



## 1. General Aspects

The EURAMET Technical Committee for Quality (TC-Q) is EURAMET's operational structure to share and develop knowledge on ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 17034 and on their implementation in National Metrology Institutes (NMI) and associated Designated Institutes (A-DI). TC-Q is responsible for reviewing and providing formal acknowledgement of the Quality Management Systems (QMS) of EURAMET Members and Associates in the framework of the Mutual Recognition Arrangement of the CIPM (CIPM MRA).

Currently TC-Q has 36 contact persons from 36 EURAMET members out of 38. In addition, the International Atomic Energy Agency, Kosovo, under the UNSC Resolution 1244/1999, and JRC nominated a permanent observer to TC-Q.

The QMS re-evaluation guideline, the QMS annual report guideline and the guide for on-site visits by peers are currently under revision, mainly making on-site visits by peers mandatory and taking into account the monitoring of the revised version of ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 17034. The revised documents are intended to be submitted to BoD in June or July 2021.

In connection with the evaluation of annual reports the steering Committee Members in charge continued to evaluate the gap analysis and action plans which had to be submitted in the end of 2018 and were requested to be updated in connection with the Annual report 2019 and 2020. The responsible Evaluators provided feedback to the Institutes. The transition period for ISO 17034 ended in the end of 2019, while the transition period for transitioning to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 was prolonged until 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2021 by JCRB Resolution 42/01.

## 2. Meetings

The 16<sup>th</sup> TC-Q meeting took place virtually from April 20 - 22, 2021.

The EURAMET TC-Q steering Committee reviewed 108 annual reports from 35 countries and 1 international organization, including those whose QMS is to be re-evaluated during the meeting. Full confidence was given to 42 NMIs/DIs on the spot, minor additional information was requested from 66 NMIs/DIs and from none of the institutes major complementary information was requested.

The outcome of the evaluation of Annual reports was presented to the EURAMET TC-Q plenary as well as the outcome of Action plans and Gap Analysis concerning the transitioning to ISO/IEC 17025:2017

Further outcomes of the TC-Q plenary meeting were:

- QMS periodical re-evaluations:
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina: IMBiH
  - Lithuania: FTMC, LEI
  - Norway: JV, DSA, NILU

- Slovakia: SMU
- Denmark: DFM, HBK-DPLA, DTI, FORCE, TRESICAL, DTU
- Sweden: RISE, SSM

In all cases the presentations are expected to be made by the representatives of the NMIs/DIs. Only initial presentations about Quality Management Systems fulfilling requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and ISO 17034 (if applicable) can be accepted.

The Turkish TC-Q contact person informed about changes in the Turkish metrology system. The new legal entity named Turkish Energy, Nuclear and Mineral Research Agency (TENMAK) tied to the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources was established by the decree of the President of Turkish Republic. The former Turkish Atomic energy authority (TAEK) became now part of this new legal entity and was renamed to Nuclear Energy Research Institute (NÜKEM). The facilities and staff, except the top-management, remained located in the same premises. The Quality Management System was not significantly changed. Consequently EURAMET TC-Q confirmed its confidence in the Quality Management System of NÜKEM.

### 3. Projects

TC-Q projects are mainly focused on peer reviews. Currently 46 peer review projects are registered on the EURAMET website. The projects initiated since the EURAMET General Assembly 2020 are presented below:

Project No. 1499	On-site peer review LGUL (Luxembourg) in the area of gravity
Project No. 1510	On-site visit by peers in IAEA
Project No. 1520	Online peer review of the National Metrology Institute of Lithuania

1 extraordinary remote audit has been arranged related to ISO 17034 transition within SMU, Slovakia.

TC-Q is not involved in the CMC submission and review process. However, TC-Q is monitoring the status of greyed-out CMCs. A summary of greyed-out CMCs belonging to EURAMET NMIs and DIs with the dates when the CMCs were greyed-out is as follows:

- Slovakia (SMU): 6 CMCs in acoustics and vibration (January 13, 2016) and 2 CMCs in length (April 4, 2016)
- Portugal (IPQ): 1 CMC in length (January 22, 2016)
- IRMM (JRC): 2 CMCs in chemistry, Category 6 (June 28, 2016), 82 CMCs in chemistry (July 5, 2018)
- Latvia (LATMB): 30 CMCs in electricity (September 12, 2016)

- Germany: 12 CMCs in chemistry, Category 13 (June 30, 2017), 3 CMCs in ionizing radiation (dosimetry) (November 27, 2018)
- Italy (INRIM): 15 CMCs in electricity (December 9, 2015), 4 CMCs in electricity (December 10, 2018), 1 CMC in length (December 21, 2016), 29 CMCs in mass (viscosity Category 6) (March 24, 2016), 2 CMCs in metrology in chemistry (Category 7) (October 13, 2016), 1 CMC in density (November 10, 2016), 1 CMC in length (DimL) (December 21, 2016), 1 CMC in metrology in chemistry (Category 4) (April 19, 2017), 1 CMC in mass (pressure / Category 3) (November 14, 2017)
- Spain: 2 CMCs in ionizing radiation (dosimetry) (November 27, 2018)
- Sweden: 2 CMCs in electricity (December 12, 2018)
- Denmark, 1 CMC in thermometry (December 20, 2018)
- Italy, (ENEA) 98 CMCs in ionizing radiation (May 20, 2019)
- Lithuania, 5 CMCs for pressure (Category 3 – June 21, 2019)
- Montenegro, 18 CMCs in thermometry (July 19, 2019); 4 CMCs for fluid flow (Category 9; July 19, 2019)
- Portugal, 1 CMC in ionizing radiation (dosimetry) (August 26, 2019)
- European Union-JRC, 2 chemistry (Category 10, June 28, 2016; 110 Ionising Radiation, Activity, (May 5, 2018); 80 chemistry (Categories 1,2,3,5,9,10,11,12,13)
- Finland, 1 CMC in length (April 2, 2020)
- Norway, 1 CMC in length, (February 22, 2021), 4 CMCs in mass (January 22, 2021)
- Bulgaria, 5 CMCs in Chemistry, (July 13, 2020)
- Germany, 1 CMC in Thermometry (November 16, 2020)

In total, there are 390 greyed-out CMC entries from EURAMET NMIs and DIs. 192 greyed out CMCs from JRC.

## 5. Next Meeting

There is the intention to organize an extraordinary virtual TC-Q meeting in the second half of the year on occasion of the initial presentation of JRC. The next regular meeting is planned in the week from 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and will be hosted by IPQ in Portugal.

## 6. Issues

More than 20 EURAMET institutes having CMCs published in the BIPM KCDB have not issued a single calibration certificate with the CIPM MRA logo in 2020.

The TC-Q steering committee had an intensive discussion on the necessity of introducing mandatory onsite visits by peers. The majority of steering committee members recommended mandatory onsite visits by peers. This was discussed in BoD and a corresponding decision was made as follows:

"The BoD agrees making onsite visits a mandatory requirement in the QMS review procedure of the TC-Q, ensuring that the scope of the onsite visits remains within the current workload."

The work on the adaption of the QMS review documents to implement this decision is expected to be finalized in 2021.

## **7. Capacity Building: Activities of the last year and future needs**

In the framework of the last TC-Q meeting a workshop with an exchange of experience on remote audits took place. Furthermore, the participants were informed by the convenor of the TC-IM WG4D about latest developments in digitalization.

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