

MEAP Newsletter

Issue 2

December 2017

Alofa, aso lelei

Welcome to the final issue of the MEAP newsletter before 2018! I hope you enjoy it and also have a lovely summer break.



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Specific Criteria (Metrology) ed. 6 out now

Edition 6 of the Specific Criteria for Metrology and Calibration Laboratories has been published on [our website](#). (The link said edition 5 at the time of publishing but I've asked for it be fixed!). Changes include updates to guidance and requirements for calculating and reporting uncertainties, a clearer (I hope) description of a CMC and a section regarding spectrophotometer calibration. Changes, as usual, are outlined in the table near the front of the document. Accredited calibration laboratories are expected to read, understand and apply as necessary the material in Specific Criteria 5. Please ask us if you have any questions or comments.



Update on ISO 17025 draft

We are awaiting the publication of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 any day soon (previously

announced as end-November or beginning-December). IANZ then has a 60-day comment period, followed by a vote, to adopt the ISO 17025 as a NZ standard. Once the ISO standard is adopted as a NZ standard, IANZ will finalise negotiations on how the standard will be published. I asked that electronic publication be considered since a lot of you have told me that would be preferable to having it printed in hard copy only. I am happy to report that the powers that be have been able to discuss this and we are expecting that the NZS ISO/IEC version will be available to you electronically free of charge (limited copies, though!). Interestingly, apparently in other countries this is not a normal thing and it is expected that labs will pay for the standard themselves. So we are lucky in NZ ☺

Time-frames for compliance with the standard are yet to be formally announced by IANZ but it looks like there will be a three-year cross-over period i.e. at the end of three-years all labs will need to be fully compliant and we will start assessing to the 2017 version alone.

Confounding this issue is the imminent publication of ISO/IEC 17011:2017 – read more below.

ISO/IEC 17011:2017

The above standard, *Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies*, is the one



that IANZ is accredited to – along with many other accreditation bodies (ABs) around the world. (We are assessed by teams of peers assigned by APLAC). A new version of the standard has been in development pretty much alongside ISO/IEC 17025 and is expected to be published around the same time. There are some interesting differences which we have discussed internally which may lead to some improvements to the way

that assessments are carried out. Watch this space!

In a nutshell: APLAC, ILAC and ILAC-MRA

APLAC, Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, is a cooperation of accreditation bodies in the Asia Pacific region that accredit laboratories, inspection bodies and reference material producers. APLAC is an ILAC-recognised region. You will probably also recognise the term ILAC, International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation, since a lot of IANZ-accredited laboratories use the ILAC-MRA/IANZ joint endorsement symbol on test and calibration reports. The MRA is Mutual Recognition Arrangement and basically the means by which a user can establish equivalence between signatories (to the MRA). For example, internationally, the MRA sets up that IANZ-endorsed reports are equivalent to NVLAP-endorsed reports (National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program [USA]) since both ABs are signatories to the ILAC-MRA. This has an important practical meaning: if you're wondering if your equipment calibration certificate will be accepted as metrologically traceable by IANZ, [you can check to see](#) if the endorsement symbol on the certificate is that of a signatory to the MRA! Confused? Ask me questions if you wish!



MSL technical guides

Don't forget to check out the [technical guides](#) on the MSL website. Many of the technical guides have been adopted as best practice by IANZ and are mentioned on calibration laboratory scopes. There are also good guides in there for quality control and intermediate checking, with plenty of background information on measurement technologies, sources of error etc.

PT update + ideas

The IANZ measurement audit 172 is being carried out at the moment. We are halfway through, with twelve labs due to participate. If

you would like to request a particular type of measurement audit, please let me know, though scheduling may be limited by technical help available and my calendar.

MSA free membership

Until the end of the year the MSA is offering free 12 months of Associate Membership for any non-members that attended the MSA2017 conference. This is a great opportunity to join the MSA and keep updated on developments in measurement science via our newsletters, gain access to the members-only sections of the MSA discussion forums and more. To take up the offer please visit the "[Join the MSA](#)" section of the website by the 31st of December 2017 and follow the links to complete the registration. We will automatically cross-check new applicants names with the MSA2017 registrants list.

Fun Bits and Internet Stuff

- With all the electronic goods you can buy online these days, it pays to remind yourself of the relevant safety checks: [see the Energy Safety website](#);
- The Million-Pound deadweight machine and [one of its most important applications](#);
- And a video of the machine in action on one of my favourite YouTube channels (click below)!



Tofa!

