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Program Updates

STATEMENT OF INTENT

A decision has been endorsed by the Board of Directors of CALA to make two changes to CALA policy. Although the details of these changes and a firm implementation schedule have not been established, the significance of the changes are such that it was deemed appropriate to provide members with a statement of intent providing generic details about these changes.

Proficiency Testing Evaluation

In response to member concerns, and to make the PT scores more comparable over time, CALA will be migrating to the use of fixed acceptance limits from limits based on study specific inter-laboratory standard deviation. The first step in this process will be to base the limits, where appropriate, on the average historic inter-laboratory standard deviation. The second stage will be to examine the limits with regard to fitness-for-purpose.

The projected implementation date for the first stage of this process is October 2009.

Mandating CALA PT for CALA Accredited Laboratories

CALA intends to remove the mandatory requirement for participation in CALA PT for accredited laboratories. Although the details have not been finalized, the intent is to allow laboratories to use CALA PT or PT from an approved provider that has a scheme that is comparable to that provided by CALA (e.g., two studies per year, four samples per study covering a range, whole samples, etc.). PT results from third-party providers will be submitted to CALA for evaluation according to CALA procedures. This will ensure that all laboratories are evaluated in a fair and equitable manner.

The projected implementation date for this policy change is January 2010.



2 | 2009 Program Documents

Laboratory contacts, take note! Please watch your incoming e-mail in November 2008 for the announcement and link to the 2009 CALA Program Description and Application Form. Staff are currently reviewing the documents and incorporating changes for 2009, and plan to have them available in November 2008.

Accreditation Program

CALA Expands Accreditation to CPSIA Testing

The Canadian Association for Laboratory Accreditation Inc. (CALA) is expanding its accreditation program for laboratories seeking to perform testing under the recently enacted U.S. regulation H.R. 4040 "Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008" (CPSIA).

The regulation specifies the requirements for testing by third party laboratories accredited for lead paint testing in children's products manufactured in the U.S. or imported by the U.S. These laboratories must be accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 by an accreditation body that is a signatory to ILAC. CALA became a Full Member ILAC signatory in November 2005 and has accredited laboratories for lead paint testing.

This new regulation requires conformance to specific testing methodologies for tests such as Lead Paint and Phthalates in children's products. Laboratories seeking accreditation for these tests under the new regulation will require a site visit. Accredited laboratories seeking to add only the new appendices will need an abbreviated visit, however, those laboratories not currently accredited or in the accreditation stream will also need to have their quality systems assessed and become accredited.

In order to meet your laboratory's time frame for accreditation of tests for the new regulation, please contact CALA as soon as possible to schedule your assessment.

For more information on the new regulation, the required specific testing methodology, and registering as a Third Party Laboratory with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), please visit their website at: <http://www.cpsc.gov>

New Cryptosporidium/Giardia Checklist

A new CALA checklist (A119) for Cryptosporidium/Giardia Filtration is available at: http://www.cala.ca/A119-Crypto_Giardia_Checklist.pdf

This checklist includes the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and most of the technical requirements from EPA 1622/1623, with some minor changes. It was developed to improve consistency between assessments for Cryptosporidium/Giardia filtration methods and will be used in any upcoming assessments. The checklist was developed with input and expertise from the Alberta Provincial Laboratory for Public Health and CALA volunteers.



- 3 | If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for improvement, please contact Colleen Cotter, Accreditation Manager (ccotter@cala.ca).

2009 Biennial Assessor Training

Plans are currently underway for the the CALA biennial assessor training, which will take place in Ottawa. Assessors should note the following important dates:

March 29 (Sunday): CALA-specific training for new assessors (1-day); this course is by invitation only, and is designed for new assessors that have not completed this course as part of their initial training.

March 30-31 (Monday and Tuesday): Biennial Assessor Training. All assessors are asked to attend these two days.

April 1 (Wednesday): Lead Assessor Training. This day is specifically designed for only those assessors that currently lead CALA assessments, or for those that are identified as new leads.

Assessors will be contacted directly later this fall to provide input into the types of workshops that they would like to see organized, or issues they want to have addressed. At the same time, details on location and booking information will be provided.

Web posting of New Accreditations and Involuntary Withdrawals

As per the Accreditation Publicity Guidelines found in the P02 - CALA Program Description, the names of any newly accredited laboratories or laboratories that have their accreditation involuntarily withdrawn (in whole), will be posted in the "News" section of the Accreditation Program webpage for a period of 1 month (http://www.cala.ca/accred_program.html).

Proficiency Testing Program

VOCs in Soil

A new PT Test Group (C36 VOCs in Soil) will be implemented in January 2009. Details of this test group will be provided in the 2009 Program Description. In short, the list of compounds will be similar to that in C16 VOCs in water. Although the concentration ranges have not been finalized, they will span the range between typical clean soil to contaminated soil. For the first study, we will provide the approximate expected concentrations for each sample to provide guidance in the sample preparation.

If your laboratory is currently accredited for these compounds and using option ii, your laboratory will be automatically registered to participate. You are encouraged to continue participation in the third-party PT that you are currently enrolled with but it is not a requirement.

Modification to Concentration Ranges

Effective in 2009, the concentration ranges for C01A (Major Ions in water) and C04C (Turbidity in water) will be changed. In general, the upper concentration ranges for C01A will be increased to better reflect real samples experienced by



- 4 | laboratories as well as various regulatory limits where they exist. The lower concentration for C04C will be lowered to reflect drinking water criteria.

For both test groups, a report detailing the changes was emailed to participants with a request for feedback. Although there were some laboratories that did not agree with the changes, the majority of responses were favourable. If you would like a copy of the reports mentioned above, please contact Ken Middlebrook, PT Manager (kmiddlebrook@cala.ca).

NATIONAL CELEBRATION



Laboratories Reaffirm their Commitment to Competence

CALA member laboratories gathered in 10 separate celebrations across Canada from 6 to 10 October to reaffirm their commitment to competence in their work. 27 member laboratories received new versions of PT Recognition Certificates and Accreditation Certificates from the hands of CALA Board Members and Members of the CALA Accreditation Council.



In Burnaby, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Ottawa, Fredericton, Halifax and St. John's, small celebrations were held to mark the occasion of the change of the name of the association from CAEAL to CALA.

Those federal and provincial regulatory agencies that help shape these two programs gathered with laboratory members from both the private and not-for-profit sectors to mark the transition of the name of their association from CAEAL, formed



in 1989, to CALA.

With an expanded mandate from the membership and Industry Canada, CALA hopes to meet the needs of those members who seek accreditation for more than just environmental testing. New programs in mineral analysis, petroleum and construction materials testing are currently being planned or delivered.



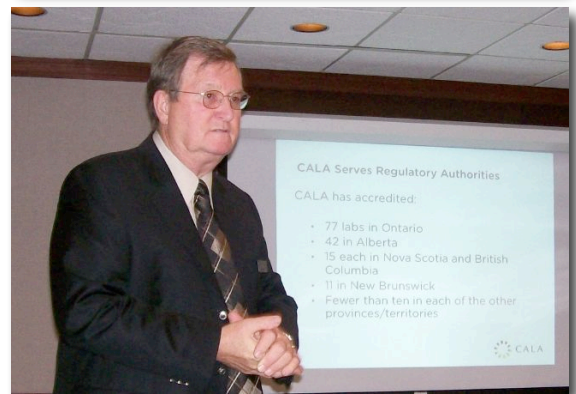
5 | In keeping with best practice, CALA will first acquire the expertise and the appropriate regulatory/public sector input before any new program is offered in response to member demand.



CAEAL spent 19 years earning the trust of Canadians and CALA is working to retain it. The volunteers and staff that deliver CALA programs to members are the same people that delivered CAEAL ones. The name has changed to reflect the new mandate.



The aim is the very same as when CAEAL was created.....



Building Laboratory Excellence.

REGULATORY

On its website CALA, has devoted a page to provincial and federal policies and regulations of concern to members. <http://www.cala.ca/provregs.html> Some recent news:

PCB Regulation

September 5, 2008 - A PCB regulation under the Canadian Environment Protection Act, 1999 has been published in the Canada Gazette. The regulation requires PCB analysis to be conducted by laboratories accredited by an accreditation body "that is a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement". Links to the Canada Gazette can be found on CALA's regulations webpage.



6 | UPDATE TO MEMBERS' WEBSITES

Your website should be updated if: it includes a reference to the full CAEAL name, the acronym or includes a link to any part of the CAEAL website.

- Full name should be changed to "Canadian Association for Laboratory Accreditation Inc. (CALA)".
- Acronym should be changed to "CALA".
- Website should be changed to "www.cala.ca".
- Email addresses should use "@cala.ca". "info@cala.ca" should be the default email, if you wish to list one.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Morris, Data and Information Manager (amorris@cala.ca).

MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE SURVEY

CALA is considering ceasing the issuance of its Membership Certificates. Before doing so, we would like to determine if members find value in these certificates. Please complete our one question survey at:

<http://www.questionpro.com/akira/TakeSurvey?id=1085759>

The CALA Board of Directors

All members, especially laboratories that are new applicants, are encouraged to contact any of the directors listed below to discuss CALA and its programs, and to seek their advice and guidance on how to make the programs work for you.

Don Enns - Treasurer
CANTEST Ltd.
Pacific For-Profit
t. 604-734-7276
e. denns@cantest.com

Al Colodey - Vice President
Environment Canada
Pacific Not-For-Profit
t. 604-924-2501
e. al.colodey@ec.gc.ca

Erv Callin - President
ALS Environmental
Prairies For-Profit
t. 780-413-5244
e. erv.callin@alsenviro.com

Pat Lang
Alberta Environment
Prairies Not-For-Profit
t. 780-427-8120
e. pat.lang@gov.ab.ca

Deborah Masson-Stogran
SGS Environmental Services
Ontario For-Profit
t. 705-652-2041
e. debbie.stogran@sgs.com

Rosa Gonzalez
City of Hamilton
Ontario Not-For-Profit
t. (905) 546-2424 x5833
e. rosa.gonzalez@hamilton.ca

VACANT
Québec For-Profit

VACANT
Québec Not-For-Profit

Trudy Toms - Secretary
Jacques Whitford Limited
Atlantic For-Profit
t. 709-576-4804 x5764222
e. ttoms@jacqueswhitford.com

James Doull - Past President
Environment Canada
Atlantic Not-For-Profit
t. 506-851-2889
e. james.doull@ec.gc.ca

Appointed:
T. Duncan Ellison
Canadian Water and Wastewater Association
t. 613-747-0524
e. tdellison@cwwa.ca

Appointed:
Michèle Giddings
Health Canada
t. 613-952-2594
e. michele_giddings@hc-sc.gc.ca



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR LABORATORY ACCREDITATION INC.

Building Laboratory
Excellence

Vers l'excellence
dans les laboratoires

Suite 310, 1565 Carling Ave.
Ottawa, Ontario K1Z 8R1

t. (613) 233-5300
f. (613) 233-5501
e. rwilson@cala.ca