ISO Accreditation and Certification Requirements in the 21st Century

The New Imperative:
"Laboratory Accreditation is Now Required for World Trade"

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What Is Laboratory Accreditation?
- Recognition of Laboratory Competency
  - Getting the correct results
- Third Party Laboratory Assessment
  - Objective and done by competent assessor
- Provides Assurance of Laboratory Data
  - Accepted everywhere in the world
- Endorsed by APEC
  - Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation is APEC Specialized Regional Body

Laboratory Competence
- Qualification and experience of staff
- Suitable testing facilities
- Appropriate testing methods
- Calibrated and maintained equipment
- Traceability of results to national standards
- Proper sample handling practices
- Quality control procedures
  - "all to get the "correct results"

Third Party Assessments
- Independent evaluation of Laboratories
  - By ILAC recognized Accreditation Bodies
  - Using ISO/IEC 17025:2005 Standard
  - Done by technically competent assessors
  - On-going monitoring of laboratory assessors
  - Re-assessment every 2 years

The Benefits for Laboratories
- Evidence of correct results
- Defensible data
- Credibility to customers & regulators
- Increasing market share
- Continual system improvement

Realities of World Trade
- Textiles, petroleum products, wine, and other commodities are now traded entirely on the basis of technical specs
- As are consumer products (e.g. electronic goods and packaged foods)
- International demand is increasing for test data and other technical information in the interests of community health
- Barriers: Not having reliable data!
ILAC MRA Network
- 40 bodies from 93 different economies
- 72 signatories representing 59 economies
- Represents 95% of Global GDP
- Almost 40,000 accredited laboratories
- 77% of regulators accept results from accredited laboratories

ILAC MRA Assures Data Acceptance

The Benefits for World Trade
- For Government and Regulators:
  - Flexible alternative to Legislation
  - Facilitator of world trade
  - Efficient monitoring tool
- For Business:
  - Greater acceptance of products opening up market access
  - Avoid costs associated with multiple testing
- For Consumers:
  - Public confidence in goods despite global marketplace
  - Minimizes product failures and recalls

Bottom Line From Accreditation
- Assurance that laboratory results are:
  - Accurate
  - Traceable
  - Reproducible
  - Uniform
  - Defensible
- Critical in decision-making
- Results from Accredited Laboratories are accepted throughout the world!