

POLICIES AND CONCEPTS

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CITAC mission, objectives and strategies

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Introduction

During the 10 years since 1993, when Co-operation on International Traceability in Analytical Chemistry (CITAC) was organized, the situation in the field of metrology in chemistry has improved dramatically: the analytical community understands more now that application of metrological principles increases quality of analytical results, while the metrological community understands more specific problems in chemistry. Traceability in analytical chemistry is developed today by the Consultative Committee on the Quantity of Material (CCQM) of the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), by other international and regional metrological and chemical organizations, required at a laboratory accreditation according to the standard ISO/IEC 17025 and so on. Therefore, the CITAC members decided at the 10th

anniversary CITAC celebration in conjunction with BERM9, Berlin, June 15, 2003, to renew the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the organization with the purpose to adjust the TOR to the new reality, i.e. to find exactly the CITAC place on the modern international metrological and analytical map. The CITAC mission, objectives and strategies formulated in the new TOR, which were accepted by CITAC members for an initial term of 3 years, are presented below.

Mission

To improve traceability of the results of chemical measurements everywhere in the world.

Objectives

To facilitate the practical realization of traceability in chemistry: to develop concepts that can be applied broadly at analytical laboratories and to disseminate those concepts.

To foster collaboration in metrology in chemistry as a means of effecting technology transfer and cost sharing.

To promote the metrological principles through guidelines and other tools for analytical laboratories.

To promote and harmonize quality practices in the analytical laboratories.

Strategies

- To provide a truly international forum for the exchange of information with respect to worldwide traceability of results of chemical measurements.
- To provide tools for analytical laboratories for establishing traceability to "stated references".

- To share views, clarify important concepts and raise the awareness of the needs and possibilities leading to traceability in chemical laboratories.
- To develop, distill and disseminate globally the key traceability concepts and issues.
- To prepare guides, discussion papers and scientific papers for journals in relation to traceability, uncertainty and quality assurance issues.
- To organize seminars, symposia and workshops and participate in conferences to promote the message of traceability.
- To play a bridging role between industry, governments, universities, metrologists and accreditation bodies and provide guidance to the analytical community.
- To work closely with other groups, e.g. CCQM, ISO-REMCO, IUPAC, ILAC, AOACI, regional and national professional chemistry societies and institutions, like EURACHEM and DAC/FECS—without duplicating work already being conducted by other groups—using these societies and institutions to act as a conduit to the field laboratories.
- To initiate and, where needed, coordinate work for the harmonization and validation of analytical methods based on traceability and other metrological concepts.

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