

CLAS Implementation Policy for Transition to CAN-P-4E

The Standards Council of Canada (SCC) recently issued a new edition of the standard for approving the competence of testing and calibration laboratories, namely, CAN-P-4E, *General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories*. This new standard is the verbatim adoption of ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and was approved by the Standards Council of Canada on 14 November 2005.

All accredited laboratories are required to obtain a copy of either CAN-P-4E or ISO/IEC 17025:2005.

Effective immediately, all assessments, reassessments, scope extension visits will be conducted against the requirements of CAN-P-4E (ISO/IEC 17025:2005).

In order to retain accreditation, laboratories must complete the transition to the revised standard by **12 May 2007**. All deadlines are based on those set out by the international community.

CLAS Implementation of the SCC Transition Plan

Laboratories Reassessed Between 31 January 2006 and 31 October 2006

***Applicants see Note 4**

All laboratories will be required to submit the CLAS 1510E assessment guide as a self-declaration indicating how the new requirements have been addressed. This assessment guide must be submitted to the CLAS Technical Advisor (TA) prior to an (re)assessment visit. The CLAS 1510E assessment guide will be published on the CLAS website complete with interpretive notes.

Findings against requirements which are new in CAN-P-4E will be classified as 'Required Actions Type C'. These actions do not require closure before the visit report is issued to SCC for balloting and will not delay a decision on continued accreditation to CAN-P-4D (ISO/IEC 17025:1999) if not satisfactorily addressed.

The report to SCC will recommend accreditation to CAN-P-4E if the laboratory satisfactorily replies to all Type C required actions within 90 days of the assessment.

Laboratories that choose not to reply to all Type C required actions within 90 days will be reaccredited to CAN-P-4D (ISO 17025:1999) and will not be eligible to receive their CAN-P-4E (ISO/IEC 17025:2005) certification before May 2007.

Laboratories must demonstrate that all Type C required actions have been satisfactorily addressed and implemented by 31 January 2007. Appropriate documents to support all claims must be received by the TA.

Laboratories (Re)Assessed Between 31 October 2006 and 31 January 2007

All laboratories will be required to submit the CLAS 1510E assessment guide as a self-declaration indicating how the new requirements have been addressed. This assessment guide must be submitted to the CLAS TA prior to the (re)assessment visit.

Findings against requirements which are new in CAN-P-4E will be classified as 'Required Actions Type A'. These actions require closure before the visit report is issued to SCC for balloting and may delay a decision on accreditation if not satisfactorily addressed.

Laboratories (Re)Assessed After 31 January 2007

These laboratories must complete the CLAS 1510E assessment guide before 31 January 2007 and be self-declared. Appropriate documents to support all claims must be received by the TA. Demonstration of compliance shall include results of internal audits and other self-assessment activities, and shall include documentation that provides evidence to support all claims.

Note 1: 31 January 2007 is the cut off date selected by SCC to ensure sufficient time to review all submissions and, where required, to do any follow-ups.

Note 2: 12 May 2007 is the date by which all CLAS Laboratories must conform to the requirements of CAN-P-4E. CLAS will inform SCC of CLAS laboratories that have provided evidence of conformance. Any laboratory that does not provide adequate evidence of conformance by this date will be subject to suspension.

Note 3: 31 May 2007 is the date by which SCC must advise ILAC, APLAC and IAAC that all its accredited laboratories conform to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2005. Accredited laboratories which meet the requirements shall receive new certificates and scopes confirming accreditation to the new standard.

Note 4: All **new** visits that will take place as of 31 January 2006 for applicant laboratories will be assessed against CAN-P-4E. Laboratories must conform to CAN-P-4E prior to receiving CLAS certification and a recommendation to SCC for accreditation.

Note 5: CLAS will give a presentation on the new requirements of CAN-P-4E (ISO/IEC 17025:2005) on 20-21 April 2006 during the NCSLI spring meeting in Varennes, QC.