

Message from the SCC

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
- Harmonization of requirements
- Mutual recognition of systems meeting harmonized requirements

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APLAC also maintains an Internet site at:
www.aplac.org

Secretariat for APLAC:

National Association of Testing Authorities
(NATA)
71-73 Flemington Road
North Melbourne VIC 3051
Australia
Telephone: +61 3 9329 1633
Fax: +61 3 9326 5148
Email: aplac@nata.asn.au

This issue is published by the
Standards Council of Canada (SCC)
200-270 Albert Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 6N7
Telephone: +1 613 238 3222
Fax: +1 613 569 7808
Email: info@scc.ca
Website: www.scc.ca

The next issue will be published in December 2005 by the China National Accreditation Board for Laboratories (CNABL).

Although it's not yet over, 2005 has already been an exciting year for the Standards Council of Canada (SCC). Celebrating its 35th anniversary, the organization has taken the opportunity to look back at its accomplishments and to map out a determined plan for the future.

The SCC's programs and services have grown significantly since the first product certification body and laboratory accreditations back in the early 1980s. With a satisfied clientele that includes more than 350 accredited laboratories in 10 different program specialty areas, the SCC is proud to know that its accreditation is contributing to the quality and safety of products and services in Canada and around the world.

Canada's commitment to the goal of one standard, one test, accepted everywhere, is reflected through the SCC's active participation within a number of international and regional bodies. This includes APLAC of which the SCC has been a full member since 1996 and an MLA signatory since October 2000.

As we set our sights on another 35 years, we hope to continue working with our partners such as APLAC to advance our shared standardization objectives.

Warmest Regards,



Peter Clark
SCC Executive Director



Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation

October 2005

APLAC News Notes

Issue No. 82

Upcoming Events

November 13-18, 2005

APLAC 11th General Assembly
Chiang Mai, Thailand
www.tisi.go.th/APLAC

August 6 – 11, 2006

IAAC General Assembly
Buenos Aires, Argentina
www.iaac-accreditation.org/English/Meetings.html

September 10-16, 2006

ISO General Assembly
Ottawa, Canada
<http://www.iso2006.ca/>

November 6-14, 2006

ILAC/IAF Joint General Assembly
Cancun, Mexico



About the SCC

The Standards Council of Canada (SCC) is a federal Crown corporation that oversees Canada's National Standards System. It carries out a variety of functions, which are intended to ensure the effective and coordinated operation of standardization in Canada. It also represents Canada's interests in standards-related matters in foreign and international forums.

The SCC's governing Council is appointed by the federal government, and reports to Parliament through the Minister of Industry. It consists of up to 15 members: a Chair, a Vice-Chair, one member from the federal government, one member from the Council's Standards Development Organizations Advisory Committee, two members from the Council's Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee and nine others from the private sector, including non-governmental organizations.

Advisory committees ensure that SCC's governing Council has access to a wide variety of advice, information and viewpoints. In order to ensure that input reflects the diversity of Canadian stakeholders, all committees are required to have a balanced membership matrix that includes representatives from different regions in the country and from varied professional backgrounds.

The Advisory Committee on Conformity Assessment (ACCA) provides guidance and support to the Standards Council's accreditation programs for conformity assessment organizations, and the related national and international guides, standards, programs and activities. The committee's membership includes representatives of regulatory authorities, the federal government, industry, conformity assessment bodies and the Consumer and Public Interest Committee. The Canadian advisory committee to CASCO, ISO's committee on conformity assessment, reports to ACCA.

As Canada's national accreditation body, the SCC accredits both standards development organizations and six types of conformity assessment organizations:

- testing and calibration laboratories
- management systems certification bodies
- personnel certification bodies
- product certification bodies
- inspection bodies
- auditor course providers

The SCC also operates a recognition program for Good Laboratory Practice related to pesticide testing laboratories.

The SCC is also active in a number of organizations that are developing agreements to ensure the international acceptance of conformity assessment results. In addition to its membership in APLAC, the Standards Council participates in the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), the InterAmerican Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC), and the Worldwide System for Conformity Testing and Certification of Electrical Equipment (IECEE).

The SCC's Program for the Accreditation of Laboratories/Canada (PALCAN) is continually working to build its clientele and expand its offerings. It recently updated its program documentation and made improvements to its quality system to ensure compliance with new international requirements. PALCAN has also recently restructured its environmental testing laboratory accreditation program. Several new auditors with environmental experience have been hired to help SCC carry out accreditations based on the relevant standards.

The SCC's Inspection Bodies Accreditation Program, which was launched in late 2004, has accredited nine clients in the area of electrical equipment inspection. The SCC intends to continue to expand this program into other areas, including medical gas piping and home inspection.

What's New at the SCC

SCC celebrates 35 years of standards for a safer nation

The Standards Council of Canada (SCC) commemorated its 35th anniversary with a special event held on World Standards Day, October 14, 2005 in Ottawa.

The event was an opportunity to look back on its achievements and honour the collaborative efforts and partnerships that are at the core of all standardization work.

"For the last 35 years, the SCC has been promoting and supporting the development and use of standards, not only to make Canada a safer place to live, but also a more prosperous one," noted SCC Executive Director, Peter Clark. "Canada's prominence on the world standards scene can't be attributed to the work of any one individual or organization," he added.

"It is thanks to our many partners and the dedication of the many individuals involved in the National Standards System that we have been able to accomplish so much."



No celebration is complete without cake. In addition to sweets, guests at the SCC's 35th anniversary were also served up informational workshops.

Over 150 attendees from among Canada's National Standards System, partners, committee members, accredited clients, as well as consumers and the Canadian public took part in the day's activities. Seven exhibitors, including the Canadian General Standards Board (CGSB), IHS Canada, the Information and Communications Technology Standards Advisory Council of Canada (ISACC), the National Research Council of Canada (NRC), Standards Engineering Society (SES), Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada (ULC), and Ulrich Metrology Inc., contributed to the celebration, bringing their messages of congratulations and support for the years ahead.

A series of workshops enabled participants to learn more about Canadian standardization and engage in discussions with leading experts. The festivities were capped off with coffee, cake and a focus on the future.

Celebrated annually on October 14th, World Standards Day is an opportunity to highlight the importance of standards-related activities. The 2005 theme for World Standards Day, "Standards for a Safer World," emphasizes the role that standardization plays in contributing to a more secure world.

From food safety management systems to anti-locking brakes and airbags in cars to fire and alarm systems, standards help make work, home and transport safer.

Canada hosts training workshop on ISO/IEC 17011

The Standards Council of Canada hosted a training workshop for peer assessors from Asia and the Americas in Ottawa from October 5 to 7, 2005.

The three-day training, which was held at the campus of the National Research Council, attracted 33 participants from Canada, the U.S., Mexico, Brazil, India, Trinidad and Tobago, and Thailand.

The goal of the session was to help peer evaluators to understand ISO/IEC 17011: Conformity assessment – General requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies, and to harmonize interpretation of the different requirements within the new standard.

ISO/IEC 17011 was published on September 1, 2004. It combines the accreditation requirements for testing and calibration laboratories, certification bodies and inspection bodies, which were previously set out in three separate standards.

The agenda for the workshop was a mixture of presentations and group exercises that allowed participants to put the information into practice.



Peer assessors from across Asia and the Americas attended training hosted by the SCC.

SCC Signs Cooperation Agreement with the Standardization Administration of China

On July 7, 2005, the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) signed an Agreement on Cooperation with the Standardization Administration of China (SAC) - paving the way for further collaboration in standardization.

"The agreement sets out a number of significant areas where both organizations have agreed to

work together towards the mutual objective of promoting standardization both within our own countries and internationally,” said Peter Clark, Executive Director for the Standards Council.

"The signing of the agreement will greatly facilitate the cooperation of both countries in standardization, and further promote the development of economics and trade between China and Canada," noted Mr. Li Zhonghai, Administrator for the SAC.

The agreement formally recognizes the significance of working together, exchanging views and engaging in dialogue to facilitate the development and use of standards. It represents a strengthening of Canada's relationship with China and is a means to ensure that the respective standards of each organization do not present any barriers to trade.

The Standardization Administration of China represents China within the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) and other international and regional standardization organizations. SAC approves and organizes the implementation of international cooperation and the exchange of projects on standardization. For additional information, visit <http://www.sac.gov.cn/english/home.asp>.



SCC Executive Director Peter Clark and SAC Administrator Li Zhonghai at the signing.

Canada's Pacific Gateway Strategy earmarks \$10 million for harmonization of standards

As part of efforts to strengthen commerce and improve Canada's ability to expand trade in emerging Asian markets, the Government of Canada announced its Pacific Gateway Strategy in Vancouver, British Columbia on October 21, 2005.

Included in the infrastructure investments is \$10 million in funding over five years for the Standards Council of Canada to promote and support harmonization of standards in order to decrease potential barriers to trade between Canada and its Asian-Pacific partners.

Partnership to streamline the accreditation of medical testing laboratories

The Standards Council of Canada (SCC) and the Ontario Medical Association (OMA) have signed an agreement to establish a joint program for the accreditation of medical laboratories.

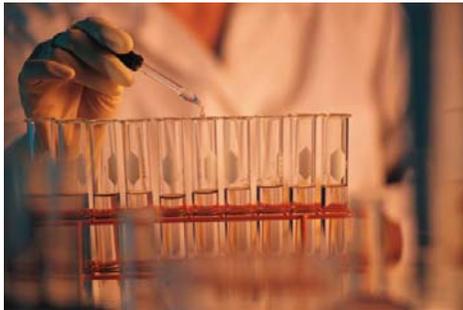
The new program will make it possible for laboratories to achieve both OMA recognition and SCC accreditation without having to undergo separate assessments or conform to different sets of criteria.

"Our goal is to make the process as effective and efficient as possible," noted Pat Paladino, Director of Conformity Assessment with the SCC. "The elimination of redundant evaluations and a more streamlined process will reduce the administrative and financial burden on medical testing laboratories."

"The OMA goal is to offer laboratories national and international formal recognition of their competence to carry out examinations" said Linda Crawford, Director of Ontario Laboratory Accreditation with the OMA.

The Standards Council's accreditation programs are based on internationally-accepted criteria, contributing to the acceptance of its accredited laboratories across Canada and around the world.

Founded in 1880, the Ontario Medical Association represents the political, clinical and economic interests of the province's medical profession and plays a vital role in the development and promotion of health-care services across Ontario. The OMA operates the Quality Management Program Laboratory services (QMP-LS) as the designated agent of the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care. For additional information on the OMA, visit: www.oma.org.



International News

ILAC survey shows transition to ISO/IEC 17025 going well

A survey of the global laboratory community, conducted by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), which examines the impact of the introduction of the revised laboratory accreditation standard (ISO/IEC 17025), shows that the majority of laboratories around the world have effectively transitioned to the new requirements.

ISO/IEC 17025:2005, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories, which was published in May 2005, replaces the 1999 edition which has been used to "accredit" (approve) some 25 000 laboratories

worldwide that test products and samples, and calibrate precision instruments.

ILAC, at its 2005 General Assembly in Auckland, New Zealand, expressed the requirements, as follows:

"The General Assembly reconfirms the transition period of two years for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17025:2005. By 1st June 2007 all accreditation certificates, as defined and described in ISO/IEC 17011, of testing and calibration laboratories shall refer to the 2005 edition of ISO/IEC 17025. Such accreditation certificates shall be issued after proper assessment of the added and amended clauses of the International Standard. The assessment can be done during normal surveillance or reassessment activities or as a separate activity."

Regulatory Recognition of Accreditation on the Rise

International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ) is a signatory member of the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC), the European Cooperation for Accreditation (EA) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) mutual recognition arrangements for testing and calibration.

This means test reports and calibration certificates, from laboratories accredited by IANZ, are accepted by fellow accreditation bodies (also signatories) in some 44 economies around the world.

Such reports are treated on exactly the same basis as if the other economy's accreditation body had carried out the accreditation. Similar recognition is given to inspection certificates (from IANZ accredited inspection bodies) by all APLAC signatories. However, this is no guarantee that regulatory agencies will necessarily recognise such reports and certificates.

Both IANZ and ILAC (and the regional co-operations APLAC and EA) have invested a great deal of effort in educating regulators, so they understand the rigour of the accreditation process, and can have confidence in the credible, formal recognition of competence that is the essence of accreditation.

This activity is starting to have real benefit. In Europe, common regulations (EU Directives) have been developed for a number of industrial sectors to facilitate access within the single market.

Manufacturers must place a CE mark on their product to signify that it complies with such regulations. Frequently, testing or inspection by an accredited organisation (referred to as notified bodies in this context) is a necessary prerequisite to placement of such a mark. While the formal term is designation of notified bodies, in practice this is almost universally based on accreditation of laboratories and inspection bodies.

In Australia and Singapore, many regulators require National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) or Singapore Accreditation Council-Singapore Laboratory Accreditation Scheme (SAC-SINGLAS) accredited laboratories to undertake testing to meet mandatory requirements. These can be for areas ranging from Non-destructive testing and mechanical testing, through to Legionella testing for cooling towers and fountains.

This regulatory requirement for accreditation generally also includes recognition by NATA's and SAC's MRA partners such as IANZ.

In the United States, more general recognition of test and calibration reports from accredited laboratories is beginning to increase. This recognition is coming from both major industrial specifiers (such as General Electric and General Motors) as well as federal regulators (such as the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission).

Within New Zealand, recognition of IANZ accreditation (and its MRA partners) by regulators is widespread.

CNLA/TAF Update

After a year of negotiation, CNLA/TAF (Chinese National Laboratory Accreditation/Taiwan Accreditation Foundation) has now progressed to the point of forging a new cooperative relationship with the leading American organization for forensic science accreditation: the Laboratory Accreditation Board of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD/LAB).

In Taipei, on 25 August 2005, the two organizations signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) regarding joint assessments, technical collaborations, and mutual promotion of accreditation within forensic science.

This step not only represents a new departure in accreditation for the CNLA/TAF, but also affords the forensic science sector in Taiwan the opportunity of enhancing both its professionalism and internationalism.



Big smiles abounded at ceremony to mark a new cooperative arrangement for forensic testing between ASCLD/LAB and CNLA/TAF.

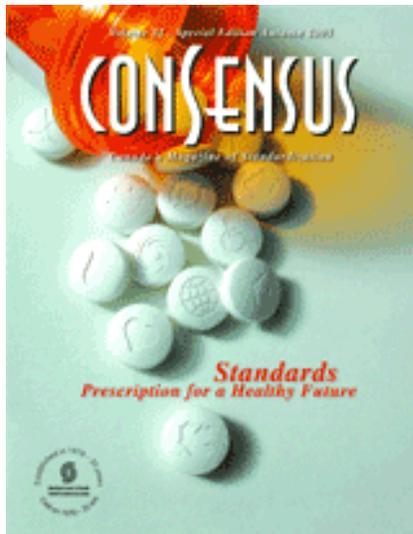
Accredited Laboratories to put doping on ice at the 2006 Winter Games

When Torino, Italy hosts the 2006 Winter Games next February, laboratories accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 will be helping to ensure that only the real winners go home with the medals.

This is thanks to the World Anti-Doping Code, which requires all laboratories performing drug testing of Olympic athletes to meet the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, the international standard for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.

The World-Anti-Doping Code was the focus of a story in the SCC's latest edition *CONSENSUS Magazine*.

To read this and other stories about standardization in Consensus, visit:



http://www.scc.ca/Asset/iu_files/consensus/CONSENSUSv32_2005_e.pdf

ILAC Recognition of Accreditation of Certified Reference Materials Producers

Accreditation of laboratories has always been focused on ensuring the recognition of competence. This competence is a reflection of the laboratory's ability to obtain an accurate result, with a known uncertainty. For many types of physical measurement, the result is traceable back to the SI unit, and the uncertainty can be reasonably well quantified.

For many chemical and biological measurements, traceability is not well established, and frequently the measurement is traceable to a particular reference material (chemical), using a particular test method. If either the reference material is changed, or the test method is altered, there is likely to be a significantly different result. Fortunately, reference materials are generally well characterized, and the test methods are frequently to a recognized standard.

However, internationally, there is still a significant degree of variability in "certified reference materials". Normally, these are assigned values in an accredited laboratory, using established procedures, and the actual process for producing such materials follows ISO Guide 34 *General requirements for the competence of reference material producers*.

ILAC Decisions

In 2004, after many years of discussion, the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) General Assembly passed the following resolutions:

ILAC Resolution GA 8.11

The General Assembly acknowledges that assessing the technical competence of bodies producing reference materials with assigned values is accreditation of a conformity assessment activity.

ILAC Resolution GA 8.12

The General Assembly resolves that accreditation of technically competent bodies producing reference materials with assigned values will be conducted against harmonized criteria based on ISO Guide 34 and ISO/IEC 17025 in combination.

In 2005, ILAC went further, and resolved that with regard to reference material producers, the accreditation to ISO Guide 34 in combination with ISO/IEC 17025 be included under the current ILAC mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) when appropriate procedures for this activity are developed and agreed by ILAC.

While such procedures are being developed, the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) has already agreed to include accreditation of certified reference materials producers as part of its MRA. The concern is that the number of such producers globally is relatively small, and not all accreditation bodies will be interested in such accreditation. Thus, the possibility of using a recognised pool of technical assessors globally is under consideration.

However, the principle of accrediting certified reference materials producers has been agreed, and the characterisation of such materials will be carried out in a laboratory accredited to ISO/IEC 17025. IANZ has currently accredited a number of reference material producers under its existing Metrology and Calibration Laboratory accreditation programme (ISO/IEC 17025) and will look to launch a dedicated Reference Material Producer accreditation programme (ISO Guide 34 & ISO/IEC 17025) once the requisite processes and documentation have been established.

Singapore hosts its first ISO GA

From September 19-13, 2005, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) held its 28th General Assembly in Singapore.

The event was hosted by SPRING Singapore, the country's national standardization body.

ISO President Professor Masami Tanaka commended the small nation's impressive contributions to standardization.

"Singapore is a example of what can be achieved by a small country with few natural resources and should therefore be an inspiration to other small countries and developing economies that have joined ISO in recent years," said Tanaka.

The Standards Council of Canada will host the 2006 ISO General Assembly in Ottawa, Ontario from September 10-16, 2005.

APLAC Publications List

APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement Advisory Committee

<u>APLAC MR001 #</u>	Issue No.8 09 /05	Procedures for Establishing and Maintaining Mutual Recognition Agreements Between Accreditation Bodies
<u>APLAC MR002 (Rev 1) #</u>	Issues No 04/05	Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation Mutual Recognition Arrangement
<u>APLAC MR003</u>	Issue No. 9 05 /05	Application for Signatory Status in the APLAC Multilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangement (APLAC MRA)
<u>APLAC MR004</u>	Issue No.4 09 /05	APLAC Evaluators - Qualifications and Monitoring Performance.
<u>APLAC MR005</u>	Issue No.1 09/03	Procedure for Training MRA Evaluators
<u>APLAC MR006</u>	Issue No.1 07/04	Procedure for conduct of joint evaluation for another region.

APLAC Nominations Committee

<u>APLAC NC001</u>	Issue No.5 07 /05	APLAC Nominations Committee and the APLAC Nomination Process
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APLAC Proficiency Testing Committee

<u>APLAC PT001</u>	Issue No.3 03 /03	APLAC Calibration Inter laboratory Comparisons
<u>APLAC PT002</u>	Issue No.4 12 /03	APLAC Testing Interlaboratory Comparisons
<u>APLAC PT003</u>	Issue No.5 03 /05	APLAC Proficiency Testing Directory
<u>APLAC PT004</u>	Issue No.4 03 /05	APLAC Measurement Audits
<u>APLAC PT005</u>	Issue No.1 06 /04	Artifacts for Measurement Audits



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APLAC Public Information Committee

<u>APLAC PR001</u>	Issue No.2 02 /05	APLAC Publications Numbering Policy
<u>APLAC PR003</u>	Issue No.3 02 /05	Procedure for Adoption of APLAC Documents
<u>APLAC PR007</u>	Issue No.15 07 /05	Power Point Presentation - APLAC Its Role And Structure
<u>APLAC PR008</u>	Issue No.18 10 /05	International Recognition of Accredited Test, Calibration and Inspection Reports
<u>APLAC PR009</u>	Issue No.5 07 /04	APLAC Procedures for Editors of APLAC News Notes
<u>APLAC Presentation</u>		Power Point Slide Template

APLAC Secretariat

<u>APLAC SEC001*</u>	Issue No.3 12 /03	APLAC Memorandum of Understanding, second edition
<u>APLAC SEC004*</u>	Issue No.6 07 /05	APLAC Rules of Procedure
<u>APLAC SEC009</u>	Issue No.69 10 /05	APLAC Publications List
<u>APLAC SEC017</u>	Issue No.10 05 /05	APLAC Application for Membership
<u>APLAC SEC020</u>	Issue No.50 10 /05	APLAC General Assembly and MRA Council Delegates List
<u>APLAC SEC021</u>	Issue No.18 01 /05	APLAC Board of Management Membership List
<u>APLAC SEC022</u>	Issue No.18 01 /05	Committee Chairs and Secretaries
<u>APLAC SEC023</u>	Deleted	APLAC MRA Council Membership List (see SEC 020 above)
<u>APLAC SEC036</u>	Issue No.2 08 /03	APLAC Complaints Handling Procedures
<u>APLAC SEC037</u>	Issue No.2 02 /05	APLAC Document Control and Document Format
<u>APLAC SEC038</u>	Issue No.24 10 /05	APLAC Membership Summary List



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<u>APLAC SEC039</u>	Issue No.13 06 /05	APLAC MRA Signatories Summary List
<u>APLAC SEC040</u>	Issue No.4 07 /04	APLAC Procedure for Issuing Invoices for Annual Fees
<u>APLAC SEC041</u>	Issue No. 3 08/04	APLAC Guidelines for Hosts of the APLAC General Assembly and Associated Meetings (only available from the Secretariat)
<u>APLAC SEC042*</u>	Issue No.2 07/03	Code of Ethics
<u>APLAC SEC043</u>	Issue No.2 12 /04	Requirements for APLAC Funding Requests
<u>APLAC SEC044</u>	Issue No.2 08 /03	Procedure for Appeals and Alternative Dispute Resolution Process.
<u>APLAC SEC045</u>	Issue No.3 06/05	APLAC Procedure for Management Review and Internal Audits
<u>APLAC SEC046</u>	Issue No. 1 12 /03	Guidelines for use of the APLAC Logo
<u>APLAC SEC047</u>	Issue No. 1 12/03	Processing Notification of Changes within an APLAC MRA Signatory Organisation
<u>APLAC SEC048</u>	Issue No. 1 12/03	APLAC Register of Delegated Responsibilities
<u>APLAC SEC049</u>	Issue No.6 10/05	Maintenance and Archiving of APLAC files
<u>APLAC SEC050</u>	Issue No. 1 08/04	Guidelines for APLAC MRA signatories when accrediting laboratories or inspection bodies within the economy of another APLAC MRA signatory
<u>APLAC SEC051</u>	Issue No. 1 12/04	Overview of APLAC management system documentation

APLAC Technical Committee

<u>APLAC TC002</u>	Issue No.2 2 /04	APLAC Internal Audits for Laboratories and Inspection Bodies
<u>APLAC TC003</u>	Issue No.2 2 /04	APLAC Management Review for Laboratories and Inspection Bodies
<u>APLAC TC004</u>	Issue No.2 03/04	APLAC Method of Stating Test and Calibration Results and Compliance with Specification
<u>APLAC TC005</u>	Issue No.2 03 /04	Interpretation and Guidance on the Estimation of Uncertainty of Measurement in Testing
<u>APLAC TC006</u>	Issue No.1 07 /04	APLAC Guidance notes on ISO/IEC 17020
<u>APLAC TC007</u>	Issue No.1	Guidelines for Food Testing Laboratories

APLAC Training Committee

<u>APLAC TR001</u>	Issue No.1 12 /01	Guidelines on Training course for Assessors
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* Adherence to these APLAC documents is mandatory for all APLAC members (full and associate).

Adherence to these APLAC documents is mandatory for all signatories to the APLC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)