

LA Ad 2013-03

ADVISORY

TO : ALL CONCERNED
SUBJECT : POLICIES RELATED TO CALIBRATION LABORATORIES
DATE : 14 FEBRUARY 2014

Please be advised that the following shall be strictly implemented by all accredited calibration laboratories beginning on 01 May 2014:

1. ILAC P14:01/2013 ILAC Policy for Uncertainty of Calibration

- a) **Harmonization of the terminology from “Best Measurement Capability (BMC)” used in the scopes of accreditation of calibration laboratories to “Calibration Measurement Capability (CMC)”.** ILAC and BIPM have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and issued Joint Declarations aiming at cooperation on various issues which includes agreement to harmonize terminology.

A CMC is a calibration and measurement capability available to customers under normal conditions:

- a.1) as described in the laboratory’s scope of accreditation by a signatory to the ILAC Arrangements; or
a.2) as published in the BIPM key comparison database (KCDB) of the CIPM MRA.

Note: the meaning of the terms Calibration and Measurement Capability, CMC, (as used in the CIPM MRA), and Best Measurement Capability, BMC (as used historically in connection with the uncertainties stated in the scope of accredited laboratory) are identical. The terms BMC and CMC should be interpreted similarly and consistently in the current areas of application.

- b) **As the definition of CMC implies, accredited calibration laboratories shall not report a smaller uncertainty of measurement than the uncertainty of the CMC for which the laboratory is accredited.**
- c) The numerical value of the expanded uncertainty shall be given to, at most, two significant figures. Further the following applies:
- c.1) The numerical value of the measurement result shall in the final statement be rounded to the least significant figure in the value of the expanded uncertainty assigned to the measurement result.
- c.2) For the process of rounding, the usual rules for rounding of numbers shall be used, subject to the guidance on rounding provided in Section 7 of the GUM.

2. ILAC P10:01/2013 ILAC Policy on the Traceability of Measurement Results

Calibration certificate should, wherever applicable, indicate the traceability to national or international standards of measurement and should provide the measurement result and associated uncertainty of measurement.

The traceability statement will affirm that the calibration reported was conducted using standards whose value are traceable to an appropriate national, international, intrinsic, or mutual content standard, for example:

- a.) If the if the traceability chain for a given laboratory originates at an acceptable National Metrology Laboratory to PAO , then the statement will affirm that **“This calibration was conducted using standards traceable to (name of NMI)”**, or
 - b.) When the traceability chain originates from an accredited calibration laboratory then the statement will affirm that **“This calibration was conducted using standards traceable to (name of NMI) or (name of acceptable NML to PAO) through (name of the accredited laboratory)”**.
3. For the calibration laboratories using ‘per evaluation” for range to be calibrated and uncertainty shall indicate the numerical range to be calibrated specific to the instrument with the corresponding CMC expressed as an uncertainty.

For information and strict compliance.



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