



Challenges to achieving Accreditation for Forensic Laboratories
Seminar and Discussion Day at the NVCO Conference Suite, London N1 9RL
12 July 2017 – 09.30-15.30 hrs

Introduction

BMTA (British Measurement & Testing Association) works closely with UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) to promote excellence in laboratory practice. Over the last few years, we have run workshops attended by over 400 people across the UK to assist medical laboratories to become accredited to ISO 15189 with emphasis on understanding measurement uncertainty, verification and validation and traceability.

With the support of UKAS, we are now turning our attention to accreditation for Forensic Laboratories where the standard in question is ISO 17025. On 12th July 2017, we are offering a low cost discussion day to examine the issues affecting forensic laboratories on the route to UKAS accreditation. We have four excellent speakers:

- **Gillian Tully, Forensic Science Regulator**
- **Katherine Monnery, Forensic Accreditation Specialist, UKAS**
- **Martin Hanly, Investigation and Improvement Manager, LGC**
- **Chanda Lowther-Harris, Quality Lead, Metropolitan Police**

Delegates will find out about the Codes of Practice and Conduct issued by the Forensic Science Regulator and the accreditation requirements and expectations defined by UKAS. You will also learn of the accreditation experiences of LGC, one of the largest private forensic laboratories in the UK, and of the Metropolitan Police which has achieved accreditation in most but not all of the required areas.

Who should attend?

This event is important for laboratory managers and staff who have already achieved accreditation to ISO 17025 in some or all of the areas of expertise in which they operate. It is of particular interest to organisations which are in early stages of the accreditation process or have not yet started. As well as dealing with the general aspects of achieving UKAS accreditation, the speakers will cover specialised and topical subjects such as digital forensics, explosives and drug analysis to evidential standards.

We look forward to welcoming forensic laboratory specialists from police forces, commercial laboratories and the increasing number of universities which offer forensic science courses.

As well as the four key presentations, we will be allowing plenty of time for discussion in order to understand your interests and problems. If this meeting follows the pattern of our medical accreditation events, we will be offering detailed accreditation workshops from the autumn – **but we need to know your views first!**

Cost to attend: £95 plus VAT. See attached booking form

We look forward to seeing you on 12th July!





Challenges to achieving Accreditation for Forensic Laboratories

Programme - 12 July 2017

Chairman – Dr Jeff Llewellyn, BMTA President & Chief Executive

09.30 Arrival and Coffee

10.00 Welcome and Introduction

10.10 Forensic Science Quality Standards: Why and How?

Gillian Tully, Forensics Science Regulator

Gaining accreditation to international standards is an established way of demonstrating the competence of an organisation, whether large or small. It is a way in which organisations can demonstrate that their people are competent and their methods robust. In conjunction with the Regulator's Codes of Practice and Conduct, it enables organisations to ensure that they have adopted learning from issues that have arisen in forensic science in the past and to build on good practice. Responsibility for delivering to the requisite level of quality lies firmly with each organisation, and proactive audit, investigation and improvement are at the core of a strong quality system.

Forensic science does not operate in a vacuum, and adherence to the Regulator's quality standards assists experts in addressing the requirements of the [Criminal Procedure Rules and Criminal Practice Directions](#) as well as providing assurance to prosecutors as they apply the evidential test within the [Code for Crown Prosecutors](#).

11.00 Coffee Break

11.15 UKAS Accreditation and Forensic Science

Katherine Monnery, Forensic Accreditation Specialist, UKAS

The presentation will explore the role of UKAS as the National Accreditation Body and specifically look at how this role relates to the Forensic Sector. It will detail the steps in the process to gaining accreditation and explain the expectations at each stage, along with some of the areas that historically organisations have grappled with in order to meet the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025.

12.00 Discussion Period

12.30 Lunch and Networking

13.30 Demystifying validation – Codes of Practice, Delivering Good Science to the Criminal Justice System

Martin Hanly, Investigation and Improvement Manager, LGC

Validation is an essential and vital component of ensuring the methods used in Forensic Science are robust and reliable. The aim of this presentation is to remove the mystique behind what is often seen as a complicated process

14.15 The MPS Journey to Accreditation.

Chanda Lowther-Harris, Quality Lead, Metropolitan Police

The MPS experience to gaining accreditation including some of the hurdles which had to be managed and some of the benefits reaped.

15.00 Discussion Period on Future Workshop Requirements

15.30 Close

The organisers reserve the right to change the programme if necessary

Booking Form



12 July 2017 – Challenges to achieving Accreditation for Forensic Laboratories

£95 plus VAT

Please reserve places at the Seminar and Discussion Day above in the following name(s):

How did you hear about this event?	
------------------------------------	--

Full Names of attendees:		
Dietary Requirements:	<i>Please state here any special dietary requirements of the attendees</i>	
Name of contact if different:		
Name of Company / Organisation:		
Address:		
	Post Code:	
Telephone:	Fax number:	
Email(s):		

Please tick preferred payment method ✓

N.B. VAT at 20% will be added to the price quoted above

<input type="checkbox"/>	I enclose a cheque payable to BMTA for:	£
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please invoice my company quoting this Purchase Order No:	

Invoice Address if different from above:		
	Post Code:	
Email:		

<input type="checkbox"/>	Credit/Debit card payments can be accepted if preferred, but will incur a 5% admin fee. Please indicate if you would prefer to make payment this way, and you will be contacted shortly by this office, requesting your card details.
--------------------------	---

Please complete this form and return it to BMTA by one of the methods below:

E-mail to enquiries@bmta.co.uk - Fax to 01732 897453 - Post to:

Carol Smith	Refund Policy Please note that payment is due on confirmation of this booking and must be made in advance of the event. No refunds will be made for cancellations although delegate substitutions are accepted.
BMTA	
East Malling Enterprise Centre	
New Road, East Malling, Kent ME19 6BJ	

The organisers reserve the right to amend the programme if necessary