

THE EUROPEAN CO- OPERATION FOR ACCREDITATION, LABORATORY COMMITTEE AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ISO/IEC 17025:2017

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CONVENER OF THE EA/LC FOOD AND FEED TECHNICAL
NETWORK



THE EA LABORATORY COMMITTEE

One of the principal aims of the European Co-operation for Accreditation (EA) consists of defining, harmonizing and building consistency in accreditation as a service in Europe by ensuring common interpretation of the standards used by its members notably ISO/IEC 17025.

EA/LC is the forum for discussion of all questions related to the assessment and accreditation of laboratories.

Some of EA/LC's responsibilities are:

- to harmonize the implementation of the standard ISO/IEC 17011 with a view to the assessment and accreditation of laboratories, proficiency testing providers and reference material producers against the relevant standards and to elaborate guidance documents where necessary;
- to follow up development of new accreditation or conformity assessment activities in the field of laboratories, PT providers and RM producers;
- to discuss and where appropriate to develop a European view on issues to be discussed in ILAC or other international organizations and to establish and maintain liaisons with ILAC and the other regional cooperations by appointing a dedicated liaison person;

THE EA LABORATORY COMMITTEE (2)

- **to support EA ABs in the management of transitions (standards, ILAC mandatory documents); h) to cooperate with relevant working parties of the European Commission and related European organizations, especially as far as the implementation of the standards defining technical competence of laboratories, proficiency testing providers and reference material producers is concerned, in particular the recognised stakeholders**
- **to cooperate with the other EA committees and advise the General Assembly, the Executive Committee and the other committees in all matters related to laboratory, PTP and RMP accreditation**
- **to develop the LC knowledge database by: - maintaining the LC-owned publications; - setting up, maintaining and making available a list of Frequently Asked Questions and LC-approved responses**

EA/LC TECHNICAL NETWORKS

Convenors of TN are members of the LC Management Group.

Members of Technical Networks are staff members of EA members involved in accreditation of the specific laboratory sector

Roles of Technical Networks

- **Information sharing - Identify sector related documents that are useful for the assessors and describe where to find them (to the given format / structure, to be defined)**
- **Collect, compile, structure and make the information collected available in EA provided with the rules on how to use it**
- **Benchmarking, accreditation and harmonisation issues - Identify and collect questions arising from the assessments performed by the EA AB members and report to the LC**
- **Identify critical issues that should be address in the accreditation process**
- **Define key issues to be harmonized for the technical assessment of the sector - Suggest and manage workshops and training activities within the LC and EA**
- **Information on availability of technical assessors**
- **Flexible scopes - Create examples of flexible scopes for the network field(s) of interest.**

EA/LC TECHNICAL NETWORKS (2)

The TN constitutes the LC forum for information / experience sharing, discussing and reviewing practices with a view to consolidate opinions and suggest an approach to issues / questions raised.

Any proposed “best practice” or solution to a problem will have to be endorsed by the LC before wider dissemination. The networks report directly through their convenors to the Laboratory Committee.

The networks communicate mainly through electronic means, and on an ongoing basis through a “chat” forum or similar facility

EPPO issues are handled within Technical Network for Food and Feed

EA AND EPPO

Cooperation between EA and EPPO started in September 2007 on the question of accreditation of plant pest diagnostic laboratories. EA experts participated in EPPO meetings (Workshop on Quality Assurance in December 2007, the Panel on Technical requirements of diagnostic laboratories, in January 2007 and July 2008, Workshop on Flexible Scope 2017) and helped develop and subsequently revise the Standards on accreditation of plant pest diagnostic laboratories. EPPO experts have since attended EA Laboratory Committee meetings.

EA and EPPO have already signed a recognized Stakeholder agreement on 3rd of February 2011 in the framework of these agreement the two organization will continue the collaboration

It should be also mentioned that the Regulation EU 2017/625 stipulates that official control laboratories in the area of protection and protective measures against pests of plants have to be accredited until 29th of April 2022.

EA AND EPPO (2)

Emphasis will be given on the collaboration

- ***EA and EPPO will continue to collaborate in order to promote and harmonize implementation of the revised ISO/IEC 17025 in plant pest diagnostic laboratories. Collaboration can include further development of guidelines by EPPO for the interpretation of criteria of ISO/IEC 17025 in the field of plant pest diagnostic laboratories.***
- ***EA will continue to recommend that assessors from Accreditation Bodies take note of EPPO documents when evaluating plant pest diagnostic laboratories, EPPO being a reputable technical organization working for the development of tests to be used in plant pest diagnostics***
- ***EA will recommend that the EPPO expertise network will be used by accreditation bodies to achieve their missions***

ISO/IEC 17025:2017- WHAT IS EA/LC DOING ABOUT THIS

Trainings for trainers have been organized immediately after the publication of the new standards with lectures that have been participating in the revision process to focus on the main changes and identify possible issues , for example

- Risks and opportunities
- Sampling (uncertainty and standalone sampling)
- Decision Rule
- Changes in traceability policies
- LIS
- Option B

ISO/IEC 17025:2017- WHAT IS EA/LC DOING ABOUT THIS (2)

Surveys, organization of FAQs regarding problems and gray areas and harmonization issues

Review of all relative EA guidances to see if revision was necessary

Co-operation with stakeholders

Organization of workshops to discuss the problems and need of harmonization while the transition process is on the run

ISO/IEC 17025:2017- WHAT IS EA/LC DOING ABOUT THIS (4)

Some issues that needs to be further discussed and harmonized

- **Option B and assessment of the labs management system**
- **Statements of compliance and decision rules**
- **Contribution of uncertainty of sampling and implications regarding statement of compliance**
- **Separate roles and contribution of the available means to quality control of data system (use of RMs, external quality control etc)**
- **Decision Rule and contract review**

ISO/IEC 17025:2017- WHAT IS EA/LC DOING ABOUT THIS (4)

Some issues that needs to be further discussed and harmonized

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- **Subcontracting and use of subcontractors**
- **Sampling procedure and how it is implemented in the different stages of measurement process**
- **Risk based approach and how the assessment is affected**
- **Other issues like LIS etc**