



Winter 2005

## UILI Submit Comments Regarding 17025:9001

The Union of International Independent Laboratories (UILI) has participated actively throughout the protracted review of 17025 in the work of CASCO Working Group 25. UILI submitted comments concerning proposed changes to the final wording for the Final Draft Amendment (FDAM) 17025 with demand for the retention of text for Clause 1.6 and Notes 1 and 2 proposed by WG 25.

The final proposed changes of the standard, includes a clear statement that laboratory accreditation to this standard would meet "the principles of ISO 9001"; use of this standard was for accreditation of laboratories not certification, and accreditation should be undertaken by a body that operates in accordance with ISO/IEC 17011.

UILI representative David Stanger has campaigned consistently for minimal changes to 17025. He acknowledged the reality that minimal changes were required to achieve alignment with ISO 9001 and compatibility with ISO Directives. His concern, and that of other international testing laboratory groups, has been that significant changes to the 17025 standards would make the standardization situation even more confusing, make the adoption process more time consuming, and create unnecessary cost implications to the laboratories and clients alike.

Graeme Drake, Head of the Conformity Assessment Secretariat (CASCO) of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), has confirmed that the voting period on ISO/IEC 17025 FDAM Amendment 1 would close on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2005. He anticipated publication could take place in April 2005. ILAC 2004 plenary adopted a resolution for a two-year transition period from the eventual date of publication.

## UILI Board of Governors Meeting

The UILI Board of Governors held its 2004 meeting immediately prior to the ACIL annual meeting in Orlando, Florida USA. Representatives from all the association member countries attended. At the meeting, the Board held an extended discussion of financial and membership issues. They discussed proficiency testing as a way to provide additional services to current members' companies, attract new association and associate members, generate additional revenue, and increase UILI's visibility in the international testing world. The Board of Governors agreed to seek new affiliate members as they travel for their own businesses.

The Board members also discussed ways to increase the value and content of the UILI web site ([www.uili.org](http://www.uili.org)). All interested parties are urged to visit the site.

The Board members also congratulated JEMCA on its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. UILI was represented at the festivities in Tokyo in May 2004 by **Mr. Steve Vincent**.

**Dr. Juan Ignacio Ustaran Cervantes**, Director General of ABC Laboratorios Quimica Investigacion Y Analisis in Mexico City, MX was an honored guest at the meeting. He described the current independent laboratory situation in Mexico. Several laboratory associations in Mexico may merge and could become a member of UILI.

The next meeting of the Board of Governors will be March 18, 2005 in Brussels.



## CCIL News

### Membership Recruitment

The CCIL Board has outlined as a priority item to have its Executive Director, Allan Maynard, concentrate on membership recruitment. This will be ongoing for the next several months, both for corporate and associate membership. It was felt that broader representation across the country would provide a stronger Association.

### PT Samples

A committee is being set up to look at the provision of obtaining environmental PT samples at better prices based on volume. The committee will be looking into estimating the number of PT samples being used by CCIL members in one year and the costs associated with this.

### Directory of Member Firms

The new directory of member firms was published in late November 2004 and is being distributed. Contact Francine Fortier at [ccil@magma.ca](mailto:ccil@magma.ca) for additional information.

### Maxxam/PSC Merger

On October 04, 2004, Maxxam Analytics merged with PSC Analytical Services creating the largest privately held analytical services company in Canada. Operating under the Maxxam Analytics name, the newly formed company will provide extensive geographic coverage with 20 offices across Canada.

## JEMCA News

JEMCA (Japan Environmental Measurement & Chemical Analysis Association) is an association composed of 578 Environmental Testing Laboratories in Japan. They have been tackling several environmental issues for 30 years, and last year they took the next steps toward their challenging future.

In spite of a current recession in Japan, business in their industry seems to be on the upturn resulting from significant progress in both international and domestic agreements.

The following are topics on which JEMCA is currently focusing:

#### I. International Agreement and Its Relevant Action.

For example, the *Kyoto Protocol* will come into force in February 2005. JEMCA expects new businesses to be created in Japan relating to the protocol, such as countermeasures against global warming or CDM. Since the *Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Treaty* was put into force in May 2004, PCB detoxification treatment has set out. In May 2004, *Law Relating to the Prevention of Marine Pollution and Maritime Disasters (Japan)* was revised relating to the revision of the *London Convention*. JEMCA expects that these requirements relative to environment impact assessments in waste dumping will lead to another business industry in the future.

#### II. Domestic Environment Measure

Recently in Japan, SPM (Suspended Particulate Matter) and Photochemical Oxidants in cities has been attracting attention again. In May 2004, the *Air Pollution Control Law (Japan)* was revised to control emission of VOC from factories and business establishments that were not under any control at that time. They expect new business activity in measuring emissions of such substances in the environment.

#### III. Improvement of Reliability in the Environment Testing Industry

Resulting from JEMCA's efforts to develop several systems to ensure reliability in the envi-

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ronmental testing industry, JEMCA has been successful in improving test results especially in the field of measurement of ultra trace substances. MLAP (Specified Measurement Laboratory Accreditation Program, Japan) is one of those systems. It is part of the *Measurement Law (Japan)*, which certifies environment testing laboratories' test results. A registration system in soil contaminant research is also in place and last year JIS (Japanese Industrial Standards) was revised, which enabled the private sector to be much more involved.

In 2005, viewing all these trends, JEMCA would like to work on the following activities:

1. To begin with, JEMCA would work on improving the environment testing skills of their members by holding workshops, seminars, and providing Proficiency Testing. JEMCA is now prepared to develop a new system that helps clients recognize the practical skills level of each engineer registered.
2. As already mentioned above, JEMCA will foster the growth of new businesses relating to system restructuring and establishing international agreements.
3. Also, JEMCA would like to promote international activities through their continuing membership in UILL and ACIL. By monitoring trends in environment testing industry internationally, they could prepare for an integrated cooperative structure within ISO.
4. And, as a leading association in the Japanese environmental testing field, they actively support promotion of the CSR for ensuring laboratories' reliability relative to quality control.

As long as they are taking part of Japan's environmental industry, aside from their own advantage, JEMCA thinks it is ideal for their industry to develop as the nation becomes environmentally developed. Furthermore, as JEMCA members improve their testing skill, they will strive to meet CSR standards and enhance cooperation with other UILL members.

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## ACIL News

### Online Ethics Training

Online ethics training, *Ethics with Integrity: The Foundations of Environmental Laboratory Excellence*, is available at the ACIL Web site, [www.acil.org](http://www.acil.org). The self-directed, interactive training program is conducted totally on the internet and consists of eight one-hour sessions. It is offered under the auspices of ACIL's foundation, the Independent Laboratories Institute.

### ACIL Round Robin Testing

ACIL is offering week-long radiated emissions testing to US EMC laboratories of a 1-18GHz source. ACIL operates the program in accordance with ISO/IEC Guide 43-1. Interlaboratory comparisons or round robins are stipulated in ISO 17025 as a method of assuring the quality of test results. The program provides testing laboratories an opportunity to meet required US governmental testing standards.

### ELDII

ACIL's Environmental Laboratory Data Integrity Initiative (ELDII) program is now available. The program requires a laboratory to submit an extensive and exacting analysis of its internal processes and procedures. That self-analysis is then assessed by an outside consultant who either issues a certificate of acceptance or details procedures that do not meet established standards. The program was initiated to ensure that participating environmental laboratories meet strict ethical standards in the performance of analytical procedures and reporting of analytical results. Additional information is available at the ACIL Web site.

### Assessor Training

ACIL, under the auspices of its foundation, the Independent Laboratories Institute, is offering two training workshops for laboratory assessors. One, on February 28 - March 1, 2005 pro-

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vides an introduction to performing laboratory internal audits and assessments. The second, on March 2-4, is entitled, "Assessments for ISO/IEC 17025 and NELAC". Please go to [www.acil.org](http://www.acil.org) for additional information.

### **ACIL at the Consumer Electronics Show**

ACIL had a booth for the first time at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) held in Las Vegas, NV in early January 2005. The International CES is the world's largest annual consumer technology event and is the global meeting place for top international government officials and technology executives from more than 110 countries. ACIL volunteers promoted the advantages of third party testing.

### **ACIL/NEMC Agreement**

ACIL has a renewed agreement with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to present the 2005 National Environmental Monitoring Conference (NEMC). The conference, covering a wide breadth of issues affecting air, water, soil, solid waste and pesticides, will be held July 25-27 in Washington, DC. The NEMC web site is [www.nemc.us](http://www.nemc.us)

### **Food Regulation Comments**

ACIL continues to file comments on behalf of the independent laboratory community with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and US Department of Agriculture (USDA). Topics vary from unfair government requirements regarding BSE testing (mad cow disease), regulations regarding testing of imported foods, registration of food facilities, to new homeland security regulations.

### **Steve Vincent New ACIL Officer**

**Steve Vincent**, ACIL representative to UILI, was elected Chair-Elect of ACIL, effective October 10, 2004. He will be Chair-Elect for two years and will assume the Chairmanship in September 2006. Mr. Vincent is President and CEO of Columbia Analytical Services, Kelso, Washington, USA.

### **Tsunami Relief**

Members of the international independent testing community can personally and tangibly help the millions of people in South Asia who are suffering from the effects of the recent tsunami. Health officials report that the single greatest threat now to the survivors is disease from contaminated water. The people fortunate enough to survive the initial wave of destruction run an inordinately high risk of dying due to contaminated drinking water.

Water Missions International (WMI) is a Charleston, SC-based nonprofit organization devoted to preventing disease by bringing clean water to people in disaster areas and developing countries. It was founded by George and Molly Greene, former owners of General Engineering Laboratories, and Honorary Members of ACIL. WMI manufactures and places into service Living Water™ Treatment Systems, which can purify 10,000 gallons of water per day or enough water to help 3,000-5,000 people.

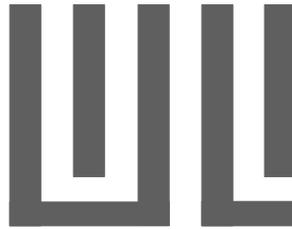
For additional information (and to make a donation), go to [www.watermissions.org](http://www.watermissions.org) and click the "Donate Now" button.

### **U.S. E-mail Laws**

New US government regulations on record-keeping mean companies must keep records of all business correspondence – including e-mail. If a message contains important or confidential information, US citizens are urged to send it through their company's e-mail system, not a personal system, and to keep a copy of it.

### **Please update your information to include the following:**

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**Union Internationale des Laboratoires Indépendants  
International Union of Independent Laboratories  
Internationale Vereinigung Unabhängiger Laboratorien**

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## **OBJECTIVES**

To represent the professional and commercial interests of private sector laboratories and scientific consultants on an international basis.

To provide a forum for the international exchange of views on matters of common interest including, for example, laboratory quality assurance, laboratory accreditation, product certification, national and international standards, and international barriers to trade.

To promote the international status of laboratories and scientific consultants and emphasize their important role in international trade.

To establish an international network of scientific contacts to act in the professional and commercial interests of its members.

To strengthen the bond of friendship between members.

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