BOARD

POLICY ON ACCREDITATION AND MAINTAINING OF COMPETENCE

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POLICY STATEMENT

ENFSI wishes to promote consistent and reliable scientific evidence through the whole forensic process from the scene of crime to court.

MEANS

This aim will be achieved by the following means:

- All ENFSI member laboratories should have achieved or should be taking steps towards ISO/IEC 17025 “General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories”, ISO/IEC 17020 “Conformity assessment — Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection” compliant accreditation for their forensic science activities. Member laboratories should also achieve compliance to any other relevant Standard, as required.

- The ILAC G19 “Modules in a Forensic Science Process” can be used as a guidance to implement both ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO/IEC 17020 in the forensic science process.

- As stated in paragraph 4 of the ENFSI Constitution, an ENFSI member:

  – Shall cover a broad area of forensic expertise, i.e. more than 50% of the forensic fields represented by the ENFSI Expert Working Groups, and

  – Shall have achieved accreditation or documented progress in quality assurance with a clear plan to obtain accreditation within three years.

- The member laboratories are encouraged to aim to increase their scope of accreditation to cover all fields of expertise represented by the ENFSI Expert Working Groups and performed by the laboratory. The scope of accreditation and progress will be monitored through ENFSI surveys performed by the QCC and reported to the ENFSI Board.

- Each ENFSI member laboratory should have a policy on the minimum number of each accredited method to be performed within a 12 month period of time. The chosen number could be determined by risk assessment, when measures should be in place to demonstrate that competence of the personnel is adequate for infrequently performed tests (e.g. performing casework, known sample testing, blind sample or proficiency test material etc.).

AMENDMENTS TO PREVIOUS VERSION

1. Title of the document is changed to "*POLICY ON ACCREDITATION AND MAINTAINING OF COMPETENCE"*.
2. Bullet point one paragraph: *full name of the standard*s and the sentence "*and/or any other relevant standard*s" are added.
3. Bullet point three paragraph: wordings "*are encouraged to*", "*and progress*" and "*performed by QCC and reported to the ENFSI Board*" are added.
4. Sentence "*Only fields of expertise where on average at least twelve examinations per year are performed should be considered*" in bullet point 4 paragraph is replaced by a fifth bullet point as the separate paragraph "*Each ENFSI member laboratory should have a policy on the minimum number of each accredited method to be performed within a 12 month period of time. The chosen number could be determined i.e. by risk assessment, when measures should be in place to demonstrate that competence of the personnel is adequate for infrequently performed tests (e.g. performing casework, known sample testing, blind sample or proficiency test material etc.)*".

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