



## ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board

Partnering With You For All Your Accreditation Needs

Volume 4, Issue 1

March 31, 2009

### Names You Trust Accreditation Services You Need



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## AClass-iNARTE Announce Cooperative Program

The ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board/AClass and the International Association for Radio, Telecommunications and Electromagnetics, Inc. (iNARTE) have signed a memorandum of agreement that provides a framework for AClass to cooperate in developing training for iNARTE's professional certification programs for managers and staff responsible for preparing laboratories for assessment and maintenance of laboratory quality.

Concurrent with the agreement, iNARTE will inaugurate a certification for Certified Test Laboratory Auditors (CTLAs). This certification is targeted at internal laboratory auditors to ensure they have the training, skills, and expertise to help prepare and maintain laboratories in compliance with accreditation requirements. While AClass will provide relevant training, iNARTE remains solely responsible for the certification program.

"This agreement allows AClass

and iNARTE to share technical and procedural information and conduct training classes, workshops and similar activities," Keith Greenaway, AClass Vice President, said. "In doing this, we hope to broaden the understanding and appreciation of ISO and other standards and the importance of professional competence."

AClass and iNARTE will provide opportunities to make presentations at conventions, symposia, and workshops. They will cooperate in developing educational workshops and programs and the body of knowledge for laboratory professionals.

"One of our first projects under the terms of the MOA will be development of a training program and workshop to run in parallel with iNARTE's EMC Certification Workshop and Examination at the IEEE EMC Society Symposium 2009," Brian Lawrence, Executive Director of iNARTE, said. The Symposium



will be held August 17-21, 2009, in Austin, TX.

AClass plans to provide regular training programs and iNARTE will provide examinations, so certified individuals can stay current with the standards and maintain their certification status.

The **International Association for Radio, Telecommunications and Electromagnetics, Inc. (iNARTE)** is a leader in professional certification programs that recognize the credentials and achievement of individuals in the telecommunications, EMC, ESD, and product safety communities. For more information about iNARTE, visit [www.narte.org](http://www.narte.org).

## AClass On The Move

AClass has moved its offices down the street from its previous location to Alexandria, VA. Old Town Alexandria is the third oldest historic district in the nation. It is located in the heart of the greater Washington area, across the river from National Harbor and close to three major airports.

Our new address and contact information are:

500 Montgomery St., Suite 625  
 Alexandria, VA 22314  
 Tel: 703-836-0025;  
 Toll Free: 877-344-3044  
 Fax: 703-836-0040



## Food Safety: Majority of Americans Feel Industry Doesn't Do Enough

### ASQ Survey: Majority also feel recall process is only poor or fair.

ASQ conducted the survey to gauge how consumers feel about food safety, food recalls and where responsibility lies when it comes to tainted food. The survey finds:

•93 percent of adults say food manufacturers, growers or suppliers should be held legally responsible when individuals are fatally sickened by tainted food.

•61 percent of U.S. adults feel the U.S. food recall process is only fair or poor.

•73 percent of adults say they are as equally concerned about food safety as the war on terror.

•82 percent of adults believe that the food industry should be required to follow international standards on food safety.

"The United States overall does have a safe food supply," said Steven Wilson, member of ASQ's Board of Directors and ASQ food safety expert. "However, whether food manufacturers have process controls in place or not, some have plant sanitation issues that they need to address." Wilson said there are also other issues to consider. "The problem lies with a specific outbreak. Determining its root cause is often difficult and necessary,

otherwise correcting the root cause and preventing future outbreaks can't be achieved."

### Government's Role in Food Safety

Eighty percent of adults believe that the federal government should select the agencies that inspect the facilities of food manufacturers. Interestingly, less than half (48 percent) said that they actually trust the government's ability to ensure the safety of food products. Also, only half believe the federal government does a good job enforcing laws that ensure our nation's food supply is safe.

### Concern Over Product Recalls Remains High

Ninety-three percent of adults are aware of instances of food recalls due to health and safety concerns in the last three years. This is up from a 2007 Harris Poll showing 79 percent were aware of food recall occurrences in the last three years.

•Food recalls have become even more of a serious concern for adults (47 percent) versus the 2007 Harris Poll data (29 percent). A total of 92 percent of Americans are at least somewhat concerned about recalls.

•When recalls on brands adults usually purchase do occur, 47 percent would temporarily purchase

another brand and then purchase the recalled brand once it was safe. This is down from 55 percent in 2007.

•27 percent of adults would avoid using any brand made by the manufacturer of a recalled product. This is up from 21 percent in 2007.

Wilson also says "The cost of a recall does not just concern lost revenue and charges for the recall but also in loss of respect for the brand or the product. In this way all members of the food chain are hurt by the actions of bad players." He continues, "A majority of recalls can be prevented with due diligence by all parties, including following their implemented control systems and communicating with the other segments of the food chain."

### About the Study

This survey was conducted online within the United States by Harris Interactive on behalf of ASQ from February 25-27, 2009, among 2,078 adults ages 18 and older. This online survey is not based on a probability sample and therefore no estimate of theoretical sampling error can be calculated. For complete survey methodology, including weighting variables, please contact Lynda Nicely at 414-298-8789 x7587.



**"The cost of a recall does not just concern lost revenue and charges for the recall but also in loss of respect for the brand or the product."**

Steven Wilson, member of ASQ's Board of Directors and ASQ Food Safety Expert

## About ASQ

ASQ, [www.asq.org](http://www.asq.org), has been the world's leading authority on quality for more than 60 years. With more than 90,000 individual and organizational members, the professional association advances learning, quality improvement and knowledge exchange to improve business results and to create better workplaces and communities worldwide.

As a champion of the quality movement, ASQ offers technologies, concepts, tools and training to quality professionals, quality practitioners and everyday consumers, encouraging all to Make Good Great®. ASQ has been the sole administrator of the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award since 1991. Headquartered in Milwaukee, Wis., ASQ is a

founding partner of the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI), a prominent quarterly economic indicator, and also produces the Quarterly Quality Report.



## ASQ Rewards Achievements in Quality Methodology

ASQ will present two Distinguished Service Medals and 7 National Awards during its annual World Conference on Quality and Improvement in Minneapolis, Minn., May 18, 2009. The recipients are recognized for their innovative contributions and achievements in the area of quality methodology.

Each individual will be awarded a medal or award during the honors ceremony on Monday, May 18, and all except the Brumbaugh Awardee will present a brief acceptance speech. For more information about ASQ awards, visit the ASQ Web site at [www.asq.org/about-asq/awards/](http://www.asq.org/about-asq/awards/).

### Distinguished Service Medals presented to:

Ronald G. Kingen—Racine, Wis., President, Balance Engineering

Navin S. Dedhia—San Jose, Calif., Quality Management Consultant, Hitachi Global Storage Tech. Inc.

### National Awards presented to:

Feigenbaum Medal presented to Jeroen de Mast—Amsterdam, Netherlands, Principal Consultant, IBIS UvA

Grant Medal presented to Lawrence S. Aft—Alpharetta, Ga., Director, Continuing Education, Institute of Industrial Engineers

Juran Medal presented to Horst Schulze—Atlanta, Ga., Chairman and CEO, The West Paces Hotel Group, LLC  
Lancaster Medal presented to Alberto Miller—Vestal, N.Y., Director, International Education, Broome Community College, SUNY

Shainin Medal presented to Jane L. Hoying—Livonia, Mich., Manager, Shainin, LLC

Shewhart Medal presented to Roger W. Hoerl—Niskayuna, N.Y., Manager, GE Applied Statistics Lab

Brumbaugh Award presented to Søren Bisgaard—Pelham, Mass., Professor, Isenberg School of Management, University of Massachusetts-Amherst



ASQ to present awards during annual World Conference on Quality and Improvement in Minneapolis May, 18, 2009.

## DoD Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program

The DoD will use third party accreditors for this program. The ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board / ACLASS has applied and been accepted as an accreditation body under this program.

On December 24, 2008, the Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Environment, Safety and Occupational Health) issued a memorandum establishing the Department of Defense (DoD) Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP). Effective October 1, 2009, laboratories who are seeking to perform testing in support of the DoD environmental restoration (i.e. cleanup) programs and who do not hold an unexpired DoD Component (Army, Navy, or Air Force) approval need to be accredited in accordance with DoD ELAP.

The DoD ELAP will provide a means for laboratories to demonstrate conformance to the DoD Quality Systems Manual for Environmental Laboratories (DoD QSM) as authorized by DoD Instruction 4715.15, Environmental Quality Systems, December 2006 and as required by the DoD Policy and Guidelines for Acquisitions Involving Environmental Sampling or Testing, December, 2007.

The DoD QSM is based on the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference (NELAC) Quality Systems standard (Chapter 5), which provides guidelines for implementing the international standard, ISO/IEC 17025, General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories. Version 4 of the DoD QSM will be released soon. In the interim, DoD QSM Version 3 or a draft copy of DoD QSM Version 4 may be downloaded from the NavyLabs website <http://www.navylabs.navy.mil>.

The DoD ELAP will apply to environmental programs/projects at DoD operations, activities, and installations, including Government-owned, contractor-operated facilities and formerly used defense sites, where testing is being performed in support of environmental restoration programs. The program will apply to all laboratories, including permanent, temporary, or mobile facilities, that generate definitive data, regardless of their size, volume of business, or field of accreditation; the collection of screening data will be governed by project specific requirements.

Accreditation will be open to all environmental laboratories that can demonstrate

conformance to the DoD QSM. In cases where DoD ELAP accredited laboratory-testing services are not readily available (e.g., highly specialized testing, rare or unusual analytes) projects should consult their DoD Environmental Quality Workgroup (EDQW) Component Principal or As defined in the Uniform Federal Policy for Quality Assurance Project Plans, March 2005, definitive data are of sufficient quality to support final decision-making. Screening data are of sufficient quality to support an intermediate or preliminary decision, but must eventually be supported by definitive data.

### Benefits

This program will promote consistency among the DoD Components, promote fair and open participation, facilitate the procurement of analytical services, and shift the expense of laboratory assessments from the Department of Defense to the private sector. This will allow the Department of Defense to focus its resources on providing project-specific quality assurance oversight.

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## ANSI Launches Certificate Accreditation Program as Demand for a More Specialized Workforce Continues to Rise

by: Kathleen Mihelich

*Authority on Workforce Preparation and Retention Serves on the ANSI Certificate Accreditation Program Accreditation Committee and was nominated by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials*

In today's fast-paced marketplace, technologies change, the status quo gives way to the next innovation, and the jobs that are here today are gone tomorrow. As occupations reemerge or are retooled, the knowledge and skills that used to fill the bill are found to be archaic or obsolete. When job requirements change along with ever-shifting technologies, even the term "experience required" is becoming outmoded. In some industries, the momentum of the marketplace can diminish the appeal of experienced workers, and even academic degrees more than a year old can be seen as a disadvantage.

### Accredited Certificate Programs Help Workers Stay on Top

With the global economy in downturn and U.S. jobless claims at record numbers, the job market has become even more competitive. The American workforce needs educational certificate programs that provide quick assimilation of information focused on a unique knowledge, task, or function. And more important, the programs must be affordable and recognized by employers.

Thousands of certificate programs promise all that and more, but until now, the only advice career counselors could give was, "It's best to review each program carefully to make sure it meets your needs." Students had no criteria to review the adequacy of a program, and no measures for determining if it met their particular needs. Similarly, employers could

not tell if one certificate program produced better, more knowledgeable employees, or if it truly offered the skills required for success in their industry.

With no nationwide regulation, oversight, or monitoring consistently applied to all education and training bodies that offer certificates – and no nationally recognized set of criteria/requirements to evaluate the quality of these programs – students and employers alike are left confused and without guidance.

In order to help educate the public about the meaning of certificates, how to differentiate among certificate programs with varying levels of rigor, and how they differ from personnel certifications, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) has established a new accreditation program for organizations that issue demand-based education and training certificates to U.S. workers. Termed the ANSI Certificate Accreditation Program (ANSI-CAP), the initiative will provide neutral, third-party attestation that a given certificate program leads to better educated and qualified workers, and will provide quality benchmarks for the design of future certificate programs.

In doing this, ANSI assists not only the individuals needing certificate programs to secure or keep jobs, but the industry and employers as well.

### The ANSI Certificate Accreditation Program

The first meeting of the ANSI-CAP Accreditation Committee was held on February 13, 2009, and marked the official launch of the program. Membership on the committee reflects a balance of all interested personnel certificate sectors and entities that

utilize personnel certificates.

In the immediate term, the committee has been tasked with the selection of a standard against which certificate programs will be evaluated for potential accreditation under the ANSI-CAP. During the February 13 meeting, the committee heard presentations from two organizations that have been working to develop American National Standards in this area. The committee is currently determining which standard can best meet the needs of the accreditation program. ANSI expects to begin the pilot program in spring 2009.

In addition to the American National Standard selected by the committee, the ANSI-CAP will also follow the evaluation process outlined in the international standard ISO/IEC 17011, *General Requirements for Accreditation Bodies Accrediting Conformity Assessment Bodies*. This process includes using specially trained assessors to review documents submitted by applicants against defined requirements, conduct on-site assessments of all applicants, and make recommendations to the ANSI-CAP Accreditation Committee that is responsible for making the accreditation decisions.

### Building Awareness of ANSI-CAP and the Value of Accreditation

The simple question that must be asked is, "Now that we've built it, will they come?"

*Continued on page 8*



## ACLASS Global Updates



### ACLASS Signs International Cooperation Agreement for Reference Material Producers

*ACLASS Also Maintains APLAC MRA Status for Calibration and Testing*

ACLASS has signed the Asia-Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) for reference material producer accreditation. The signing ceremony took place in conjunction with the 14th APLAC General Assembly and Technical Meetings held December 6-12, 2008, in Singapore.

A regional cooperation of bodies that recognize laboratories, inspection bodies, and reference material producers, APLAC promotes international acceptance of endorsed test, calibration, and inspection reports and other documents issued by laboratories and inspection bodies accredited by signatories to the APLAC MRA.

ACLASS is one of only five accreditation

bodies worldwide that have been approved to sign the MRA for reference material producers, also known as RMPs. The RMP arena encompasses potential accredited areas entailing a lengthy list of materials use for critical and measurable properties such as biological, chemical, clinical, pharmacological, food, physical, mechanical, engineering, environmental, and forensic sciences. Accredited RMPs must meet the international requirements of ISO Guide 34.

“Much of the value of RMP accreditation relates to international confidence in the RMPs themselves,” Dr. Bill Hirt, ACLASS Senior Accreditation Manager, said. “This leads to international trade assurances, and assurances that international guidelines are followed in the production, labeling, and assignment of property values to the materials, including stability and homogeneity determinations.”

At the meetings in Singapore, ACLASS was also approved for continued status as an APLAC MRA signatory for calibration and testing. Approval to sign the APLAC MRAs is granted only after a rigorous peer evaluation, which is conducted every four years after MRA signatory status is attained.

### ACLASS Continues as Signatory to IAAC MLA

ACLASS has been approved for continued status as a signatory of the Inter-American

Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) multi-lateral recognition arrangement (MLA) for calibration and testing. The approval took place at a meeting of the IAAC MLA Committee on February 18 in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

A regional association of accreditation bodies in the Americas and other organizations interested in conformity assessment, IAAC promotes international acceptance of endorsed test and calibration reports and other documents issued by laboratories accredited by signatories to the IAAC MLA.

“This ongoing recognition by IAAC promotes regional and international acceptance of accreditations granted by ACLASS,” Dr. Bill Hirt, ACLASS Senior Accreditation Manager, said. “By promoting acceptance of testing and calibration results among participating bodies, the IAAC MLA helps facilitate trade among the economies of the Americas and globally.”

IAAC evaluates and recognizes the competence of accreditation bodies, which in turn evaluate and recognize the competence of certification, registration, inspection bodies, and testing and calibration laboratories that operate in North and South America. Approval to sign the IAAC MLA is granted only after a rigorous peer evaluation, which is conducted every four years after MLA signatory status is attained.

## DoD Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program *Continued from pg. 3*

**Compatibility with other programs** This program is being developed in compliance with the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act. Support and guidance are being provided by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, following procedures used to establish similar programs for other areas of testing. The DoD ELAP supports implementation of the Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, Ensuring the Quality of Information Disseminated to the Public by the Department of Defense, February 10, 2003.

### For more information

Specific information on the operation of the program will be provided during the DoD Environmental Monitoring and Data Quality Workshop. For more information about this workshop, please visit <http://www.navylabs.navy.mil>.



## Training for Assessors – ANSI/NCSL Z540.3-2006



ACLASS is planning to provide training to its Calibration Program assessors in the next quarter on the requirements of ANSI/NCSL Z540.3-2006 and expect to be able to include the assessment of those requirements, at customer request, by mid-summer. We are also analyzing how much additional time will be required during the assessment for this program and will provide more guidance soon.

The NCSLI has recently published a very comprehensive Handbook for implementation of this Standard. It is now available for purchase on their website. The Handbook has identified 19 requirements that are in addition to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025. ***Of those, several will require training of lab personnel and assessors or added work for the lab:***

- The lab must calculate the chance that, if they are saying the results are within certain tolerances, they could actually be outside that tolerance. Called “probability of false accept,” this also cannot exceed 2% and must be documented. If not practicable to calculate this risk, the lab can use a Test Uncertainty Ratio (TUR) of less than 4:1. This is not the Test Accuracy Ratio (TAR) most of us are familiar with. TUR is defined in Z540.3 as “the ratio of the span of the tolerance of a measurement quantity subject to calibration, to twice the 95% expanded uncertainty of the measurement process used for calibration.”
- The lab will have to set reliability targets for calibration intervals for its standards and demonstrate how the program meets the goals.

For instance, the lab may state a reliability target of 90% of standards being in tolerance at recalibration. They then need to define how they’ll meet that target.

- The requirements for calibration procedures are more stringent. They must include performance requirements for standards identified and provide reasonable assurance that the calibration results are as described.

There is also a new requirement that there be a procedure, not just a method.

Labs desiring assessment against this new Standard can refer to the new Handbook for an analysis of these and other additional requirements.

## EPA To Announce Laboratory Accreditation Requirements

The EPA will be announcing laboratory accreditation requirements (to ISO/IEC 17025) for manufacturers of computer products that meet the ENERGY STAR program. The purpose of verification testing is to provide regular checks on the ENERGY STAR self-qualification process by requiring impartial testing of ENERGY STAR qualified products in accredited laboratories. Verification testing under the ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Computers version 5.0 will begin no sooner than July 1, 2009 pending the availability of at least three third-party accredited laboratories available to test product configurations. EPA will communicate with partners about the availability of accredited laboratories.

ACLASS is considered a recognized accreditation body for this program. A laboratory’s scope of accreditation must reflect its specific competence to carry out the test

procedures as outlined in the ENERGY STAR Program Requirements for Computers.

If you are a current customer and have the capabilities and would like to add the test methods to your scope of accreditation and participate in the EPA ENERGY STAR Program for Computers please contact Leah Zachar directly at [leah.zachar@aclasscorp.com](mailto:leah.zachar@aclasscorp.com) or 703-836-0025 x210. New customers may complete an application for accreditation or contact Leah Zachar.



## ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board 2009 Training Courses

**ACLASS offers training in some of the most pertinent areas of interest for individuals seeking to improve their knowledge of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard. ACLASS training courses are designed to be of benefit to laboratory technicians and managers, quality managers, consultants and potential auditors. Visit [www.aiclasscorp.com](http://www.aiclasscorp.com) to register and view a complete listing of all ACLASS courses.**

### Internal Auditing to ISO/IEC 17025

This course specifically prepares laboratories for their ISO/IEC 17025 assessments – from initial accreditation to ongoing maintenance and improvement of systems. It is for laboratory managers, technical staff, consultants, and auditors of all types who want or need to learn better practices and an appreciation for the technical demands of ISO/IEC 17025.

We all know about the growing concerns in the international marketplace and the need for more confidence in the purities and properties of products. This overlaps safety, health, functionality, and many other issues. The laboratory community bears a large part of this burden, and ISO/IEC 17025 accredited laboratories are poised to provide this confidence to the global community.

There are many internal auditor courses available in the marketplace, but nearly all are generic for general quality systems. Very few, if any, address auditing the technical systems and issues of the accredited laboratory. In the auditing environments, we see a very weak technical understanding among internal auditors of laboratories for ISO/IEC 17025. This includes key ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation items such as uncertainties, metrological traceability, proficiency testing, and technical method validation. If the internal auditor is better equipped to assess these during internal audits at the facility, that site is much better prepared for their assessments. They will also be much better prepared to boost the international confidence in their laboratory operations.

#### June 16-18, 2009

Courtyard Marriott Milwaukee Downtown  
Milwaukee, WI

#### December 14-16, 2009

Hyatt Regency La Jolla  
San Diego, CA



*"We all know  
about the growing  
concerns in the  
international  
marketplace in the  
purities and  
properties of  
products"*

## New ASQ Certification Offered for Pharmaceutical Professionals

### Registration for Certified Pharmaceutical GMP Professional Exam Now Available

The pilot certification exam will be administered May 17, 2009, at ASQ's World Conference on Quality and Improvement. The first official exam will be administered June 6, 2009, at ASQ local section sites and more than 80 international locations. The exam will be offered annually in June and December. The cost is \$230 USD for ASQ members and \$390 USD for nonmembers. Participants can register and find more information at [www.asq.org/certification/pharmaceutical-gmp/index.html](http://www.asq.org/certification/pharmaceutical-gmp/index.html).

#### Deadlines for the 2009 exam are:

ASQ World Conference exam date — May 17, 2009  
Application due — April 3, 2009  
Exam date — June 6, 2009  
Application due — April 17, 2009  
Late Application Fee (\$50 USD) deadline — April 23, 2009  
Exam date — December 5, 2009  
Application due — October 16, 2009  
Late Application Fee (\$50 USD) deadline — October 21, 2009

### Preparation Tools Available

A variety of tools are available to assist participants in their preparation for the exam over the next year. Currently, professionals have access to the CPGP Quality Body of Knowledge, available at [www.asq.org/certification/pharmaceutical-gmp/prepare.html](http://www.asq.org/certification/pharmaceutical-gmp/prepare.html). Other upcoming preparation offerings include:  
Certified Pharmaceutical GMP Professional Question Bank — April 2009  
Certified Pharmaceutical GMP Professional Certification Handbook — October 2009  
Certified Pharmaceutical GMP Professional Certification Prep Webinar — December 2009

ASQ currently offers 15 certifications. Several training options are available to help prepare for certification exams. ASQ also offers a wide variety of books to help people understand each certification's body of knowledge. Training and books are unique for each exam. For more information on ASQ's various certifications, visit [www.asq.org/certification/index.html](http://www.asq.org/certification/index.html).

## CPSIA Legislation Updates

Since the announcement of the consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) last fall ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board/ACLASS has been accrediting testing laboratories to meet the requirement that all manufactured products for use by children are tested by a third party laboratory that is accredited to ISO/IEC 17025 by an accrediting body that is a signatory to the ILAC MRA.

ACLASS has been committed to accommodating laboratories that

need to become accredited in order to conduct these tests for their clients. ACLASS is aware of the demand for this type of testing, and therefore the demand to become accredited by an ILAC Signatory and has made arrangements with all of our qualified assessors to ensure that they have some availability to conduct an assessment with less notice than usual. In many cases labs do not realize that this legislation is affecting their customers until the last moment so ACLASS is working to ac-

commodate their needs and help them through the process in a timely manner. Since the announcement of this legislation ACLASS has accredited or is in the process of accrediting more than a dozen new test labs for CPSIA requirements including Intertek, Specialized Technology Resources, and NSL Analytical Services.

Any laboratory interested in becoming accredited to ISO 17025 or who is currently accredited but would like add

tests for the CPSIA legislation should contact Leah Zachar, [leah.zachar@aclasscorp.com](mailto:leah.zachar@aclasscorp.com).

### Important Links:

CPSIA Home Page: <http://www.cpsc.gov/about/cpsia/cpsia.html>

CPSC's Schedule for Third Party Testing Requirements: <http://www.aiclasscorp.com/Portals/4/Documents/CPSCschedule.pdf>

## ACLASS Assists USP

The United States Pharmacopeia (USP) has a program with external funding to help develop high quality pharmaceutical testing laboratories in developing countries, called ITAP. Highly trained USP staff visits these laboratories and assists them in their quality assurance, documentation and technical processes to develop good laboratory practices and testing methodologies.

To assist in their ITAP staff development, ACLASS was asked to assist recently in training them in ISO/IEC 17025 assessment practices and related technical issues. It involved integrating issues from multiple commercial training options that ACLASS offers. We look forward to assisting in future training developments with USP and their ITAP program.

## Areas of Interest For Testing Labs

The testing arena in the ISO/IEC 17025 community is extremely busy these days. More international concerns and trade issues are arising. More governmental regulations are being drafted and issued. Often these regulations relate directly to testing and verification practices to maintain confidence in international trade. This leads most of the international community to seek that confidence in accredited ISO/IEC 17025 laboratories.

We are now riveted to hear any more outbreaks around the globe

from issues of melamine in toothpaste, *Salmonella* in produce or peanut butter, lead in children's products and paint, and the list goes on.

The most recent US regulations have required any laboratory testing for lead in children's products be accredited to ISO/IEC 17025. These are now in the Federal Register as 16 CFR part 1303. Regulations for additional testing of children's products are expected later this year.

## ANSI Launches Certificate Accreditation Program as Demand for a More Specialized Workforce Continues to Rise *Continued from pg. 4*

*The simple question that must be asked is, "Now that we've built it, will they come?"*

The challenge to embrace and utilize the ANSI-CAP must be directed to industry and employers. As the most direct beneficiaries of a high quality workforce, only they can take up the mantle and advocate for a standard of excellence for certificate programs.

ANSI is working to actively promote the ANSI-CAP and

generate widespread awareness of the value that accreditation can offer in this arena. I encourage ACLASS, ANAB, and all of your members and stakeholders to learn more about the program and help us spread the message about the tremendous benefits it can have to employees and employers nationwide.

For more information on ANSI-CAP, visit [www.ansi.org/accreditation](http://www.ansi.org/accreditation).



## AClass Process and Policy Updates

### AClass Updates its Accreditation Processes

We recently improved upon several of our policies and procedures, and we outline them below here to alert you to them. The majority of all improvements were editorial; however, we have implemented improvements to policies that have a one year implementation period. These policies will clearly be identified below. We now consider them as requirements for AClass accreditation, and all are effective April 1, 2009, unless otherwise noted. They are all stated in AClass Document 3 which is available on our web site at the following link:

<http://www.aiclasscorp.com/AClassDocuments/tabid/140/Default.aspx>

We do not see any of these new requirements as very serious issues. We expect that none of these changes to our requirements will result in a major non-conformance. We also expect that for those that may result in a minor finding, customers will have one year to implement any of the changes. Under each heading below, we will clarify which changes have a one year implementation period.

### Initial Accreditation Assessments

Clarified expectations of a customer undergoing initial accreditation by adding section 1.7 to AClass Document 3 *Effective April 1, 2009*

### Symbol Usage and Use of the ILAC Mark

We modified the requirements for use of the AClass symbol to reflect the recent improvement and new look of AClass (see also December 18, 2009 letter) and added requirements regarding use of the ILAC mark. This means both the current AClass symbol and the new AClass symbol will be acceptable until July 1, 2010. After July 1, 2010, we will begin enforcing our symbol use policy. You will need to replace and update your marketing material, website, test and calibration reports, etc., to include the new symbol.

*Effective January 1, 2009, however, customers will have until July 1, 2010 to implement pursuant to the December 18, 2008, letter sent to all customers.*

### Internal or Non-commercial PT/ILC Programs

Added requirements for laboratories that organize their own inter-

laboratory comparisons or PTs (whether internal or external to their organization) must provide AClass with the reason for not using a commercial PT provider and must submit a plan to AClass. The plan must be documented and the reporting requirements of the plan are included in AClass Document 3, section 5.4.1.

*Effective April 1, 2010 (1 Year Implementation Period)*

### Statement of Compliance

Clarified expectations and requirements regarding statements of compliance. We have defined the term "statement of compliance." Specifically, if the certificate, report, or data sheet contains a statement such as "is in tolerance" or "meets specifications," AClass considers it to be a statement of compliance. In these cases, the laboratory must take the estimated measurement uncertainty into consideration before making said statement of compliance.

*Effective April 1, 2010 (1 Year Implementation Period)*

### Laboratory Re-Location (Move Policy)

Updated move policy. Details are found in AClass Document 3, section 9.1 *Effective April 1, 2009*

## AClass Launches Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditation Program

The ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board/AClass has launched a new accreditation program for proficiency testing providers in January 2009.

AClass recently granted its first certificate and scope of accreditation for a proficiency testing provider in March 2009. Miller & Weber, Inc. will now provide proficiency testing services for calibration laboratories that

routinely certify/calibrate liquid-in-glass thermometers, electronic thermometers and hydrometers.

Miller & Weber, Inc. is an ISO/IEC 17025 accredited calibration laboratory (accredited by AClass) with an ISO9001:2000 certified liquid-in-glass thermometer manufacturing facility and is now accredited as a proficiency testing provider for thermometers and hydrometers.

Miller & Weber, Inc. will fill a role where there are currently few or no proficiency test artifacts.



## AClass Welcomes New Staff

**AClass welcomed Christine Zinser as Administrative Coordinator in February, while Leah Zachar has transitioned to Account Executive.**

Pictured, Left to Right: Terry Burgess, Calibration Program Manager; Erica Collins, Senior Assessment Coordinator; Christine Zinser, Administrative Coordinator and Leah Zachar, Account Executive.



**AClass staff, joined by AClass Assessor, Clayton Jensen toast new office.**

Pictured, Left to Right: Terry Burgess, Calibration Program Manager; Erica Collins, Senior Assessment Coordinator; Roger Muse, Director of Sales and Marketing; Mike Weisrock, Calibration Program Manager; Clayton Jensen.

## AClass Mission

AClass is a leader in guiding the international development of accreditation processes that build confidence and value for stakeholders worldwide and provide high quality and reliable accreditation services with the most professional value-added services for customers and end users.

**ANSI-ASQ  
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