



# Heads Up

Issue: 14

Date: November 18, 2011

To: ACLASS-Accredited and Applicant Laboratories and ACLASS Assessors

From: Terry Burgess, Accreditation Manager, Calibration

Re: ACLASS Policy Change Pending ILAC P14 Review

Following the publication of ILAC P14, *ILAC Policy for Uncertainty in Calibration*, there has been confusion concerning the meaning of clause 6.1, which states:

**ISO/IEC 17025 requires calibration laboratories to report, in the calibration certificate, the uncertainty of measurement and/or a statement of compliance with an identified metrological specification or clauses thereof.**

**Accredited calibration laboratories shall report the uncertainty of measurement, in compliance with the requirements in 6.2 – 6.5 of this section.**

In contrast, ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*, clause 5.10.4.1, states:

**In addition to the requirements listed in 5.10.2, calibration certificates shall include the following, where necessary for the interpretation of calibration results:**

**b) the uncertainty of measurement and/or a statement of compliance with an identified metrological specification or clauses thereof;**

Clause 6.1 of ILAC P14 as worded was interpreted by ACLASS to mean that measurement uncertainty (MU) shall be reported on the calibration certificate in all cases. Since reporting MU when issuing only a statement of compliance exceeded the "and/or" requirements of ISO/IEC 17025, ILAC has been asked to interpret the intent of this clause to eliminate ambiguity. Until that process is completed, ACLASS is rescinding the policy (announced October 2, 2011, in Heads Up 11) that required reporting of MU in all cases when issuing a statement of compliance. ACLASS Document 3, *ISO/IEC 17025 Accreditation Requirements*, clause 7.4.1, is being revised as follows:

**Calibration laboratories are required to report Measurement Uncertainty (MU) on all accredited calibration certificates unless issuing only a statement of compliance to a specification.**

**Statements of compliance on calibration certificates (and test reports) are understood to include any check box or other designation that a measured value or property meets manufacturer's specification or other defined specification. Uncertainty consideration may often impact accept or reject criteria for a measurement when this is reported.**

**Since uncertainty of measurement must be considered in this determination in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025, an accredited laboratory must clearly indicate on these certificates or**

**reports if uncertainties were not considered so the customer will know to do that calculation. In these cases, MU shall be included on the calibration certificate.**

**When issuing a statement of compliance without MU, laboratories are reminded that ISO/IEC 17025 still requires that the MU be calculated and maintained for possible future needs. Documentation of a customer request for a statement of compliance without MU shall be available in contract review records.**