

## Context

With the signing of the CIPM MRA in 1999, National Metrology Institutes (NMI) agreed to adopt quality management systems to support their CMC (calibration and measurement capability) claims. First systems were based on the principles in ISO Guide 25, however, as the MRA matured, the adoption of the ISO/IEC 17025 standard became the norm for the acceptance of an NMI's QMS. ISO/IEC 17025 is a competence standard for laboratories that includes management system requirements as well as technical requirements related to traceability, uncertainty, method validation, etc.

NMIs have often found that particular requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 are written for commercial or industrial testing and calibration laboratories whose main purpose is the transfer of traceable measurements, these requirements do not reflect the reality or nature of an NMI laboratory which is focused principally on the determination and dissemination of measurement capabilities. These challenges are reflected in the results of a survey conducted by the SIM QMS WG in preparation for this workshop.

Now is the opportune moment for closer collaborations within the QICA (Quality Infrastructure Council of the Americas) partners – SIM, IAAC and COPANT; several key international standards used by or impacting the NMI, accreditation body and laboratory communities are under review – ISO/IEC 17025, ISO Guide 34 and ISO/IEC 17011. Engaging in standards development and the revisions of these standards is the best way to ensure that national and regional concerns are addressed.

### The objective of the workshop will be:

- to inform the SIM, IAAC and COPANT members of the current standards under revision, the process for review and the timelines for comment;
- to share concerns regarding the implication of the potential revisions for SIM NMI, IAAC accreditation body and laboratory communities;
- to use the revision of ISO/IEC 17025 to illustrate the linkages between the pillars of Quality Infrastructure – Standards, Accreditation and Metrology;
- to motivate SIM and IAAC members to volunteer and participate as technical experts with their National Standards Development bodies (COPANT members); and
- to strengthen the regional voice in the standards revision process.

SIM is pleased to host this workshop as part of the SIM week events. Participants are also welcome to observe the SIM General Assembly and the SIM Quality System Task Force meeting.

The workshop will be held: Tuesday 17 November 2015 from 14:00 to 17:00 and Wednesday 18 November 2015 from 9:00 to 13:00. The open session of the GA will be Tuesday 17 November 2015 9:00 to 13:00. The QSTF meets Wednesday 18 November 2015 14:00 to 17:00 and Thursday 19 November 2015 9:00 to 17:00

## Program

Tuesday 18 November 2015	
Welcome/Introduction	14:00
QICA - the three pillars of Quality Infrastructure	
Role/members of each COPANT, IAAC, SIM	
ISO CASCO - owner of ISO 17025	

ISO CASCO process - standards development		
Conformity assessment overview		
CASCO process - including timelines		
CASCO documents - common structure/elements		
Questions/discussions		
BREAK	coffee/tea (15 min)	15:15
Points of view on ISO/IEC 17025		
NMIs - implementing and peer recognition		
ABs - accreditation and laboratory community		
SDOs - access to technical experts and stakeholder engagement		
Discussion of participants		
End Day 1		17:00
Wednesday 18 November 2015		
CD ISO/IEC 17025		9:00
General overview - provide copies		
Main issues debated at WG		
Significant proposed changes		
Discussion of participants		
Implementation		
NMIs - SIM QSTF process		
ABs - Implementation period, plans		
SDOs - communication to stakeholders and experts		
BREAK	coffee/tea (15 min)	10:45
Get Involved		
How to comment on CD (P-members)		
How to get involved and stay informed (Liaison and National members)		
Other standards/guides of mutual interest		
ISO/IEC 17011 - Accreditation process		
ISO Guides 31, 34 - Reference material production		
ISO/IEC 17043 - Proficiency testing providers		
JCGM - GUM/VIM		
Questions/Wrap-up/Summary		End 13:00

The workshop will be moderated by Georgette Macdonald from NRC Canada with sessions lead by Warren Merkel, NVLAP USA and members from COPANT and IAAC (to be determined).

**For more information or to register, please contact:**

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