



MARCH
- APRIL

Newsletter



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Accreditation: *is the independent evaluation of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) against recognized conformity assessment standards to ascertain their integrity, impartiality, objectivity and competence to carry out specific conformity assessment activities*



About us

KENAS is the sole National Accreditation Body (NAB) recognized by the Government of Kenya to offer accreditation services to conformity assessment bodies within the scope of: Medical , Pharmaceutical, veterinary, Testing and inspection, Management systems , Personnel certification and Proficiency test providers.

Our operations are monitored by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), International Laboratory Accreditation Corporation (ILAC), the industry, Kenya Government and Professional bodies, as some form part of the KENAS Board.

We are also members of (IAF) and associate members of (ILAC), which are umbrella organizations that oversee accreditation activities at the global level. Read more on KENAS at : www.kenas.go.ke

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KENAS Scope of Accreditation Services

- Medical Laboratories - ISO 15189: 2012
- Testing Laboratories - ISO/IEC 17025: 2005
- Veterinary Laboratory - 17025 & OIE: 2005
- Medical Laboratories - ISO/IEC 15189: 2012
- Pharmaceutical Laboratories - ISO/IEC 17025: 2005
- Calibration Laboratories - ISO/IEC 17025: 2005
- Management Systems Certification Bodies- ISO/IEC 17021: 2011
- Products, Processes & Services Certification-ISO/IEC 17065: 2012
- Personnel Certification Bodies - ISO/IEC 17024: 2003
- Proficiency Testing (PT) Providers - ISO/IEC 17043 : 2010
- Inspection & Verification Bodies - ISO/IEC 17020: 2012

NEWLY ACCREDITED CLIENTS

The Following clients were granted accreditation as at 18th February 2014:

- | <u>C A B's</u> | <u>Scheme</u> |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Bureau Veritas Certification | - Certification |
| 2. Intertek Testing Services East Africa | - Testing |
| 3. Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS)
Quarantine Plant Health Laboratories | - Testing |
| 4. Mater Hospital Laboratory | - Medical |

NEWS BULLETIN



KENAS held a two day assessors conclave on the 6th—7th February 2014 at the College of Insurance. Assessors present were taken through ILAC and IAF documents and informed on the peer review process which is KENAS roadmap towards International recognition. They were also informed on KENAS policies regarding accreditation and on training and evaluation requirements for assessors.



Participants also had break out sessions to discuss on the improvements in accreditation standards of : ISO - 15189 for medical Labs, ISO 17024- Personnel Certification bodies, ISO 17025 for Veterinary, Pharmaceutical, Calibration & Testing Labs.

**KENAS INSPECTION TRAINING ON ISO/IEC
17020:2012, 9TH TO 21ST FEBRUARY 2014
AT THE MOMBASA BEACH HOTEL**

Gaining knowledge on the correct interpretation of ISO 17020:2012 standard requirements and the accreditation process is an important endeavor in ensuring organization competence. This is what the inspection body participants were able to learn as KENAS conducted a three day training on 19th - 21st February 2014 at the Mombasa beach hotel.

Attended by Kenyan inspection bodies of Intertek E.A, SGS Kenya Inspectorate including self-sponsored participants, the training was able to equip participants with information on the specific requirements of ISO/IEC 17020:2012. This was done through presentations, discussions, role plays and case study presentations. At the end of the training, participants were awarded certificates of attendance.

**Method Validation & Uncertainty
of Measurements Training**



The KENAS's department of Health & Safety conducted a four days training on Method validation, metrological traceability and uncertainty of measurement on the 25th to 28th February 2014 at the Panari hotel.

The four (4) days non- residential training was intended to provide the delegates with the principles and concepts of method validation, metrological traceability and uncertainty of measurement in medical laboratory testing & calibration settings. Participants were given the necessary skills required in the successful application of the course subjects in the workplace as per ISO 15189:2012 requirements.

KENAS HIV SEMINAR IN PICS



The Kenya Accreditation Services (KENAS) held a HIV & AIDS employee sensitization seminar on March 11th, 2014. The occasion was graced by KENAS CEO Sammy Milgo and all employees. The half day seminar was conducted by the National HIV & AIDS council counselor Mrs. Salome Ochola in liaison with the KENAS HIV & AIDS coordinating committee.

The seminar presentation included a refresher course on HIV and Aids: its mode of transmission, differentiating its myths from facts, use of contraceptives, current statistics on HIV/AIDS prevalence & living positively with the disease.





KENAS Internal Quality Auditing Training for NHRL Auditors



The pictures at the top & on the right represent participants in an interactive round table discussion during a three day KENAS Internal Audit Training at Kemri-Nagasaki university complex for National HIV Reference Laboratory held on 5th-7th March 2014.

The Course provided National Hospital Reference Laboratory personnel with knowledge and skills of becoming competent internal auditors based on ISO 15189:12 and ISO 19011:201. Delegates also took part in exams and were awarded certificates of participation.



ISO 15189: 2012 Awareness

Training for The Nairobi Hospital Laboratory



The KENAS Health & Safety department conducted a one day ISO 15189:2012 awareness training for the Nairobi Hospital Laboratory from the 25th -30th March 2014.

The objective of the training was to provide an overview of ISO 15189:2012. The laboratory and hospital professionals were further trained on the management, technical and benefits and challenges of accreditation to ISO 15189:2012.

This was aimed at imparting skills required in the successful implementation of ISO 15189:2012 in the work set-up. There is a growing demand of this kind of training as reaffirmed by the participants.

The Role of Accreditation in Implementation of OHSAS 18001

How many times have you read in the newspapers of a boiler explosion at company x or y that has resulted in fatal injuries or even death? Few or many?. This is evident despite many companies boasting of having: OHSAS 18001 Certification, adhering to the Occupation Health and Safety Act 2007, and even having Safety Officers at their disposal? So, for how long will this continue?

BY: Michael Talaam AD- Certification



Currently, Certification Bodies all over the world are running a certification programme called **OHSAS 18001**.

OHSAS 18001 is an International standard for Occupation, Health and Safety Management System used for assessing and auditing Occupational, Health and Safety Management Systems.

OHSAS 18001 was developed by leading trade and International bodies, to provide a framework for organizations to institute proper and effective management of health and safety within the workplace. These standards enable organizations to put in place processes for continual review and improvement of occupational health and safety standards.

By having a clearly defined management system that identifies and controls health and safety risk in place, organizations are able to minimize the risks towards their workforce, contractors and even visitors within their premises. This standard is primarily implemented by organizations that seek to demonstrate their sound occupational health and safety performance.

An organization certified to OHSAS 18001 cannot just sit back and think that the occupation health and safety management system will work on its own. OHSAS has little to do with keeping people safe; it is up to the organization to make it work for them. If it is done correctly, it will result in significant improvement in the management of safety issues in a company.

In order to be OHSAS 18001 certified, an organization must undergo an audit from a competent Certification Body. The audits generated should identify and help solve safety issues as a good OHSAS 18001 management system should. Once an audited organization closes all its identified non-conformities then it can get certified. But one may ask, what is the value of having the certificate on the company wall?

Well it depends on what the certificate states and the marks in it. Note that one can get OHSAS Certification from any Certification Body but how confident are we that the Certification Body is competent enough to audit and certify an organization?

Certification Bodies that have been accredited are the only ones that can be trusted. This is anchored on the fact that accreditation is a third party attestation related to a conformity assessment body conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks. In a nutshell, the competence is both in terms of personnel and attendant infrastructure, methods, equipment, procedures and work environment. This is where Kenya Accreditation Service (KENAS) comes in.

KENAS is the Sole National accreditation body mandated to offer accreditation services in Kenya. Established under the state corporation act cap 446, vide legal Notice 55, KENAS provides formal recognition that conformity assessment bodies (CABS) are competent to carry out specific conformity assessment activities.

KENAS accredits Certification Bodies organizations based on the ISO/IEC 17021:2011 management Systems Certification Bodies; an International Standard of conformity assessment. This is a standard requirement for accreditation bodies providing audit and certification of management systems.

KENAS is also a member of apex organizations; IAF (International Accreditation Forum) and an associate member of ILAC (International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation) that oversee accreditation activities at the global level, in the field of inspection, testing and certification. KENAS is also evaluated on its compliance to ISO/IEC 17021 through a process of peer assessment by evaluators from other accredited bodies who are members of the ILAC mutual recognition arrangement/ IAF multilateral agreement .

Therefore, as we prepare for the "World Day for Safety and Health at work " to be held on the 28th April 2014, let us bear in mind the correlation between Accreditation and OHSAS management system. This will be beneficial in providing a much safer than sorry organization work environment.



FOOD SAFETY: JUST HOW SAFE IS THE FOOD YOU BUY?

BY: Everlyn Kabongo



Many Kenyans trust the safety of foods that they buy that are either prepared in eateries (restaurants, hotels) or those sold in supermarkets and various retail outlets. This also touches on the foods that we prepare in our homes. But how safe is the food that we consume?

Is it free from toxins? Is it free of contaminants or pollutants? Is it free from pathogens? If we have allergic responses to certain ingredients, can we trust the labelling? Is the food authentic? Are we consuming what we think we are? Are the ingredients what they say on the can or on the label?, does the food contain generic modified organisms and if so to what levels of modification?

Unsafe food has been a human health problem since history was first recorded, and many food safety problems encountered today are not new. Although the Kenyan government is doing its best to improve the safety of food supply, the occurrence of food borne diseases remains a significant health issue and challenging one at that.

Food safety can be defined as the protection of consumers from injury or adverse health effects caused by consuming or handling spoilt, adulterated or badly stored foods. The absence of food safety can be exhibited through outbreaks of food borne illnesses.

Food safety is significant in the whole food supply chain starting with the origin of the food through the food chain to the consumer.

Food borne illness or food poisoning is caused by consuming food contaminated with pathogenic bacteria, toxins, viruses, prions or parasites. Such contamination usually arises from improper handling

preparation or storage of food.

Foodborne illness can also be caused by accidentally adding pesticides or medicines to food, or by accidentally by consuming naturally poisonous substances like poisonous mushrooms, reef fish, cassava or even potatoes. Contact between food and pests, especially flies, rodents and cockroaches, is a further cause of contamination of food.

Food is considered to be safe if there is reasonably demonstrated certainty that no harm will result from its consumption under anticipated conditions of use.

This can be done through evaluation of food products against specified requirements by accredited laboratories testing food and food products; accredited certification bodies certifying food safety management systems, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) and product certification; certification bodies; accredited inspection bodies inspecting food products against respective scopes. All these are collectively known as conformity assessment bodies (CAB 'S).

Conformity assessment is used to check that food products are fit and safe for consumption against standard requirements, codes of practice or regulatory requirements. Conformity assessment therefore provides a means of preventing unsafe, unhealthy or environmentally unfriendly food products from entering the market.

It is equally important to ensure that the food consumed in our homes is safe.

The World Health Organization has prescribed the following five keys to safer food that can be applied in homes as well as in the industry:

1. Keep clean: Wash hands, surfaces and equipment thoroughly before and during food preparation.
2. Separate raw and cooked food: Raw foods are a rich source of nutrients for pathogenic bacteria to thrive in. It is important therefore to separate cooked food and raw food to prevent cross contamination.
3. Cook food thoroughly: Ensure that food is well cooked at the right temperatures and for the required period of time to eliminate pathogenic bacteria.
4. Keep food at safe temperatures to prevent proliferation of bacteria in the foods.
5. Use safe water and raw materials to prevent contamination of foods.

Therefore various resources and strategies need to be utilized to ensure that all types of foods are properly stored, prepared, and preserved so they are safe for

WORLD ACCREDITATION DAY

This year on JUNE 9TH 2014, the world shifts its attention to the World Accreditation Day whose theme is : the Role of accreditation in providing confidence in the provision of safe energy. See related article below....



Understanding & Embracing the Importance of Energy Accreditation with KENAS

In the current global economic sphere, energy is considered one of the key driver of economic growth and sustainable development.

More so in Kenya, the number of businesses and residents dependent on energy have doubled since the year 2007. As the energy demand grows, calls for more methods for harnessing, storing and sharing energy have been encouraged.

Nonetheless, this has not shifted the attention from the need to ensure that all Kenyans have access to energy that is clean, and environmentally sustainable. This calls for accreditation of laboratories, inspection bodies and certification bodies to drive improvements and efficiency in the energy sector.

Significant opportunities exist for improving energy in all sectors of the Kenyan Economy with savings of up to 25 per cent being seen as possible and. This would contribute positively to the environment hence negating the impacts of climate change that are envisaged.

As one measure of mitigation and adaptation to climate change, the Government of Kenya has been spearheading promotion of development and use of alternative sources of energy by developing the National Climate change Response Strategy of 2010. Furthermore, it is in the process of developing a National climate Bill for purposes of enactment.

Kenya is implementing an energy mix that greatly emphasizes carbon neutral energy sources such as: geothermal, wind, nuclear, solar biomass and other

renewable source of energy. In addition, the country's building codes are being reviewed to incorporate measures that will encourage climate proofing and the construction of energy-efficient buildings, hence bringing in a requirement for credible conformity assessment activities.

Additionally, the Kenya Vision 2030 is a long-term development strategy, which aims to create a globally competitive and prosperous economy with a high quality of life.

It envisages Kenya as a newly transformed industrializing, middle-income country providing high quality life to all Kenyans in a clean and secure environment.

Simultaneously, the strategy aspires to achieve the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of Kenya by 2015.

Infrastructure, including energy, is identified as one of the enablers of the envisaged socio-economic transformation of the economy with a vision to provide cost-effective, world class infrastructure facilities and services.

In keeping with the MDGs, Kenya is committed to reducing by half the number of people who lack access to modern energy services by 2015 and reducing by half the number of people living in poverty. Access to affordable energy is an essential prerequisite to achieving economic growth and poverty reduction in Kenya.

The majority of people who rely on biomass for thermal energy and who

lack access to electricity are in the rural areas; specifically, those who cook with biomass or charcoal are almost universally women.

The lack of access to affordable energy services -"energy poverty"- disproportionately affects women and girls due to their traditional roles, household responsibilities, and low socio-political status.

The Government is expanding the access of electricity in rural areas through the rural electrification program covering both grid extension and off-grid systems.

As the National accreditation Body in Kenya, KENAS is working together with all the institutions of government and the private sector towards realizing the Kenya Vision 2030 and the MDGs through accreditation of conformity assessment bodies that support the energy sector.

For instance, under the calibration scheme Kenas has accredited the Kenya Power Meter Calibration Laboratory. This is a landmark in provision of accreditation service and consumer protection considering Kenya Power's strategic position as the major energy distributor in Kenya.

Therefore, with continued support of accreditation activities by the Government of Kenya and relative industries, Kenas will continue to ensure competence in provision of clean, safe and environmental friendly energy for all .