

For all that's accreditation!

Contact us:

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From the Manager, TTLABS...

Welcome to our first edition of **TTLABS News**, *For all that's accreditation!* We are pleased to bring this publication to you on a quarterly basis. The intent is to keep you informed of events hosted by TTLABS and those that are upcoming and that may be of interest to you, our valuable stakeholders. We hope that you enjoy and we welcome your feedback on it.

Karlene Lewis
Manager, TTLABS

"Quality is the best business plan."

-John Lasseter

Transition to ISO/IEC 17025:2017

The third edition of ISO/IEC 17025 was published in November 2017. ILAC has published a transition period of 3 years from the date of publication for all ISO/IEC 17025-accredited laboratories to be transitioned to the third edition. All of TTLABS' ISO/IEC 17025-accredited laboratories will have to be transitioned by 30th November 2020. As a result, TTLABS will begin transition assessments throughout 2019 for all its ISO/IEC 17025-accredited laboratories.

Are you one of these laboratories? Are you ready? Have you been preparing for the changes? TTLABS started conducting training programmes in ISO/IEC 17025:2017 in 2018.

Major changes include:

- 1) more flexibility, providing more options;
- 2) application of risk-based thinking; and
- 3) updated to include the use of current technology.

TTLABS will be hosting more training sessions next year. Stay tuned for future calendar events.

Census of Laboratories in T&T

During this fiscal year (2018/2019), TTLABS will be engaging in census of all laboratories in Trinidad and Tobago. The objectives of this census include:

- 1) to identify the number and types of laboratories that exist in Trinidad and Tobago and the markets they serve;
- 2) to identify the specific needs required for the laboratory community so that the reliability in results can be improved for the country; and
- 3) to determine the needs for measurement traceability for the country.

The process will be undertaken in two phases. The first will be to ask laboratories to voluntarily register through the TTLABS webpage.



The second phase will occur as a face-to-face interview with a representative of the laboratory, preferably at your facilities.

We look forward to your cooperation with this exercise as it is intended to improve the testing and calibration services provided within Trinidad and Tobago, and improve the service that TTLABS offers to you our valued customers.

TTLABS Calendar of Events

6th Nov 2018:	<i>Divali (holiday)</i>
13th—15th Nov 2018:	Training programme (open):- Introduction to ISO 15189:2012
22nd Nov 2018:	LAC Meeting (closed)
25th Dec 2018:	<i>Christmas Day (holiday)</i>
26th Dec 2018:	<i>Boxing Day (holiday)</i>
1st Jan 2019:	<i>New Year's Day (holiday)</i>
17th Jan 2019:	Assessor Meeting (by special invitation)
31st Jan 2019:	LAC Meeting (closed)
11th—13th Feb 2019:	Training programme (open):- Understanding ISO/IEC 17025:2017

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Accreditation Issues Corner

In this issue, we want to take a look at the purpose of the internal audits for a laboratory. Internal audits are an important tool for Laboratory Management to manage its risks and to ensure that the needs of its interested parties are being met.

The internal audit is the process whereby the laboratory reviews the implementation of its processes and operations by an impartial look at its policies, procedures and records to ensure that they are compliant with its own management system and with the requirements of the international standard and any other regulatory requirements. This information is important for the management of the laboratory to understand the operations and its challenges. It allows for Laboratory Management to ensure that the most appropriate (effective and efficient) corrective action is taken to ensure that the risk to the valid result produced by the laboratory, which is what the laboratory sells, is eliminated or minimised.

For the internal audit to be effective, persons who are selected to be auditors need to be observant and knowledgeable in the management system and operations of the organisation. The impact of issues in one area may be seen in another area. Laboratory Management needs to set priority on internal audits and ensure that a thorough review occurs in the management review.

International News

TTLABS attended the Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) General Assembly which was hosted by JANAAC in Jamaica on 25th—31st August 2018. At this meeting, discussions occurred surrounding the transition of ISO/IEC 17025-accredited laboratories to the third edition of the standard. There were also discussions on the transition of the management systems of accreditation bodies to the second edition of ISO/IEC 17011.

There were elections for new positions in the Executive Committee of IAAC. Ms Karlene Lewis, Manager, TTLABS is the Chair of the IAAC Promotions Committee for the period 2018—2020.

ILAC-IAF Joint General Assembly occurred on 21st—31st October 2018 in Singapore. ILAC approved 25 resolutions that included issues on finance,

ILAC membership, the accreditation of biobanking, the election of the 2019/2020 Executive Committee and 4 Joint ILAC-IAF resolutions.

In other news, WADA (the World Anti-Doping Agency) revoked the accreditation of the Laboratório de Análises de Dopagem (Lisbon Laboratory) due to non-compliance with the International Standard for Laboratories (ISL) and its related Technical Documents. This decision was made on 18th October 2018 by the WADA Executive Committee due to persistent irregularities and non-compliance in performance in WADA proficiency testing schemes. Read more via this link: <https://www.wada-ama.org/en/media/news/2018-10/wada-revokes-accreditation-of-lisbon-laboratory>

“Quality is never an accident; it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, and skillful execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives.”

-William A. Foster

TTLABS Laboratory Update Meeting April 2018. We look forward to seeing you in 2019.

