation and the Guidelines for the accreditation of certification bodies for environmental management systems and respective certification bodies of the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservancy and Reactor Safety (BMU).

- * **The Confederation of German Industry (BDI)**, which has its seat in Cologne.

The BDI has expressed its interest in actively cooperating within the DAR, thus helping to make accreditation a benefit for the industry, to harmonise positions within the DAR and to jointly represent them at international scale.

S. Stobbe, BAM-S.42

BAM INFORMATION SYSTEM IRIS INTRODUCED ON INTERLABORATORY COMPARISONS

On request of the DAR, the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM) has been given the task of establishing an information system on interlaboratory comparisons in testing in the German-speaking area. After 18 months of intensive development work this information system - called IRIS - is now accessible on INTERNET under the following address: http://www.bam.de/a_s/iris IRIS will be a subject of further discussion in issue no. 3/98 of DAR-aktuell.

N. Presser, BAM-S.42

Implementation of the Regulation on the Disposal of Used Cars

In issue no. 3/97 of DAR-aktuell, we provided details on the "Regulation and Surrender of the Ecologically Friendly Disposal of Used Cars", being in force since 1 April 1998.

§5 of this Regulation says: "Certificates according to §4 Para. 2 Cl. 1 may be issued only by those persons, who are officially authorised according to §36 of the Trade Regulation Act or whose qualifications are established by a member of the German Accreditation Council in a commonly recognised procedure." According to this Regulation, firms utilising used cars must be certified by a DAR member in a commonly recognised procedure or approved by experts, who are authorised according to §36 of the Trade Regulation Act. The German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservancy and Reactor Safety (BMU) is currently preparing a recommendation paper on the "Regulation on Disposal of Used Cars".

The DAR stated that its members who will be acting in the sense of the abovementioned Regulation may be either accreditation bodies for quality system certification or for certification of personnel (presently TGA) or accreditation bodies for inspection bodies as expert organisations (presently DAP) or the DAU.

Corresponding recognised procedures are the following standards: EN 45004, EN 45012, EN 45013. A further recognised procedure is that for approval of environmental auditors applied by the DAU GmbH.

The following DAR members acting in the sense of abovementioned Regulation are therefore notified to the BMU:

- TGA for the accreditation of certification bodies for personnel according to the EN 45013 standard and for the accreditation of expert organisations according to the EN 45012 standard;
- DAU for the accreditation/approval of experts according to the Regulation on Environmental Audits;
- DAP for the accreditation of expert organisations according to the EN 45004 standard.

DAR-Secretariat, BAM-S.42

ILAC-G10

"Harmonised Procedures for Surveillance and Reassessment of Accredited Laboratories"

The ILAC document ILAC-G10 "Harmonised Procedures for Surveillance and Reassessment of Accredited Laboratories" has been translated into German language by the DAR Secretariat and is recommended to be applied by the accreditation bodies. It is part of the DAR Handbook and can be downloaded off the DAR website on INTERNET accessible under: <http://www.dar.bam.de>. (Please select the German language and go through: •Stichworte, •Stichworte zum DAR, •DAR-Handbuch, •Systemhandbuch des DAR, •8. Anlagen-Verzeichnis, •Empfehlungen des DAR, •Allgemeine Empfehlungen, •DAR-EM26).

S. Stobbe, BAM-S.42

News from international organisations

News from EA-C1 (EA Committee on Multilateral Agreements)

Proposals for new entries into the EA-MLA are:

- ∅ for Environmental Management Systems (EMS):
 - * TGA (Germany),
 - * NA (Norway),
 - * FINAS (Finland)
 - * BMwA (Austria).

Further proposals for new entries into the EA-MLA:

- ∅ DACH (Germany) for the accreditation of testing laboratories;
- ∅ CAI (Czech Republic) for the accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories;

- ∅ BMwA (Austria) for the accreditation of calibration laboratories.

After having been successfully re-evaluated, the following accreditation systems remain signatories to the EA-MLA:

- ∅ DKD (Germany) for the accreditation of calibration laboratories;
- ∅ NAB (Ireland) for the accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories;
- ∅ DANAK (Denmark) for the accreditation of testing and calibration laboratories and certification bodies.

SANCLAS (South Africa) remains a bilateral member of the EA-MLA.

S. Stobbe, BAM-S.42

News from standardisation

ISO Workshop on "Mutual Recognition Agreement" (MRA)

ISO conducted a Workshop held in Geneva on 7 May 1998. Noteworthy from this Workshop are the plans to develop a common understanding on MRAs and on effects such an MRA can produce to international trade. The Workshop was attended by about 140 participants, mainly from standardisation organisations, accreditation / certification / testing and inspection bodies, industry, trade and the Authorities. Discussions

were focussed on the need for an ISO Guide on MRAs and on necessary tasks to be solved therefor by ISO/CASCO. Hence ISO/CASCO deduced the necessity to draw up a Guide describing all types of MRAs.

However, not all questions could be clarified on this Workshop. In some countries opinions are still prevailing that an MRA could eliminate all technical barriers to trade.

M. Wloka, BAM-S.42

ISO/CASCO

On the last ISO General Assembly held in 1997 it was decided that the ISO Committee for Conformity Assessment (CASCO) cannot only draw up Guides, but also standards. This means that international rules on conformity assessment will have a higher grade of obligingness.

The following table shows ISO/CASCO's scheduling on selected ISO Guides and future standards.

Planned standards	Title	Completion planned for	Notes
ISO/IEC Guide 66	General requirements for bodies operating assessment and certification/registration of environmental management systems (EMS)	12/1998	Continuing and adapting ISO/IEC Guide 62
ISO/IEC Guide 67	Fundamentals of product certification - Description of various types commonly in use	04/2000	-
ISO 17000	Conformity assessment - General vocabulary	06/2001	Revision ISO Guide 2
ISO/TR 17010	General requirements for bodies providing accreditation of inspection bodies	10/1998	Technical Report on accreditation of inspection bodies following the EAC-EAL documents
ISO 17020	General criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection	01/1999	Revision Guide 39 following the EN 45004 standard
ISO 17024	General criteria for certification bodies operating certification of personnel	-	Revision EN 45013 as international standard
ISO 17025	General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories	10/1999	Revision EN 45001 and ISO Guide 25
ISO 17030	Marks of conformity assessment and their use	08/2000	New standard

M. Wloka, BAM-S.42

Third AMOS Days for Exchange of Experience held in Bratislava

The Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing (BAM) invited all MOE partners (partners of the Middle and Eastern European countries) involved in the AMOS project to attend the 3rd AMOS Information Days held in Bratislava, Slovakia, in April 1998. These Days were designed to show progress reached during the last three years in the AMOS project in adapting the accreditation systems of Middle and Eastern Europe to the West European standards and requirements and to exchange experience gained in practice. These Information Days provided important opportunity to discuss other topics of common interest, such as notification and interlaboratory comparisons. It turned out that in recent years many MOE partners reached considerable progress in establishing their systems. It is therefore no wonder that the Czech accreditation body CAI has been evaluated successfully and becomes a member of the EA-MLA both for testing and calibration. Other countries as Slovenia, the Baltic countries or Romania, are in the pending application stage for an associated membership in EA.

As the date of the Exchange of Experience coincides with the formal completion of the AMOS project (started in 1995), these Information Days served as a final event. However, due to a delayed project start in Romania and Slovakia the AMOS project will be completed in 6/98 and 12/98 respectively.

The Information Days showed that both the MOE partners and the German representatives reached consensus in continuing the classic AMOS project in the form of well-aimed follow-up measures, in order to ensure its lasting and to provide further consultancies to the MOE partners in future, too. The next two months will show, how and to which extent the AMOS project will be continued.

The GUS states (Commonwealth of Independent States) Russia, Kasachstan and Kirgistan will be supported within the frame of AMOS till 12/99 in harmonising their accreditation and certification systems.

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