



Benefits of the use of accredited testing laboratories

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Objectives

To share with industry and regulators on the benefits of the use of accredited testing laboratories

What is laboratory accreditation?

Laboratory accreditation may be defined as:

“A formal recognition that a laboratory is competent to perform specified tests or measurements”

When a laboratory is accredited its demonstrated capacity is defined in a schedule of specific tests and calibrations granted by the accreditation body. This occurs only after accreditation body is satisfied that the laboratory seeking accreditation has access to all necessary resources to undertake these particular tests correctly and is managed in such a ways that it is likely to do it consistently.

What is laboratory accreditation?

In practice, accredited testing laboratory means that the laboratory is able to convince a team of technical experts that it is properly equipped, has available other necessary resources and that its staff have all appropriate qualifications and skills necessary to perform tests in question as well as the nominated tests

Testing lab must also be able to demonstrate that it is managed in compliance with the international standards ISO/ IEC 17025

What is ISO/ IEC 17025?

- Is internationally recognized standard that provides general requirements for competence of testing and calibration laboratories. It specifies the requirements for sound management and technical competence for type of tests and or/ calibration the laboratory undertakes. The criteria set out in this standards provide an effective means of ensuring degree of reproductively of test results

What is the difference between ISO/ IEC 17025 and ISO 9000?

- It is important to understand the difference between accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025 and certification to ISO 9000.
- The ISO 9000 family of standards is concerned with quality management and these may be applied for any organization. ISO/ IEC 17025 and laboratory accreditation are concerned with competence and quality management of laboratories only. ISO/IEC 17025 specifies all the relevant quality management elements of ISO 9001 and, in addition, address other matters of technical nature, such as competence of staff, test method validation, uncertainty measurements and the use of reference material.

It is suggested that none of ISO 9000 standards are appropriate as benchmarks for selection of a laboratory

What are the benefits of the use of accredited testing laboratories?

Ensures integrity and technical competence

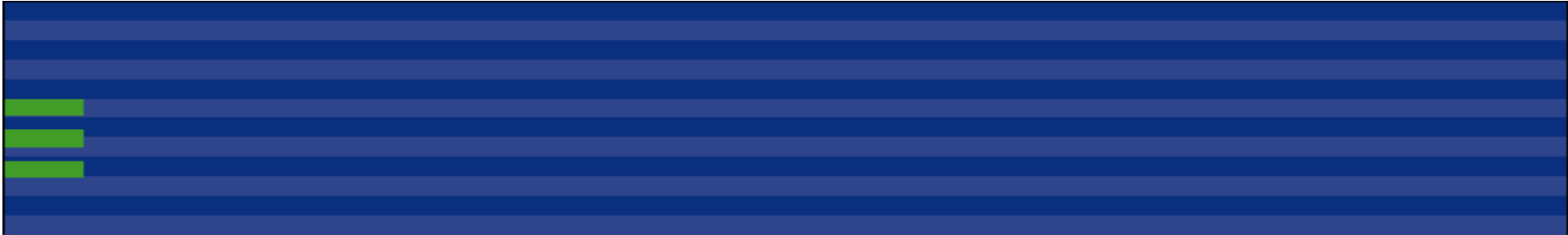
Accreditation reduces risk for business and its customers by assuring them that accredited laboratories are competent to carry out the work they undertake.

Assurance of accuracy, traceability and reproducibility of test report/ data

Test reports/ data generated by accredited laboratories provides Government Bodies and regulators with the confidence in order to make their decision based on sound technical judgment. These decisions relate to industrial efficiency and technological development, enforcement of regulations for safety, health and assure consumer interest are protected

What are the benefits of the use of accredited testing laboratories?

It is highly desirable that regulators take cognizance to the fact that industry nowadays are getting are able to provide reliable test data of their products conducted by accredited laboratories. In the self-declaration environments such as cosmetics, this is a way forward for them in providing evidence of compliance to regulations. As such, in cases where disputes on the reliability of test data occur in PMS, it is only sensible that regulators also use test data from accredited laboratories.



Thank You!