

HAA ACTIVITIES IN ACCREDITATION OF TETSING LABORATORIES IN THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION FIELD

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Abstract – This paper presents activities performed by Croatian Accreditation Agency (HAA) in the field of accreditation of testing laboratories in the area of environmental protection in compliance with HEN EN ISO/IEC 17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories

It presents results of the accreditation activities on different areas of environmental protection (emission of pollutants from stationary sources, air quality, noise and sound isolation, waters) and other HAA activities related to this area.

Keywords (accreditation, testing laboratories, protection of environment, HRN EN ISO/IEC 17025).

1. INTRODUCTION

Croatian Accreditation Agency (HAA) is a public institution founded by the Law of Accreditation (National Gazette no. 158/03). Founder of HAA is the government of Republic of Croatia. HAA, as an independent accreditation body has been acting since 1st of July 2005. Until that date accreditation services were provided by the State Office for Standardization and Metrology (DZNM). Among other things, HAA is also responsible for accreditation of testing laboratories according to the HRN EN ISO/IEC 17025 standard.

List of all accredited conformity assessment bodies with valid accreditation scopes can be found on HAA web site www.akreditacija.hr [1].

Besides activities on accreditation of testing laboratories in the field of environment protection, HAA personal is also involved in:

- monitoring and participation in European cooperation for Accreditation,
- participation and monitoring of professional associations in the country and abroad,
- development of HAA regulations and instructions,
- coordination and monitoring of participation in interlaboratory testing programmes

2. ENVIRONMENT CONTROL

2.1 Air

According to the Ordinance on issuing of licence or approval for performing the activities of monitoring air

quality and emissions into the air from stationary sources (National Gazette 79/06) accreditation by HRN EN ISO/IEC 17025 is mandatory for all laboratories applying for authorisation in this field.

Testing methods are prescribed by Ordinance on monitoring pollutant emissions from stationary sources into the air (National Gazette 01/06) and Ordinance on monitoring air quality (National Gazette 155/05). According to the decision of General Assembly of European cooperation for Accreditation (EA) from 2008 accreditation bodies are obliged to assess emission laboratories according to the HRN EN ISO/IEC 17025 and requirements of HRS CEN/TS 15675. Air quality working group of HAA brings together representatives of laboratories and the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction and has the function of producing documents (rules, instructions) to help assessors and laboratory staff in implementation of certain provisions (requirements) of HRN EN ISO/IEC 17025, HRS CEN/TS 15675, HRN EN 15259 and other standards related to testing of air quality; participate in the development of qualification criteria and training programs of assessors, informing about interlaboratory testing programs according to internationally accepted criteria (HRN EN ISO/IEC 17043, ILAC and EA documents); organizing joint assessment with the participation of domestic and international assessors, monitoring the performance of HZN/TO 146 and monitoring regulations in the field of air protection.

In the area of monitoring pollutant emissions from stationary sources into the air HAA accredited 18 testing laboratories and for monitoring air quality 9 testing laboratories (status on April 10th 2011.)

2.2 Noise

The Law on Protection from Noise (National Gazette 30/09) states that accreditation by HRN EN ISO/IEC 17025 is a requirement for obtaining authorisation for noise testing laboratories.

In the area of noise protection HAA accredited 11 testing laboratories (status on April 10th 2011).

2.3 Water

Ordinance on conditions to be met by authorised laboratories (National Gazette, no. 78/97., 92/97. and 65/05.) also states that accreditation by HRN EN ISO/IEC 17025 is mandatory for all laboratories applying for authorisation in this field.

So far HAA has accredited 23 testing laboratories in the field of physical and chemical properties of surface, groundwater, wastewater and process waters (status on April 10th 2011).

2.4 Waste

Waste Act (National Gazette 178/04, 111/06, 60/08, 87/09) states that the testing of physical and chemical properties of waste can be carried out by laboratories accredited according to HRN EN ISO/IEC 17025.

Ordinance on waste management (National gazette 23/07, 111/07), states that the sampling and analysis can be conducted only by accredited laboratories.

So far, HAA has accredited 12 testing laboratories for testing of physical and chemical properties of waste and waste eluates (status on April 10th 2011).

3. CONCLUSION

The regulations of governmental bodies recognize accreditation as a way of demonstrating competence of laboratories.

HAA continually monitors legislation and the work of EA and adjusts its activities in the field of environmental protection through:

- monitoring of and participation in international organizations in the field of accreditation (EA) - LC, WG ILC T, TN Environment
- monitoring legislation of Republic of Croatia and cooperation with governmental bodies
- establishment and work of HAA working group for air testing laboratories
- participation and monitoring of professional associations in the country and abroad
- development of HAA regulations and instructions,
- coordination and monitoring of participation in interlaboratory testing programmes

REFERENCES

- [1] Accreditation registry www.akreditacija.hr

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