

Accreditation Update from CAEAL December 3, 2004

Statements of Intent

Thank you to those 120 accredited labs that have provided a Statement of Intent. CAEAL's commitment is to process your files by January 1, 2005. The Accreditation Council has scheduled training for mid-December and will immediately thereafter commence accreditation file reviews.

The CAEAL Commitment to ISO/IEC Guide 58/17011

In the same way as an accredited lab must conform to ISO/IEC 17025, CAEAL operates in conformance with ISO/IEC Guide 58/17011, the international standard for accrediting bodies. During the past ten years, CAEAL has been delivering ISO/IEC 17025 services to laboratories and has been evaluated against ISO/IEC Guide 58 every year by the Standards Council of Canada (SCC). Twice in that period – in 1999 and 2004 – CAEAL has been evaluated by the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC). The first APLAC evaluation had one required action (annual surveillance questionnaires) and the most recent evaluation two weeks ago had no findings.

As CAEAL returns to the role of granting accreditations, additional Guide 58/17011 audits by third parties will be used to enhance CAEAL's commitment to public accountability and transparency:

- The SCC will continue to conduct annual audits of CAEAL under the agreement for Ontario drinking water testing laboratories;
- Commencing in 2005, the National Research Council of Canada will also conduct annual Guide 58 audits of all CAEAL operations using an internationally-trained Guide 58 evaluator;
- CAEAL will apply for a full evaluation by APLAC in early 2005 in order that APLAC can evaluate the new Accreditation Council component of CAEAL's operations; and
- CAEAL will make all Guide 58 evaluation reports available to government and the public.

Fee Example

For a lab conducting microbiological and chemical testing with 5 tests on its accredited scope, CAEAL fees would be (expressed as an average **annual cost** over the two-year assessment cycle):

Element	Fee	Annual Average
Membership	\$400	\$400.
Accreditation	\$475	\$475.
Assessment		
• Base	\$2850	\$1425.
• Appendices	5 x \$85 = \$425	\$213.
Total annual cost*		\$2,513.

*Notes:

- There are no extra charges for assessor travel.
- Proficiency testing costs are in addition.
- Annual average cost is used for illustration; actual fees are invoiced annually for services rendered.