Eurachem
A Focus for Analytical Chemistry in Europe

10th PT/EQA Workshop - Windsor 2023

Report from WG 1B

Working group: Revision of ISO/IEC 17043

- Convenors:
  - Angela Sorbo (Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy)
  - Ulla Tiikkainen (Labquality, Finland)

Who is represented in this group WG1B?

- PT/EQA providers: 23 (EQA: 3)
- PT/EQA participants or customers: 4
- Representatives of accreditation bodies: 1

Appropriateness of revised content

- a. Do you think the revised content of ISO/IEC 17043 appropriately addresses current practice?
- The stucture is similar to 17025 so it is easier to follow for people also accredited according to ISO 17025
- More flexible (what is not included in the standard that it can still exist)

  Example: no longer included coordinator
- The different interpretation by the AB could cause problem to the PTP

Appropriateness of revised content

- b. What changes have been most welcome, and which have been less welcome?

-Less: risks analysis (a lot of work)

The principle of Risk Analysis is interesting, but difficult to implement even because in some cases it does not add a value

-Most: The RA can be advantageous if this approach is practical

(e.g. less tests required)

Appropriateness of revised content

- Risk Analysis can be based on the PTP experience (no needs of too complex analysis). Probably a good and responsible PTP is doing already what included in new
- Some doubts about the reference to ISO 17034 and the requirements that the Accreditation Bodies can require the PTP to fulfill (worries about additional technical requirements difficult to meet)

This reference should be interpreted as an opportunity to use sample as Reference Material.

Appropriateness of revised content

- c. Have the changes addressed the issues of concern in the 2010 version of ISO/IEC 17043?

No concerns

Implementation

- a. As a PT/EQA provider, which new or changed requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 do you feel will be most difficult to implement?
- One PTP has already started implementing by validating internal analytical methods
- Risk-based approach can be difficult to document in a proper way
- Surveillance: it is not clear how to implement

Implementation

- b. As a PT/EQA participant, which new or changed requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 are most difficult to "understand"?
- The missing Annex C in the new standard (useful for participant)
- Sometimes the participants use a well-established method based on a common approach and in these cases could not be necessary to provide the PTP with a lot of analytical details (waste of time from the participant point of view).
- The inclusion of other fields (conformity) is a good improvement, but sometimes there is not a standardization as in chemical analysis

Implementation

- c. As an accreditation body, which new or changed requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 do you feel will be most difficult to assess?
- No specific concerns

Harmonization of implementation

Based on your experience as a PT/EQA provider/participant/accreditation body:

- a. Is the implementation of ISO/IEC 17043 harmonized and will the revised version improve the situation?
- Harmonization could be continued
- b. Which specific requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 are likely to need specific attention to achieve harmonized implementation/assessment?