



International Personnel Certification Summit

The 21st Century Solution to Workforce Competitiveness



Personnel Certification and Accreditation in Japan

**- From the perspective of a Japanese
accreditation body -**

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- How JAB responded to the new standard
- Expectation of existing certification bodies and potential CBs

■ **Recognition and cooperation on the level of accreditation bodies**

- Current effort on the level of CBs
- Need for recognition arrangement using ABs network

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Introduction to JAB

- First established in 1993
- Private non-profit foundation
- Self-sustaining from accreditation fees
- Accredits conformity assessment bodies
 - Management systems CBs (QMS, EMS)
 - Personnel CBs including Auditor CBs
 - Auditor training providers (not CAB?)
 - Laboratories, Product CB, (Inspection body projected)

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For provision of consistent services to internationally accepted standards

- JAB operates to ISO/IEC Guide 61
- One of the first signatories to IAF MLA for QMS in 1998
 - Conforming to the relevant IAF documents (Guidance, MLA Policies & Procedures...)
 - Expected to cover EMS MLA in 2004
- Other MLA membership status includes PAC, IATCA, ILAC and APLAC

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- JAB actively participates in national and international standardization activity through JISC (National Member of ISO)
- Highly participative member of IAF and other international / regional accreditation community
- More specific cooperation with other ABs
 - Multilateral Cooperative Accreditation Arrangement among ANSI-RAB, JAB and JAS-ANZ
 - MoU with KAB

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For bi-directional communication

- JAB presents promotional events
 - Annual symposium on QMS & EMS
 - Occasional seminars
- Comprehensive web site
 - Visit **www.jab.or.jp**
 - Citizens can lodge a complaint on the Internet
 - Information on the consequences of appeals and complaints received

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Background of personnel certification and accreditation in Japan

- JAB launched QMS certification accreditation in 1993
 - Need for ISO 9001 QMS auditors having a level of competence
 - JAB originally operated an auditor certification system
 - Certification function transferred to a different legal entity (JSA) in 1996
 - Accreditation criteria C100 based on EN45013

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Accreditation of personnel CBs started in 1996

- Currently two CBs operate auditor certification conforming to JAB C/CE100
 - JSA accredited in 1996 (for QMS auditor)
 - JEMAI accredited in 1997 (for EMS auditor)
 - Both CBs use ISO 19011 for certification



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Number of certified auditors

	JSA (for QMS)	JEMAI (for EMS)
Lead auditor	3,100	1,200
Auditor	1,100	900
Provisional auditor	9,700	8,100
Total	13,900	10,200

Accreditation expanded to cover CBs for engineers & technicians in 1997

- Demand for accreditation of a CB (JWES) certifying welders & welding engineers
- JWES accredited in 1999 as conforming to CP100
 - Certification criteria based on JIS and ISO standards
- Number of certified persons: 220,000 welders and 37,000 welding engineers
- JPWS accredited in 2002 as a CB for gas pressure welders & welding engineers



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Why the CBs pursued accreditation

- To be recognized nationally and internationally as competent to operate certification programs in a transparent, objective and impartial manner
- To provide added value to those who wish to have their certificates accepted across the border
- To reform or democratize the organizational structure and operations



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Local and global impact of ISO/IEC 17024

- Internationally accepted benchmark for CBs
- JAB actively participated in activities of CASCO/WG17, IAF Task Force and a national standardization committee
- JAB revised the accreditation requirements and guidance documents adopting JIS Q 17024 and the IAF Guidance
 - Existing three documents consolidated into one

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Implementation of new accreditation criteria

- Will be **1st January 2005**
- Existing CBs will be required to transition to the new criteria in two years
 - IATCA plans to have member CBs accredited to ISO/IEC 17024 by the end of 2005
- JAB will concurrently implement a new accreditation procedure based on ISO/IEC 17011

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Other CBs interested in accreditation

- JSNDI
 - Non-destructive inspection personnel to ISO 9712
- JSME
 - Vibration analysis personnel to ISO 18436
- JAFP
 - Financial planners to ISO/DIS 22222



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Potential CBs

- JPCA
 - Privacy consultants
 - Certified to the Association standard
- IPA
 - Information Technology Engineers
 - Exam for qualification, not certification



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Arrangements between CBs across the border

- JRCA is a member of IATCA Multilateral Recognition Arrangement (MLA) for QMS auditor certification
- JWES is a member of IIW operating harmonized qualification of International Welding Engineers
- JSNDI has MoU with Canada (CANMET) concerning harmonization of NDT personnel certification



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Recognition & cooperation on the level of accreditation bodies

- Regional & international MLA
 - QMS certification (MLA established)
 - EMS & Product certification (IAF to establish MLA in 2004)
- IAF Guidance on cross-frontier accreditation
 - Use of local accreditation body
 - Exchange of documentation and information
 - Applicable to personnel certification also?

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IAF to extend MLA to cover personnel certification?

- Survey conducted
 - NDT personnel, Auditor...
 - Limited resources and no immediate demand
- Not proceed with MLA at this stage, but...



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Summary

- Workforce gets across the border
- Certification goes global
- Increased need for confidence in equivalence of certification programs
- Accreditation will serve to provide such confidence
- ABs will need to cooperate for harmonization of personnel certification accreditation



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