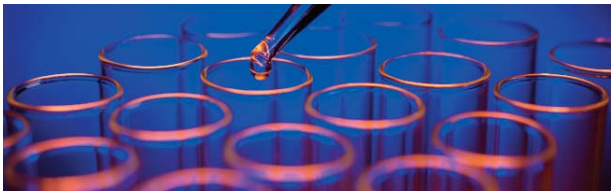
ACLASS Quickbytes Newsletter
ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board

ACLASS Gains Preliminary Recognition for NEFAP-FSMO Accreditation

ACLASS was granted preliminary approval by The NELAC Institute (TNI) as a National Environmental Field Activities Program (NEFAP) accreditation body at a recent TNI meeting in Bellevue, WA, and is now accepting applications for accreditation from field sampling measurement organizations (FSMOs).

In February 2011, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued Policy Directive Number FEM-2011-01, *Policy to Assure Competency of Laboratories, Field Sampling and Other Organizations generating Environmental Measurement Data under Agency–funded Acquisitions*. This policy directive is intended to convey EPA requirements that organizations (labs, field sampling and measurement) generating environmental data under EPA-funded acquisitions submit documentation of their competency, which may include participation in applicable certification and/or accreditation programs.

All organizations performing environmental analysis for EPA shall demonstrate their qualifications in the field(s) of analyses to be conducted prior to performing such analyses.



Where personnel certification demonstrates an individual's knowledge of specific area, accreditation verifies the competency of the organization performing field sampling and testing.

About NEFAP Accreditation

NEFAP accreditation is designed to ensure the competency of field sampling and testing organizations. Accreditation demonstrates the accountability of all organizations involved in the measurement process. It also supports generation of data of known and documented quality and reduces uncertainty related to sampling and field measurement.

Benefits to FSMOs

NEFAP accreditation benefits FSMOs by:

- Improving training program and communication.
- Improving processes and procedures.
- Improving internal consistency.
- Reducing QC incidents, rejections, and complaints.
- Promoting continuous improvement by means of an effective system for accountability, a reputation benchmark for maintaining competence, and improved employee quality awareness.

NEFAP accreditation for FSMOs provides an objective way to show clients, the community, and the government that an organization has the demonstrated capability to conduct the services they provide.

Benefits to FSMO Clients

NEFAP accreditation also provide benefits to the clients of FSMOs by:

- Providing assurance that the FSMO has been evaluated and has met established standards.

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- Reducing risks associated with unreliable data, including expensive re-testing and legal or financial liability.
- Enhancing regulatory acceptance of data.
- Reducing direct costs due to problems, meaning less re-testing, less re-sampling, less lost time, and fewer false positives and negatives.
- Reducing the effort needed to define project expectations and requirements.
- Providing more constant baseline expectations for environmental projects.
- Enabling more efficient communication regarding data quality objectives and project deliverables.
- Enabling dependable environmental decisions based on data that is accurate, traceable, and reproducible.
- Reducing uncertainty.

For more information regarding TNI-NEFAP FSMO accreditation, visit www.aclasscorp.com.

Companies Benefit from Gaining Proficiency Test Provider Accreditation

Proficiency testing is an important component in determining a laboratory's competence, and the international community places great emphasis on successful performance on proficiency tests.

After ISO/IEC 17043, *Conformity assessment - General requirements for proficiency testing*, was released, replacing ISO/IEC Guide 43, in early 2010, ACLASS began accrediting to it.

In February 2010, ACLASS granted proficiency test provider accreditation to Miller & Weber, a New York-based manufacturer of glass thermometers whose calibration lab has been accredited by ACLASS since 2006. Miller & Weber offers proficiency tests for glass thermometers from (-40 to 405)º C and for specific gravity ranging from (0.625 to 1.91) SG.

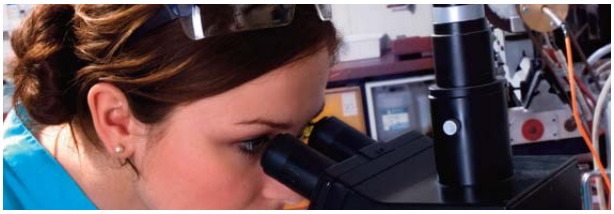
Lake Balance and Calibration Services also expanded its services to include accredited proficiency testing program offerings. Located in northern Ohio, Lake Balance was initially accredited by ACLASS for ISO/IEC 17025 in 2004 and become an accredited proficiency testing provider in 2010. The company's accreditation includes mass calibration, and Lake Balance has the capability to alter weights and measure the true value. The company sends weights to participant laboratories, which must determine the altered values.

Both Miller & Weber and Lake Balance have used their calibration laboratory capabilities to expand their businesses and offer a valuable resource to customers.

RMPs Also Accredited as PTPs

ACLASS has also accredited two reference material producers (RMPs) as proficiency test providers. Sigma Aldrich (RTC) was accredited in July 2010 and Absolute Standards in June 2011. Both companies produce proficiency test samples for The NELAC Institute (TNI). NELAC stands for National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference, and TNI accredits state and independent laboratories performing environmental testing of drinking water, waste water, sewage, soil, and other types of samples. Proficiency testing is also an important component of TNI's accreditation process. ACLASS was approved by TNI as an accrediting body earlier this year.

Many areas in calibration and testing do not have adequate proficiency tests available at this time. If you have an idea for a test or scheme that could be developed for a proficiency testing program, contact your accreditation manager for information about becoming accredited. You may be able to add a new profit center for your company while offering a valuable service to the laboratory community.



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ACLASS Announces Policy Changes and Clarifications

ACLASS recently approved the following policy changes:

Effective immediately:

- Assessors are no longer allowed to close findings during the assessment. The new corrective action submittal process in EQM precludes this practice.
- Reminder: Laboratories conducting their own inter-laboratory comparisons in place of available commercial proficiency test must have an ACLASS form 40 on file (approved by their ACLASS accreditation managers) prior to conducting the test.

Effective November 1, 2011:

- Reminder: For calibration laboratories, uncertainty budgets for all scope of accreditation line items (each listed range) are required by the first full reassessment after November 1, 2011.

Effective January 1, 2012:

- All calibration laboratories are required to report measurement uncertainty (MU) for all test points on *all* accredited calibration certificates. This applies also when issuing only a statement of compliance.
- Calibration labs are reminded that the measurement uncertainty reported on the calibration certificate must never be smaller (better) than the calibration and measurement capability (CMC) on the ACLASS scope of accreditation, even when the scope uses ranges for CMC listings.
- For all ACLASS accredited laboratories, management reviews and internal audits shall be conducted at least once each calendar year.
- All satellite sites shall adhere to the same ACLASS requirements for PT/ILC as main laboratories, where applicable (one minimum per calendar year and one from each major sub-area of the satellite site scope over a rolling four year period).
- All satellite sites must be visited at least every four years during full reassessment. Laboratories are advised to set up a satellite site visit by ACLASS when requested or risk having satellite site capability removed from their scopes of accreditation.
- At least 33% of satellite site technicians must be witnessed during each full reassessment either at the satellite site or at the main lab (if the satellite site is not being visited). Laboratories are advised to transport technicians to the main laboratory when requested or risk having on-site capability removed from their scopes of accreditation.
- On-site capability will be witnessed in the field at least every four years. Laboratories are advised to set up an on-site visit by ACLASS when requested or risk having on-site capability removed from their scopes of accreditation.

Board Member is Milwaukee CFO of the Year Winner

Charles (Chuck) Stadler, who serves as treasurer on the board of directors of the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, is a winner of *The Business Journal* 2011 CFO of the Year awards. Stadler was recognized for his work as CFO of Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin Inc., Milwaukee, WI.

“This is a great group of honorees,” said Mark Kass, editor of *The Business Journal*. “They are making a real difference in our community, both at work and in community endeavors. CFOs can often go unnoticed, but this group shows how important the position is to the success of a company.”

This is the fourth year *The Business Journal* has honored Milwaukee’s most influential CFOs. The winners will be honored in a special section in the Oct. 7 issue of weekly publication and at an awards event the same day at Milwaukee’s Pfister Hotel.

Stadler was recognized as a 2011 CFO of the Year in the Nonprofit Organizations categories. There are also awards for Publicly Held Companies, Medium Private Companies ($50-$250 million), Small Private Companies (less than $50 million), Education, Government, and Career Achievement.

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Earth Moves at This Year's NCSL International Conference

As is the case every year, ACLASS was an exhibitor at the NCSL International conference in Washington, DC, in August. Unusual this year was the earthquake that occurred during the conference.

Terry Burgess, Evan Doughty, Matt Holofchak, and Roger Muse were working at the ACLASS booth at the Gaylord National Harbor when the earthquake occurred on August 23. The quake, centered to the south in central Virginia, began as a vibration that seemed like a large truck was rolling by. Conference participants grew quiet and then started seeking shelter, as the exhibit booths offered no protection from falling objects.

With other conference participants, Burgess, Doughty, Holofchak, and Muse headed outside. They initially congregated close to the building but realized the all-glass facade might be unsafe and moved further away, losing contact with each other and the conference itself. Hotel staffers made sure conference participants stayed a safe distance away while they began the task of inspecting the building.

After a few hours, people were let back in the building, although many areas remained off limits because inspections were incomplete. The conference area was off limits except for quick trips to retrieve personal items. By then many attendees had left for the day or gone in search of dinner.

The earthquake had a lingering effect, with some classes and meetings rescheduled or canceled. In spite of the disruption caused by the quake, ACLASS staffers were encouraged that many customers and a few ACLASS assessors visited the booth and they made contacts with potential new customers.

ACLASS Travels Far and Wide to Provide Training

ACLASS recently completed a training program at the Health Ministry laboratory in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where the laboratory is seeking accreditation for the USP pharmacopeal technologies they perform on pharmaceutical products. Participants in a measurement uncertainty training class conducted by ACLASS display the Ethiopian flag in the photo above.

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Consumer Reports Finds Value in Added Oversight of Third-Party Certification

Testing by Consumer Reports of refrigerator energy efficiency indicates that requiring third-party certification for Energy Star products is producing results.

Consumer Reports recently tested 180 models of refrigerators to see if they comply with federal Energy Star standards for efficiency and found three models that came up short. Those three models were manufactured prior to 2011, when the federal government imposed tougher requirements for efficiency and began requiring third-party testing for refrigerators bearing the Energy Star label.

"Based on our latest tests, this stepped up oversight comes none too soon," the story is in the October 2011 *Consumer Reports* concludes.

Consumer Reports says its energy-use tests are tougher than those of the Department of Energy (DOE). But even when Consumer Reports did a DOE-style test, it found results that exceeded federal standards for energy consumption in the case of one refrigerator manufactured before third-party certification was required. Consumer Reports also questioned the Energy Star status of two other models manufactured before the certification requirement was imposed.

ACLASS is accrediting laboratories to ISO/IEC 17025 under EPA's Energy Star program. For more information, contact Roger Muse at rmuse@anab-aclass.org or 703-836-0025, ext. 202.

Evan Doughty Joins ACLASS

Evan Doughty has joined the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board as Accreditation Manager, Calibration, for the ACLASS brand. Previously, he was with Davis Calibration, where he served as Corporate Quality Manager. Doughty gained more than 25 years of experience in calibration in the U.S. Navy and private industry. Doughty takes the place of Mike Weisrock, who has retired but will do some contract assessment work for ACLASS and serve as an instructor for some ACLASS training courses.

Hirt Demos Temperature Standard at APLAC GA

Dr. Bill Hirt of ACLASS demonstrated the Pee-Pee Boy Chinese national temperature standard at the APLAC annual General Assembly in August.

The device functions to assure tea drinkers that the water used to brew tea is sufficiently hot to extract all the desired medicinal congeners from the tea botanicals. Water must be at least 85 degrees Celsius to assure this. After the device is prepared for the test, water is poured over the figurine's head. If the water is below 85 degrees, nothing happens but if the water is 85 degrees or warmer, the device emits a stream of water extending almost half a meter.

"The APLAC delegates are always interested in learning about new reference standards, and this one was no exception," Hirt said.

A photo of Hirt's demonstration is below. Hirt obtained his ceramic Pee-Pee Boy last year during the week-long APLAC RMP training when he visited the National Tea Center in Beijing, China.

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ANSI's Hallenbeck to Chair ISO CASCO

Lane Hallenbeck, vice president for accreditation services at the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), was confirmed as chair of the Conformity Assessment Committee (CASCO) of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) during the ISO 34th General Assembly in New Delhi, India. On January 1, 2012, Hallenbeck will succeed Olivier Peyrat, CEO of AFNOR – the French member body to ISO, for an initial two-year term.

The mission of CASCO, one of ISO's largest committees, is to develop harmonized and internationally accepted policy on conformity assessment, liaise with industry sectors and intergovernmental agencies on conformity assessment activities, and promote the use of the CASCO toolbox internationally to facilitate global trade.

As chair, Hallenbeck will be responsible for guiding the strategic direction and achieving CASCO's main objectives. He will also serve as convenor of the Coordination Policy Committee, the Strategic Alliance and Regulator Group, and chair of the annual CASCO plenary. Together with the ISO Secretary-General and CASCO secretary, Hallenbeck will be a member of the IAF-ILAC-ISO Joint Working Group.

"On behalf of the U.S. conformity assessment community, ANSI congratulates Lane on this prestigious appointment," said S. Joe Bhatia, ANSI president and CEO. "We look forward to the many excellent contributions he will make to further conformity assessment activities in the international arena."

Hallenbeck has primary responsibility for the direction and development of ANSI's accreditation programs, including accreditation of standards development organizations and approval of American National Standards; accreditation of conformity assessment bodies that certify products and personnel and validate and verify greenhouse gas attestations.

Hallenbeck joined ANSI in November 2000. Previously, he was vice president of the American Bureau of Shipping, and program manager for the TRW Space and Electronics Group.

An ex-officio member of the board of directors of the ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board, Hallenbeck is also on the Executive Committee of the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation and leads ANSI's commitment as an IAF MLA signatory.

Hallenbeck holds a master's degree in technology management from Pepperdine University and a bachelor's degree in life sciences from the University of Colorado at Boulder.

October 13 is World Standards Day

The official U.S. Celebration of World Standards Day (WSD) will be held October 13, 2011, at The Fairmont Washington. The event is organized annually by a committee of representatives from the standards and conformity assessment community, and is co-chaired by ANSI and the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

To learn more, visit www.ansi.org/wsweek.

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Standards Cover Spectrum: From Speakerphones to Portable Ventilation

To communicate the vital role standards play in daily life, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is publishing a series of snapshots of the diverse initiatives undertaken in the global and national standards arena, many of which are performed by ANSI members and ANSI-accredited standards developers. Two of the latest selections follow.

Speakerphones

Few telephones are manufactured today without speakerphone capabilities. At the push of a button, speakerphones allow multiple parties to participate in one conversation at once or a single speaker to hold a hands-free conversation. To help ensure that speakerphone conversations can be heard loud and clear, ANSI member and accredited standards developer IEEE has released IEEE 1329-2010, *Standard Method for Measuring Transmission Performance of Speakerphones*.

IEEE 1329-2010 provides techniques for measuring the electroacoustic and voice-switching characteristics of speakerphones that connect directly or indirectly to an analog or digital telephone network. Because of the various characteristics of speakerphones and the environments in which they operate, not all the test procedures in this standard are applicable to all speakerphones. Application of the test procedures to atypical speakerphones should be determined on an individual basis.

Portable Ventilation

Ventilation is one of the most important factors for maintaining acceptable indoor air quality and ensuring occupant health and safety. Portable ventilation devices can be used in a variety of applications to remove unpleasant smells and excessive moisture, introduce outside air, keep interior building air circulating, and prevent stagnation of the interior air.

ANSI/AIHA Z9.9-2010, *Portable Ventilation Systems*, describes fundamental good practices related to the design, manufacture, maintenance, use, and testing of portable ventilation systems. Published by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), the standard is intended for use by facility owners, industrial hygienists and safety professionals, maintenance personnel, end-users, and others.

AIHA, an ANSI accredited standards developer and organizational member, is a non-profit membership organization serving the needs of occupational and environmental health and safety professionals practicing industrial hygiene in industry, government, labor, academic institutions, and independent organizations.

The ANSI/AIHA Z9 family of standards, encompasses standards for the design, operation, and maintenance of equipment to provide a safe atmosphere in industrial, manufacturing, or construction operations by removing harmful substances for the protection of workers by portable or general ventilation, and safely disposing of such substances.

ASQ Holds Video Contest to Raise the Voice of Quality

ASQ, the global voice of quality, is gearing up for the 2011 World Quality Month celebration with the launch of the YouQ video contest—asking people passionate about quality to show how quality tools have made a positive impact in their workplaces and communities.

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Participants can upload their videos through Oct. 31 on ASQ's Facebook page. Individual and team submissions are encouraged.

The contest is designed to raise the voice of quality, strengthen connections within the global quality community, and showcase the impact of quality worldwide. The contest will help participants share quality insights and ideas, and present new solutions to challenges.

Viewers who "like" ASQ on Facebook will vote on videos and select the winners during World Quality Month, an annual celebration of quality and its impact on the world. World Quality Month is celebrated in November. Winners of the YouQ video contest will be announced in December.

Prizes for the YouQ video contest include an Apple iPad 2 with Wi-Fi and 3G, and a 64GB iPod Touch. For more information about the YouQ video contest, visit ASQ's Facebook page.

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ACLASS Training Calendar

ACLASS offers a variety of training courses related to our accreditation programs. These include:

- ISO/IEC 17025 Lead Assessor Training
- Internal Auditing to ISO/IEC 17025
- Practical Measurement Uncertainty
- Customized training courses

All courses are offered at least once a year and in various locations for your convenience. We also offer customized training to meet your needs. For more information, e-mail ACLASS or call 877-344-3044.

ISO/IEC 17025 Internal Auditing

December 7-9, 2011, Fort Lauderdale, FL
February 13-15, 2012, Memphis, TN
March 7-9, 2012, Las Vegas, NV
June 18-20, 2012, Atlanta, GA
September 19-21, 2012, Las Vegas, NV
December 12-14, 2012, St. Petersburg, FL

Cost: ASQ member $850, non-ASQ member $950

ISO/IEC 17025 Lead Assessor Training

October 24-28, 2011, Albuquerque, NM
April 16-20, 2012, Greenville, SC
November 12-16, 2012, San Antonio, TX

Cost: ASQ member $1,395, non-ASQ member $1,595

Practical Measurement Uncertainty

February 15-17, 2012, Memphis, TN
June 20-22, 2012, Atlanta, GA
October 15-17, 2012, Memphis, TN

Cost: ASQ member $975, non-ASQ member $1,100