

MCERTS manual stack emission monitoring - the next 5 years

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MCERTS

THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY'S
MONITORING CERTIFICATION SCHEME

MCERTS manual stack emission monitoring - the next 5 years

John Tipping

Industry & Waste Regulation

Environment Agency

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Today's presentation

- Overview of MCERTS for stack emission monitoring
 - Five years old this year!
 - Where are we in delivering quality?
 - Plans for the next 5 years
- UKAS views on auditing and surveillance

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MCERTS for manual stack emission monitoring

- Two components
 - Performance standard for laboratories
 - Performance standard for personnel
- UKAS accreditation of laboratories to ISO17025 for the MCERTS standard
- Certification of personnel by Sira Certification Service operating to ISO 17024

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MCERTS for stack monitoring

- The first five years
 - A lot of hard work by everybody!
 - Overall a great success
 - 400+ people with personal certification
 - 32 laboratories with MCERTS accreditation
 - Quality of work generally improved
 - Needed to underpin EN 14181 work
 - Future implementation of WG19 standard
 - Long term aim to improved status for stack emission monitoring

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MCERTS - time for a review?

- Five years
 - a long time or just the start?
- We've kept the scheme under constant review
 - Changes and improvements to the standards
 - Learned from experience
 - Looked for opportunities for simplification
 - Couple of areas requiring closer attention
 - Grateful for the help and support of the STA and MCERTS Steering Committee

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MCERTS performance standard for organisations

- Recently completed a major review of the standard
- Simplified it in many places
- Removed duplication
 - with ISO 17025 management clauses
 - with new CEN standards e.g. for equipment calibration
- Started to align with forthcoming WG 19 standard
- Improved site specific protocol format
 - Part 1/Part 2 to make easier to complete
- Revised standard published by the end of April

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MCERTS performance standard for organisations

- Still some work to do
- Importance of carrying out a proper contract review under ISO 17025
 - Ensuring the customer understands the work to take place
 - Confirmation that you are providing what they want
- Site Specific Protocol
 - Still a challenge to get people to do it properly
 - Recent changes should help - will keep under close scrutiny

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Policing of the scheme

- Feedback from some customers indicated the current system of policing was not strong enough
- Unannounced audits carried out by us and UKAS have shown a lot of good work but also some that fails to meet the MCERTS standard
- As a result we've now asked UKAS to increase the policing of the scheme
- Jeff Ruddle of UKAS will tell you more about UKAS's plans for the future in the second part of this session
- For everybody involved it is critical that the scheme remains credible and delivers the required quality

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MCERTS

personnel competency standard

- Recently completed a review of the standard
- Simplified and clarified in several places
- Major changes
 - Level 2 multiple choice exam removed - confident the oral exam alone provides demonstration of competency
 - Two year rule removed
 - Use of personal stack monitoring record mandatory
 - Clause added to allow us to interview Level 2 personnel at any time if a serious complaint is received and upheld by the Exam Board
- Recertification requirements now detailed

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Recertification details

- Candidates will be given 12 months prior to their certification expiring to complete recertification
- Your responsibility to ensure you apply in good time
- Level 1 personnel will take a combined multiple choice and written paper
- Technical endorsements will be renewed by taking a combined multiple choice and written paper (written paper only for limited endorsements)
- Level 2 recertification will be based on experience requirements only
 - No repeat of the oral exam

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Why do we require recertification?

- Not very popular!
- The scheme operates under ISO 17024
- Requirement of ISO 17024 to complete a recertification process
- Maximum time period for recertification is 5 years
- Recertification process can be delivered by examination, continuous professional development, on the job assessment etc
- Many examples of recertification e.g.
 - Welding and inspection personnel, first aid practitioners, IT professionals

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Why not continuous professional development?

- We do not exclude future adoption of CPD
- Workshops and technical transfer seminars could be assessed and given points
- Attendance of sufficient courses over 5 years could provide enough evidence for recertification
- But...

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Why not continuous professional development?

- Workshops and seminars would have to have tests at the end
- Time away from work would increase
- Overall running costs would increase
- However, if such a scheme could be set up e.g. by the STA and/or other providers we would seriously consider it
- Will look at this again with the STA over the next 12 months

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Technical guidance notes

- Just a reminder of key reference documents
 - M1: Sampling Requirements for Stack Emission Monitoring
 - M2: Monitoring of Stack Emissions to Air
 - M20: Quality assurance of continuous emission monitoring systems - application of BS EN 14181 and BS EN 13284-2
 - Method implementation documents (MIDs)
- Latest versions of the documents at
 - www.mcerts.net
 - www.S-T-A.org

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Summary

- Overview of MCERTS for manual stack emissions monitoring after the first 5 years
- Development of the standards and recertification requirements
- Now hand over to Jeff Ruddle of UKAS to discuss the latest developments on accreditation under MCERTS



MCERTS Manual Stack Emissions Monitoring

The Next Five Years

Jeff Ruddle – UKAS Environment Section

*Delivering
Confidence*



Outline

- **Background**
- **The MCERTS Scheme**
 - **Interaction with ISO/IEC 17025**
 - **Scheme Management**
 - **Scheme Confidence**
- **Where Next?**



The Role of UKAS

- **The United Kingdom Accreditation Service is the sole national accreditation body recognised by government to assess, against internationally agreed standards, organisations that provide certification, testing, inspection and calibration services.**
- **UKAS' Competence**
 - **Peer Assessment to ISO/IEC 17011**



Background

- **Accreditation demonstrates capability, competence and compliance.**
- **ISO/IEC 17025 “General Requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories”**
- **UKAS accrediting SEM organisations to ISO/IEC 17025 for a number of years**
- **EA MCERTS Scheme added in 2002 currently 32 accredited organisations**



The MCERTS Scheme

- **Interaction with ISO/IEC 17025**
 - **Accreditation to 17025 specifically for MCERTS performance standard**
 - **MCERTS std clarifies and specifies requirements for SEM sector**
 - **Assessment of SEM organisations to the requirements of both**



The MCERTS Scheme

- **Clarity of Scope of Accreditation**
 - Schedules on www.ukas.org
 - National, European, International and other recognised standards, documented in-house methods and work instructions (where required) **to meet the requirements of the Environment Agency (MCERTS) Performance Standard**
 - Accreditation does not mean all tests are covered, only those specified on schedule



Scheme Management

- **UKAS Focal Point – Narinder Ramewal**
- **Specific Technical Assessors**
- **Regular EA/UKAS meetings**
- **STA Meetings**



Scheme Management

- **Assessment Team**
- **Accreditation Cycle**
 - **Initial Assessment**
 - **Surveillance/Reassessment**
 - **Unannounced Visits**



SEM Organisation Responsibilities

- **Contract Review**
 - **Site Review, SSP & Risk Assessments**
- **Monitoring Teams**
- **Customer Feedback and Complaints**
- **Non-conforming work**
- **Clarity of Reporting**



Confidence in the Scheme

- **Investigation of Complaints**
- **Sanctions**
 - **Suspension or Withdrawal**
 - **Full or Partial**
 - **Imposed or Voluntary**
- **Sanctions Awareness**
 - **UKAS websites**
 - **Organisation's Responsibility**



Where Next – MCERTS Developments

- **Unannounced Visits**
- **Revision of MCERTS Standard**
- **European Guidance on operations of SEM Organisations**
- **Expansion of Accredited Organisations**
 - **Currently 4 applicants**



Where Next – UKAS Developments

- **UKAS Website Update**

The screenshot shows the UKAS website homepage with the following elements:

- Top Navigation:** Skip to content, Accessibility, Site Map, FAQ, Contact & Map, Feedback, Advanced Search, Jobs.
- Search Bar:** Search UKAS, Select Options, Search button.
- UKAS Logo:** United Kingdom Accreditation Service.
- Main Navigation:** Home, About Accreditation, Technical Information, Services, Media Centre, Login.
- Hero Section:** Welcome to UKAS (The United Kingdom Accreditation Service). Includes introductory text and three buttons: Accreditation and Government, Accreditation for Business, Download Application Pack.
- Search for a UKAS-Accredited Facility:** Search input field, Search button, and instructions.
- UKAS Training Courses:** Prices frozen since 2005, Lead Assessor – March 23/4, Uncertainty of Measurement - May, Book your place now button.
- Footer:** Four columns of links: About Accreditation, Technical Information, Services, Media Centre.

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Where Next – UKAS Developments

- **Creation of Environment Section**
- **EDM – Electronic Document Management**
- **Customer Web Access**
- **Simplification of Accreditation Process**



QUESTIONS