



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO  
laboratory  
Accreditation  
Service

June 9th is celebrated annually as World Accreditation Day, a global initiative jointly established by the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

This year's theme, "Accreditation, delivering confidence in the provision of energy", has special significance for Trinidad and Tobago as a predominantly energy exporting economy.

**Quality, measurement, safety, efficiency**

Historically, the need for energy in carrying out routine activities has not been disputed. In fact, today, it is recognized as a critical commodity for the production of common goods and services and fundamental to home, industrial and national environments. The increased demand for energy continues as populations, businesses and industrialized economies increase globally. A natural concomitant of that increase is the challenge among energy suppliers to augment and improve its extraction, generation, distribution and storage processes.

As the global energy landscape continues to evolve from the sole use of fossil fuels towards the introduction of renewable substitutes to replace existing technologies, the requisite need for standardized testing and measurement processes to determine performance and efficiency will increase. On the one hand, regulators will need to verify that those processes and the provision of energy are safe and environmentally acceptable for the end user. On the other, consumers will need the assurance that their consumption is being accurately measured, adding value for money spent, as well as knowing that domestic energy supply fixtures and other energy-driven devices have been safely manufactured and installed for efficient and optimal use.

**The role of accreditation in the provision of energy**

The provision of energy involves a complex number of interrelated process chains at national, regional and international levels, within cross-border trade relations. In a complex, and highly technological global trade environment, a level of confidence and assurance of accuracy is required at every stage in the process. Conformity assessment activities which involve testing, inspection and

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO BUREAU OF STANDARDS joins with the international community in celebrating

# World Accreditation Day 2014

## Delivering Confidence in the provision of energy

certification are necessary steps in the process. Trading partners and regulators in turn, rely on these conformity assessment activities to verify compliance, the results of which can impact on critical decisions. This reassurance is further underpinned and substantiated by accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies which provide these services.

Laboratory accreditation, in particular, is a process whereby an independent assessment by a recognized third-party affirms that a laboratory has the technical competence to perform specified tests in accordance with internationally accepted procedures.

**The Trinidad and Tobago Laboratory Accreditation Service (TTLABS)**

The Trinidad and Tobago Laboratory Accreditation Service (TTLABS) was established by Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards in response to its mandate in the Standards Act No. 18 of 1997 under Article 3 (2) (c) to be "the national laboratory accrediting body" for the purpose of accrediting laboratories.

TTLABS provides accreditation services for conformity assessment bodies according to the requirements of the International Standards: ISO/IEC 17025 "General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories" and ISO 15189 "Medical laboratories-Particular requirements for quality and competence". Compliance with these standards ensures reliable, quality assessments of products and services.

Since its inception, TTLABS has worked extensively with its stakeholders including laboratories, government regulators and business support organizations to promote the benefits of accreditation. Its service provides a system by which specialist assessors can assess laboratories' competence to perform specific tests and calibrations for their customers for export purposes and for government regulators who rely on test data for decision making.

TTLABS retains active memberships in regional and international co-operations in the Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC).

For additional information on Laboratory Accreditation please email: [lab.accreditation@ttbs.org.tt](mailto:lab.accreditation@ttbs.org.tt) or call at 662-8827 Ext 171 or visit us at [www.gottbs.org.tt](http://www.gottbs.org.tt)



are appropriate, and to declare their environmental credentials. In turn, certification to ISO 50001 can help businesses improve energy-related performance and identify energy reduction opportunities.

Accreditation of laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies ultimately provides assurance to consumers, business, government and regulators. Through the standardization and regulatory process, coupled with accreditation, consumers and businesses are assured that they are purchasing a quality product that is safe, can be utilized for its intended purpose, and meets energy efficiency goals.

**JOINT STATEMENT from ILAC and IAF Chairs by Randy Dougherty, Chair IAF, and Pete Unger, Chair ILAC**

World Accreditation Day will be commemorated on June 9th, 2014. This year will focus on the role that accreditation plays in providing confidence in the provision of energy. Energy provision encompasses attempts to meet the needs of the world's current population without negatively impacting future generations. It involves the extraction, transmission, generation, distribution and storage.

First, it is imperative to reflect on the importance of energy provision. Energy is an oft-overlooked necessity for daily tasks and activities. Society has grown heavily dependent on the convenience and luxury that is obtained through the harnessing of energy. Additionally, the number of households and businesses using energy will continue to increase as the world becomes more industrialized.

As the demand for energy grows, methods for harnessing, storing and sharing energy need to be enhanced. There is immense pressure put upon all responsible parties to implement these methods instantaneously. However, it is in the best interest of the majority to verify that these methodologies are safe. Regulators are tasked with the efficient provision of energy as well as ensuring the safety of their end users. This is accomplished in part by requiring accreditation of laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies.

Specifically, laboratories are used to identify performance of devices used in the harnessing and periodically in the dispersal and monitoring of both traditional and renewable energies. Laboratory testing is used to check the purity and quality of fuels. It is also fundamental to the proving of new technologies such as tidal and wind (or solar) energy. Safety inspections are carried out on a range of energy-related installations, from coal-fired power stations to nuclear installations to wind farms. Energy suppliers are certified to demonstrate that their processes and procedures

How do we do this effectively? How do we know what is right and what is wrong? Testing, inspection and certification are ways to ensure that a clear line is drawn between the methodologies and activities that are right and wrong with respect to energy provision. Accreditation of the organizations that are performing these tasks ensures a consistent and reliable approach, which will in turn result in an industry that is conducive to the needs of the consumer and the environment.

Laboratories, inspection bodies and certifiers who maintain accreditation from ILAC and/or IAF Arrangement Signatories benefit from thoroughly vetted accreditation processes. As signatories to these arrangements, the accreditation bodies deem each other equivalent. Trade barriers are reduced through the efforts and activities of these arrangements because there is confidence created in the end product. The results of testing, inspections and certifications, produce both consumer and regulatory confidence in products moving between markets. Because of the stated and verified equivalency, it allows manufacturers to test a product once, rather than multiple times, in the process of seeking regulatory approvals and moving it across borders.

Major events, press campaigns, workshops and seminars will take place in conjunction with the celebration of World Accreditation Day in over 90 countries to raise awareness of the value that accreditation plays in providing confidence in the provision of energy. For further details, contact your local accreditation body.

A promotional brochure to celebrate the day is available for download from the ILAC and IAF websites, and a short promotional film is also available for download on the IAF and ILAC Youtube channel <http://www.youtube.com/user/IAFandILAC>.

