

EU ETS Compliance Conference

Brussels 10 – 11 September 2009

Workshop Stream II – Verification & Accreditation

I. Achievements of accreditation

- Accreditation affirmed its major role and attained remarkable achievements in favouring the elimination of TBT and the protection of the fundamental rights of people.
- Confidence provided by accreditation is widely recognised and valued for both purposes of supporting economic progress and protecting public general interests and accreditation is becoming an effective tool for supporting implementation of economic and social policies.
- Accreditation is “global” since based on rules and procedures harmonized at international level.
- Accreditation, based on an “output focused” approach as fostered by EA, represents the most effective form of ultimate control of the adequacy of the conformity assessment services.

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II. Regulation 765/ 2008 enhances the role of accreditation and of EA (1)

The Regulation

- Strengthens the role of accreditation in both the voluntary and regulatory fields.
- Lays down principles for operation and organisation of accreditation at Community level.
- There is no exclusion to the application of the Regulation; it provides a uniform approach to the use of accreditation in the regulated sector (notification).
- Sets up a legal framework for accreditation and use of EA MLA to provide effective and harmonised criteria for qualification of CABs and surveillance of continuous conformity to requirements
- Pursuant to the Regulation, EA is recognized as the official European accreditation infrastructure.

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II. Regulation 765/ 2008 enhances the role of accreditation and of EA (2)

Main provisions of the Regulation – that represents a central pillar for the development of the European conformity assessment infrastructure – are:

- ABs shall act with public authority in the public interest.
- Accreditation shall be organised with one only AB per Member State.
- ABs shall be independent of commercial motivation and operate without competition at national level and with strict limitations at international level.
- ABs shall not be involved in conformity assessment and consulting activities
- ABs shall demonstrate a high level of competence via participation in the EA peer evaluation systems.
- ABs shall be accountable towards all interested parties.

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III. The EA MLA ensures effective and harmonised accreditation (1)

The EA peer evaluation system:

- Is managed against rigorous, transparent criteria and procedures internationally accepted.
- Ensures that signatories ABs follow the applicable rules, so granting the **equivalence** of the accreditation systems.
- Ensures that signatories ABs enforce the observance of the rules by their accredited bodies, so granting the **equal reliability** of the accredited attestations of conformity.

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III. The EA MLA ensures effective and harmonised accreditation (2)

- As provided for by Regulation 765/2008, the EA peer evaluation system will be overseen by the European Commission in cooperation with the Member States.
- Suitable mechanisms are being set up to enable such function be properly performed.
- The EA peer evaluation system is being reinforced by improving its effectiveness, consistency and continuity, including enhancing the general and sectoral qualification of peer evaluators, strengthening the surveillance process and introducing a risk based approach.

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IV. EA's approach to sectoral accreditation schemes and EU/ETS

The EU/ETS scheme is covered by Regulation 765/2008 and complies with EA policy for sector schemes (EA-2/11):

- * Scheme owner = the EC.
- Demonstrated market support / demand.
- Need for accreditation to provide confidence in verification services and emission figures.
- Conformity assessment activities are based on international standards (ISO/IEC 17020, EN 45011, supported by ad-hoc EA Guidance EA-6/03).
- EA and EC (scheme owner) cooperate.

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V. Accreditation and recognition of ETS verifiers

- * EA-6/03 has been revised and aligned to EU/ETS Directive.
- * WG Environment of EA Certification Committee is in charge of EA-6/03.
- * EA Laboratory Committee is working to harmonise practices for testing within EU/ETS.
- * France, Spain, UK, The Netherlands, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Czech Republic, Slovenia are already using accreditation for recognition of verifiers.
- * More ABs will develop activities for EU/ETS in the near future within EA framework, both because of regulatory inputs (Regulation 765/2008 puts an obligation on Member States with regard to accreditation) and operational and technical advantages.

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VI. Conclusion: next steps

- Accreditation, operated under the aegis of EA and pursuant to the provisions of Regulation 765/2008, is an effective tool to ensure the adequacy and equivalence of ETS verifications.
- The EA, the European Commission and the Member States shall work together towards the optimized application of accreditation to the sector.