



November 17, 2005.

Canadian Lab Accreditor CAEAL Gains International Recognition

The Canadian Association for Environmental Analytical Laboratories (CAEAL) today signed an international agreement that will allow tests conducted at CAEAL-accredited laboratories to be recognized in 17 countries throughout the Asia Pacific region.

The international agreement is sponsored by the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and provides mutual recognition between accrediting bodies in countries such as the United States, New Zealand, Australia, China and India. The main aim of the agreement is to facilitate recognition of accredited test results across national borders.

A team of four scientists from various APLAC countries conducted an evaluation of CAEAL's laboratory accreditation operations in July 2005, including observation of CAEAL teams conducting assessments of six Canadian laboratories. CAEAL grants accreditations based on the international standard ISO/IEC 17025, which provides assurance that the laboratory is competent to carry out specific tests covered in its accredited scope of testing.

CAEAL was established in 1989 as a non-profit partnership between government labs and private labs. It has accredited 160 of the 400 laboratories that participate in its programs, and it also delivers a special program for 195 water treatment facilities in Alberta.