Practical Experiences
from a Verifier's Perspective

2014 ACCREDITATION AND VERIFICATION FORUM
Werner Betzenbichler

Topics

- ✓ The conversion from personal accreditation to company-based accreditation

- ✓ Operating a verification body in practice

- ✓ Frequently seen difficulties in MRV

Conversion of Accreditation Scheme

✓ New challenges especially in Germany

✓ Discussion on accreditation process lasted until autumn 2012

✓ Accreditation process has been completed by all verifiers in Q1/2014 only

✓ Three options for previously individually accredited verifiers:

    ✓ Being harbored by one of the larger verification bodies

    ✓ Allying and forming a new verification body

    ✓ Use the newly established model for individual accreditation

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Conversion of Accreditation Scheme (2)

✓ **Impacts for operators**

    ✓ Increase in verification fees (accreditation costs and independent review process)

    ✓ Almost everybody kept the former (individual) verifier

    ✓ Long–lasting contract risk

✓ **Impacts on quality of verifications**

    ✓ Learning process for many experts

    ✓ Improved reproducibility by harmonised procedures

    ✓ But this effect depends on the complexity of the operator's activities

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Operating a Verification Body

- ✓ Requirements set by the AVR

  - ✓ Most is known from other certification schemes

  - ✓ But some exceptions like the role of the independent reviewer

  - ✓ Competence of staff is key to minimise verification risks

- ✓ Specific challenges in 2013 verifications

  - ✓ Need for familiarisation with internal forms and templates

  - ✓ New monitoring plan format in Phase III

  - ✓ Scheduling the independent review process when reviewers also work as verifiers

  - ✓ Pre-contractual obligations and further formalities

Operating a Verification Body (2)

✓ New challenges outside regular verification

  ✓ Early scheduling of verifications

  ✓ Internal monitoring, evaluation, mentoring

  ✓ Experiences exchange and qualification of new staff

  ✓ Witness activities and surveillance

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Frequent seen difficulties

- ✓ Verification teams

  - ✓ Inappropriate documentation of performed assessments

  - ✓ Omissions in the use of confirmations and evidences

  - ✓ Subjectivity when issuing recommendations for improvements

  - ✓ Sampling in verification

- ✓ Independent review process

  - ✓ Perceived differences in the robustness of approaches applied by diverse verification companies

  - ✓ Need for updating checklists

  - ✓ Urgency did not enable experience exchange along Q1/2014 → missing feedback for individual reviewers

Frequent seen difficulties (2)

✓ Monitoring and Reporting

    ✓ Late (belated) adjustments of monitoring plans

    ✓ Inadequate risk assessment

    ✓ Inadequate documentation of control procedures

    ✓ Late reaction on data gaps and any need for corrections

    ✓ Missing internal checks / audits

    ✓ Determination of uncertainties

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Any Questions?

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