

APLAC is an organization of Laboratory Accreditation bodies in the Asia Pacific area that have expressed a desire to cooperate in fostering the development of competent laboratories in member economies.

Cooperation is to include;

- Exchange of information
- Joint training programs
- Proficiency testing
- Harmonisation of requirements
- Mutual recognition of systems meeting harmonized requirements

APLAC NEWS NOTES is published six times a year to facilitate the exchange of information among members and interested parties. It is not copyrighted and may be reproduced in full. Excerpts should reference APLAC News Notes specifically. Wide copying and distribution are encouraged.

APLAC also maintains an Internet site at:

[WWW.aplac.org](http://WWW.aplac.org).

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The next issue will be published in **October 2003** by **CNLA**.

## ■ News from CNAL

CNAL was established on July 4, 2002, by incorporating China National Accreditation Committee for Laboratories (CNACL) and China Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Laboratory Accreditation Committee (CCIBLAC).

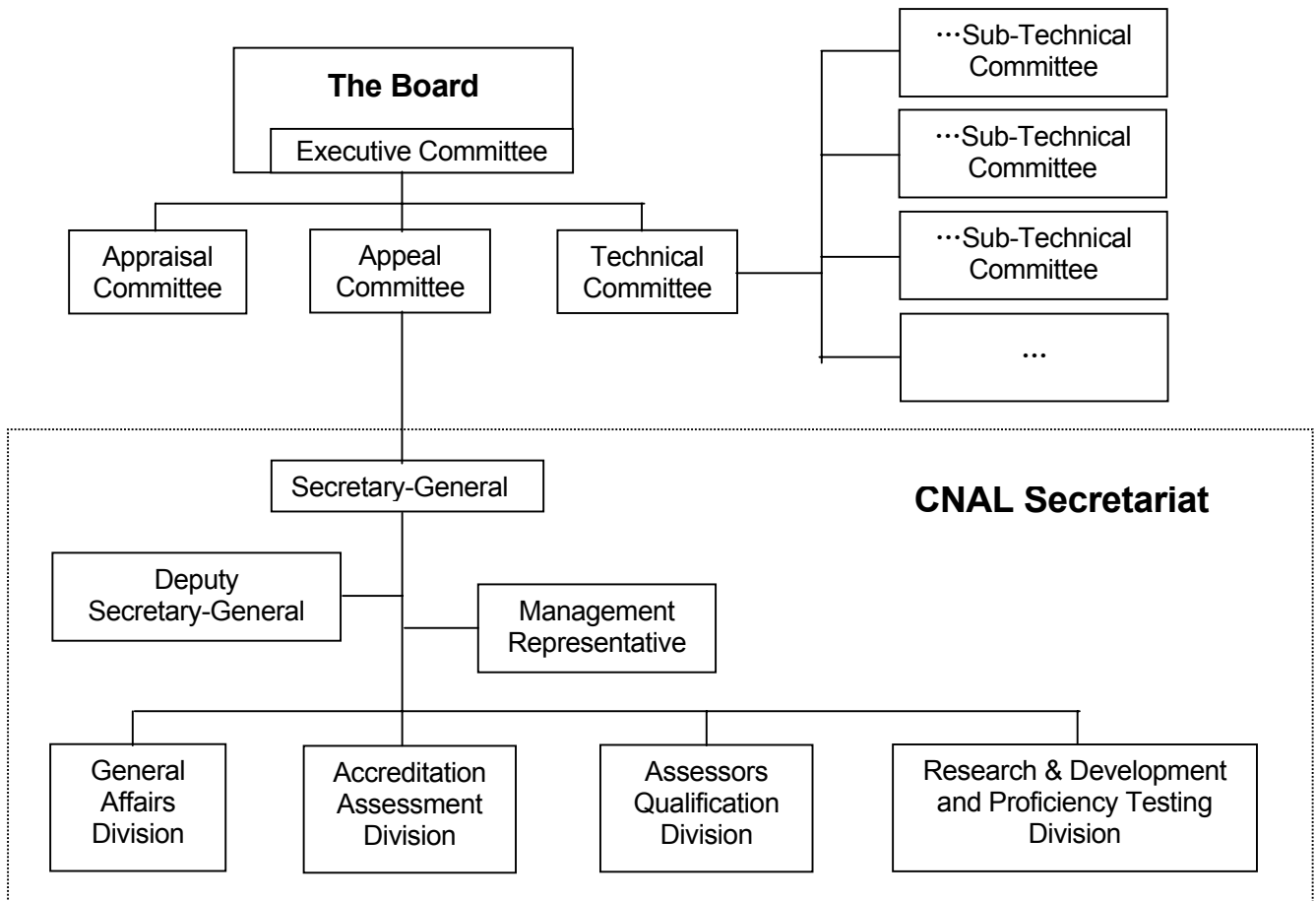
CNACL was a national accreditation organization for laboratories established by the former China State Bureau of Technical Supervision in 1994, in accordance with Law of the People's Republic of China on Product Quality, Standardization Law of the People's Republic of China, Law on Metrology of the People's Republic of China, Regulations on Product Quality Certification of the People's Republic of China, and relative requirements.

CCIBLAC was a national laboratory accreditation organization established by the former State Bureau for Import-export Commodities Inspection in 1996, in accordance with the Law of the People's Republic of China on Import-Export Commodity Inspection, Implementation Regulations of the Law of the People's Republic of China on Import-Export Commodities Inspection and other relative requirements. It dealt with competence qualification accreditation for inspection bodies and laboratories in the fields of import-export inspection and quarantine. Its former name was the China Import-Export Commodities Inspection Laboratory Accreditation Committee. Being reorganized in 2000, its name was changed into the China Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine Laboratory Accreditation Committee.

China National Accreditation Board for Laboratories (hereinafter referred to as CNAL) is a national accreditation organization in responsible of accreditation and other relative activities. It was established and authorized by the Certification and Accreditation Administration of the People's Republic of China under following laws: Law of the People's Republic of China on Product Quality, Standardization Law of the People's Republic of China, Law on Metrology of the People's Republic of China, Law of the People's Republic of China on Import and Export Commodity Inspection, Law of the People's Republic of China on Import and Export Animal and Plant Quarantine, Law of the People's Republic of China on Food Hygiene, Law of the People's Republic of China on Boarder Hygiene Quarantine, Regulations on Product Quality Certification of the People's Republic of China and Administrative Regulations on the Accreditation Bodies.

The CNAL Secretariat is set up in the China National Accreditation Center of Conformity Assessment. It is also called the Laboratory Accreditation Department of China National Accreditation Center of Conformity Assessment. The center provides CNAL with legal supports while CNAL is carrying out accreditation activities.

CNAL is composed of management committee (with executive committee in it), special committees and Secretariat. The management committee is composed of representatives from governmental departments relevant to laboratory and inspection body accreditation, laboratories and inspection bodies and their clients, and technical experts.



**Medical Testing at IANZ**

IANZ has accredited a medical laboratory to ISO 15189, the first laboratory in the world to be accredited to the new standard since the standard was published. The assessment took place over the period 1-4 April while an APLAC MRA evaluation team was present. All IANZ medical laboratories will be expected to comply with ISO 15189 by March 2005.

**APLAC needs your help with a “Good News Story”?**

APLAC is always looking for “good news stories”. A “good news story” is a story that gives an example of the benefits of accreditation, from any point of view. These stories are about how accreditation has helped somebody. A “good news story” may concern a laboratory that won a (testing) contract because they were accredited, or a manufacturer gaining international acceptance of their product because of the MRA, or an importer or exporter meeting (mandatory or voluntary) requirements.

APLAC is looking again at identifying “good news stories” and would be grateful if you could provide any stories that come to mind. At your next staff meeting, perhaps you can request your staff to think of things they have heard over the last few months that would qualify as a “good news story”. Please send your stories to Ian Roy, Chair of the APLAC Public Information Committee: [iroy@ianz.govt.nz](mailto:iroy@ianz.govt.nz)

**Uncertainty Measurement Training With IANZ**

IANZ conducts Uncertainty Measurement training courses in New Zealand as well as for their APLAC colleagues overseas. The course closely follows the recently published APLAC guideline (APLAC TC005).

The first day of the course focuses on the various elements of 17025 that are linked to uncertainty measurement and describes the various processes.

The second day takes course participants step by step through practical exercises, from contract review to final uncertainty estimates, decisions about compliance and limits of detection. Course participants enter data in to an excel spreadsheet to estimate uncertainty for microbiological, chemical and physical testing examples.

IANZ also trains assessors and lead assessors for APLAC colleagues around the Asia-Pacific, using the Training Committee’s TR001 document.

**Why accredited laboratories must be encouraged to use their accreditation body logo on test reports.**

Many laboratories use their discretion as to whether they include the accreditation body logo on their test reports, especially as it is often not mandatory. Indeed, some laboratories charge more for their tests if the

logo is to be included on the report. But what happens when an accredited laboratory, for whatever reason, decides not to include the accreditation body logo on a test report, despite the laboratory being accredited to perform the specific tests they have performed? Put another way, "does the laboratory understand what happens if they do not put the accreditation body logo on the test report?"

From an international test report acceptance perspective, the clear message the laboratory is sending is that they are not accredited, or at best, may be accredited, but the tests performed and documented in the test report are not in the laboratory's scope of accreditation.

If an item arrives in a country, and accreditation is the basis of deciding if the item is safe to use (release to the market), decision makers will look for the accreditation body logo. If there is no logo on the test report, the products will either be (a) destroyed, (b) returned to the country from where they came, or (c) have to be retested in an accredited laboratory in the importing country. All these options add significant additional cost to the item. How many products (thousands? millions?) have had this happen because confidence could not be assured by the presence of an accreditation body logo on a test report?

Thousands of decision makers around the world do not make further enquiries in to the acceptability of the test report that is without an accreditation body's logo, and nor do they have to. Decision makers will not make telephone calls, send faxes or emails to laboratories or accreditation bodies in an attempt to confirm whether a test report without an accreditation body's logo is in fact acceptable. They are told to simply look for a logo, and as a consequence, the result will be the aforementioned (a), (b) or (c), to the manifest detriment of all concerned. If "tested once, accepted globally" is to be the true mantra of accreditation, then surely the use of an accreditation body's logo is imperative.

A system has been established to avoid all this and should be utilised to its fullest. It would be interesting to see the reaction of the laboratories customers to this situation!! The customer's exports are being compromised.

The use of an accreditation body's logo on an accredited laboratory's test report is international best practice, and the international acceptance of test reports is one of the primary reasons for the existence of International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), and Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC), as well as European cooperation for Accreditation (EA), and the roles of these organisations in reducing technical barriers to trade under the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement. Indeed, this is the basis of most of the work undertaken by the ILAC Public Affairs Committee, and the APLAC Public Information Committee and the EA Publications and Promotions Committee.

From a manufacturer's or exporter's perspective, they will actively seek an accredited laboratory to make use of the Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRA or MLA) to which an accreditation body is signatory. Indeed, one of the appealing points of difference that becoming an accredited laboratory provides is access to the MRA or MLA, and the benefits it brings a laboratory's customers.

In the case of New Zealand, regulators and buyers expect to see a logo from either IANZ, or one of IANZ's 46 MRA/MLA partners. Buyers working for multinational companies operating in New Zealand are "trained" to look for accreditation body logos (of MLA/MRA signatories) on test reports before they buy, thereby avoiding quality problems or product entry problems later on. They use either an IANZ document ("International Recognition of Accredited Test and Inspection Reports"), or the APLAC equivalent of the same title ("APLAC PR008"), as an accreditation body identification chart. APLAC PR008 is downloadable from the documents section of the APLAC website [www.aplac.org](http://www.aplac.org)

It would be useful to ask ourselves the question, "does the laboratory understand what happens if they do not put the accreditation body logo on the test report?" The answer in many cases is obviously not, as the ever-growing pile of destroyed, rejected or retested products suggests otherwise. It would therefore be of use to explain the importance of using an accreditation body's logo to accredited laboratories, and that by applying the logo, so do they apply an internationally recognised sign of confidence.

### **APLAC Inspection Workshop is to be Held in Beijing**

It was decided in the last APLAC general assembly held in Vancouver that a workshop on Inspection Body accreditation is to be held in China. It was initially scheduled in August 2003, but it was affected by the SARS fear in China and had to be re-scheduled. As China has cleared all the SARS cases by now, it is safe to hold the event at Beijing on 18-20 November immediately after the APLAC meeting in Seoul, Korea.

The objective of the workshop is to exchange the experience of accreditation of Inspection Bodies, to help harmonizing the implementation of ISO/IEC 17010 and 17020 and to help those interested accreditation bodies in developing their accreditation programmes. The topics of the workshop will include:

- Understanding ISO/IEC 17020
- Developing of the ILAC/IAF Guidance to ISO/IEC 17020
- Understanding ISO/IEC 17010
- Determine the competence of an Inspection Body
- Relationship between Regulators and Accreditation Bodies

The workshop is for 3 days and open to all APLAC members. Representatives from other regions are also welcomed. Registrations should be completed no later than September 30.



## APLAC PUBLICATIONS LIST

Most of the following APLAC documents are available from the APLAC web site. They can also be emailed out by the APLAC Secretariat as PDF files.

Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Secretariat, 71 – 73 Flemington Road, North Melbourne, VIC 3051, Australia. Tel: +61 3 9329 1633; fax: +61 3 9326 5148; email: [aplac@nata.asn.au](mailto:aplac@nata.asn.au)

<b>APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement Council</b>		
APLAC MR001	Issue No. 4, 12/02	Procedures for Establishing and Maintaining Mutual Recognition Agreements Between Laboratory Accreditation Bodies
APLAC MR002	11/02	Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) text
APLAC MR003	Issue No. 7, 12/02	Application for Signatory Status in the APLAC Multilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangement (APLAC MRA)
APLAC MR004	Issue No. 1, 05/01	APLAC MRA Council Working Group on Evaluation Performance – Policy and Procedures
<b>APLAC Nominations Committee</b>		
APLAC NC001	Issue No. 2, 12/02	APLAC Nominations Committee and the APLAC Nomination Process
<b>APLAC Proficiency Testing Committee</b>		
APLAC PT001	Issue No. 3, 03/03	APLAC Calibration Interlaboratory Comparisons
APLAC PT002	Issue No. 3, 03/03	APLAC Testing Interlaboratory Comparisons
APLAC PT003	Issue No. 3, 02/03	APLAC Proficiency Testing Directory
APLAC PT004	Issue No. 1, 03/03	APLAC Measurement Audits
<b>APLAC Public Information Committee</b>		
APLAC PR001	Issue No. 1, 01/01	APLAC Publications Numbering Policy
APLAC PR003	Issue No. 2, 02/01	Procedure for Adoption of APLAC Documents
APLAC PR007	Issue No. 4, 12/02	APLAC – Its Role and Structure – PowerPoint Presentation
APLAC PR008	Issue No. 10, 06/03	International Recognition of Accredited Test and Inspection Reports
APLAC PR009	Issue No. 2, 01/03	APLAC Procedures for Editors of <i>APLAC News Notes</i>
<b>APLAC Secretariat</b>		
APLAC SEC001	Issue No. 3, 12/02	APLAC Memorandum of Understanding
APLAC SEC004	Issue No. 4, 12/02	APLAC Rules of Procedure
APLAC SEC009	Issue No. 13, 06/03	APLAC Publications List
APLAC SEC017	Issue No. 7, 06/03	APLAC Application for Membership
APLAC SEC020	Issue No. 25, 06/03	APLAC General Assembly Delegates List

APLAC SEC021	Issue No. 9, 06/03	APLAC Board of Management Membership List
APLAC SEC022	Issue No. 7, 06/03	APLAC Committee Chairs and Secretaries List
APLAC SEC023	Issue No. 24, 06/03	APLAC MRA Council Membership List
APLAC SEC026	Issue No. 7, 06/03	APLAC Nominations Committee Membership List
APLAC SEC027	Issue No. 10, 06/03	APLAC Public Information Committee Membership List
APLAC SEC028	Issue No. 12, 06/03	APLAC Proficiency Testing Committee Membership List
APLAC SEC029	Issue No. 15, 06/03	APLAC Technical Committee Membership List
APLAC SEC030	Issue No. 14, 06/03	APLAC Training Committee Membership List
APLAC SEC035	Issue No. 20, 06/03	APLAC MRA Signatories List
APLAC SEC036	Issue No. 1, 05/01	APLAC Complaints Handling Procedures
APLAC SEC037	Issue No. 1, 02/01	APLAC Document Control and Document Format
APLAC SEC038	Issue No. 7, 12/02	APLAC Membership Summary List
APLAC SEC039	Issue No. 8, 05/03	APLAC MRA Signatories Summary List
APLAC SEC040	Issue No. 2, 06/03	APLAC Procedure for Issuing Invoices for Annual Fees
APLAC SEC041	Issue No. 1, 06/03	APLAC Guidelines for Hosts of the APLAC General Assembly and Associated Meetings (only available from the Secretariat)
APLAC SEC042	Issue No. 1, 12/02	APLAC Code of Ethics for Laboratory and Inspection Body Accreditation Organisations
APLAC SEC043	Issue No. 1, 10/02	APLAC Requirements for APLAC Funding Requests
APLAC SEC044	Issue No. 1, 12/02	APLAC Procedure for Appeals and Alternative Dispute Resolution Process
<b>APLAC Technical Committee</b>		
APLAC TC002	Issue No. 1, 01/01	APLAC Internal Audits for Laboratories
APLAC TC003	Issue No. 1, 01/01	APLAC Management Review for Laboratories
APLAC TC004	Issue No. 1, 09/01	APLAC Method of Stating Test Results and Compliance with Specification
APLAC TC005	Issue No. 1, 03/03	APLAC Interpretation and Guidance on the Estimation of Uncertainty of Measurement in Testing
<b>APLAC Training Committee</b>		
APLAC TR001	Issue No. 1, 12/01	APLAC Guidelines on Training Course for Assessors