

AIHA AFFILIATE LABORATORY PROGRAMS NEWS

APRIL 2009
VOL. 01

NEWSLETTER
SERVING AIHA'S
AFFILIATE
LABORATORY
PROGRAMS



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AFFILIATE LABORATORY PROGRAMS LAUNCH WEBSITES

AIHA's Affiliate Laboratory Programs has launched the following websites for its LLCs:

AIHA LABORATORY
ACCREDITATION
PROGRAMS, LLC
(www.aihaaccreditedlabs.org)

AIHA REGISTRY
PROGRAMS, LLC
(www.aiharegistries.org)

AIHA PROFICIENCY
ANALYTICAL TESTING
PROGRAMS, LLC
(www.aihapat.org)

Please contact
Sage Morgante at
(703) 846-0799 or
smorgante@aiha.org,
if you have any
questions regarding
the new sites.

On Solid Ground

By Cheryl O. Morton

When we hear the country lost over 650,000 jobs in February, it simply confirms that our economy has taken a turn for the worse. As the director of AIHA's Affiliate Laboratory Programs (the new Limited Liability Companies formed for laboratory programs), I personally start to worry about how the new LLCs will perform this year especially when federal agencies like the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) say that they only want to work with internationally recognized accredited laboratories (see related story on Page 5). There are several encouraging signs that make me feel that our programs are on solid ground and should make our laboratory customers feel good about their continued support and participation in our programs.

First, the current enrollment numbers for all of the LLCs remain steady and are relatively unchanged from a year ago. While participation in AIHA laboratory programs has declined over the past several years primarily due to lab closings and mergers, there is no indication that the LLCs are losing a significant numbers of laboratories (in any programs) despite this bad economic news. Most laboratory customers see accreditation, proficiency testing and registry programs as an investment and when faced with budget deficits, opt to continue these important services.

Secondly, AIHA Affiliate Laboratory Programs are taking cost-reducing measures such as avoiding paper copies when we can use technology, like iWeb, to share documents and encouraging electronic submissions. We are selecting meeting venues where we can get reduced hotel room rates and reducing food and beverage orders for meetings, including our annual reception at AIHce. Since we started an in-depth review and reduction of expenses last year, we did not have to raise many of our accreditation or proficiency testing fees significantly for fiscal year 2009 (unlike our competitors). While we do not know what fiscal year 2010 will bring, we will continue to look for other ways to operate more efficiently and cost effectively.

We are also committed to working with laboratory customers in these challenging financial times by allowing special payment arrangements to be made, which includes our monthly payment plan. We have more labs participating in the Plan since it was initiated.

Participants in AIHA Affiliate Laboratory Programs should feel confident that we remain committed to devoting our resources to hiring more assessors (three more have just joined our ranks as trainees) and training volunteers, which we just did at the February 2009 meeting in San Diego. AIHA

AFFILIATE LABORATORY PROGRAMS

Laboratory Accreditation Programs, LLC is also committed to gaining international recognition this year as well as advocating for opportunities to have AIHA-accredited labs eligible to work for federal agencies like the CPSC. We are equally committed to developing new products and services, and soon will convene Strategic Advisory Groups under each of the LLCs. These will help us identify and meet our laboratory customers' needs. In months ahead, please look for new programs from our affiliate laboratory programs, including but not limited to, a consumer product accreditation program under the AIHA Laboratory Accreditation Programs, LLC; a new Beryllium Oxide PAT Program for AIHA PAT Programs, LLC; and a new Beryllium Field Operations Registry under AIHA Registry Programs, LLC.

We know times are tough, and we believe an important part of our role is to actively and proactively support your business and you. Be assured that your continued participation in AIHA Affiliate Laboratory Programs will help you through these challenging times. We hope that you are excited about all of the possibilities that the future holds and that we remain good and effective partners for years to come.

Staff Promotions for Laboratory Program LLCs

We are pleased to announce these following promotions in the Laboratory Program LLCs. These will help us tackle the scope and breadth of tasks that come along with operating these businesses:

Margie Breida was promoted to Senior Manager, Operations, AIHA Laboratory Accreditation Programs, LLC. She will be responsible for managing the accreditation staff in addition to all accreditation volunteer groups, budgets and the day-to-day operations of the accreditation business.

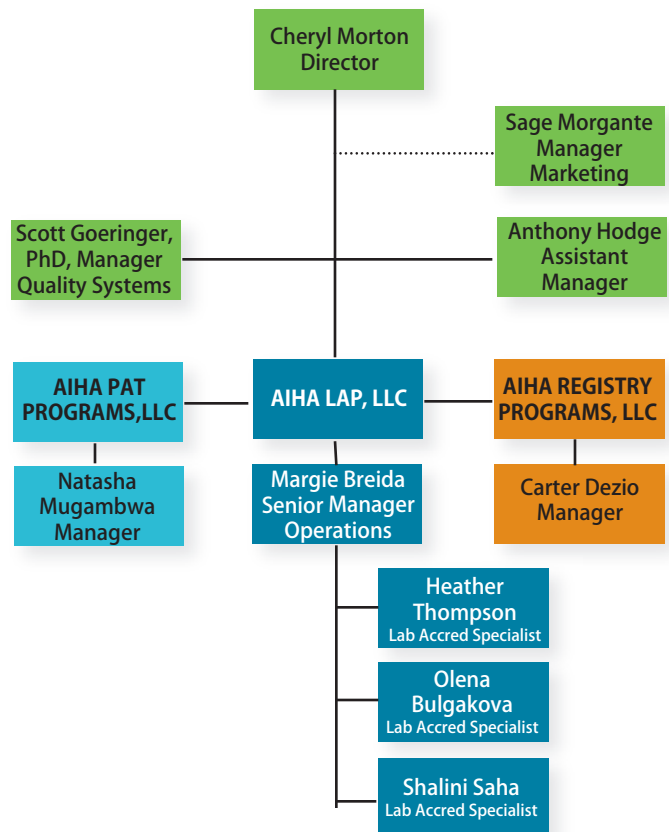
Carter Dezio was promoted to Manager, AIHA Registry Programs, LLC. She will be responsible for managing the Asbestos Analyst Registry and helping to establish new registry programs (and their associated proficiency testing programs), policies, and contracts as well as staffing a new Registry Programs Board.

Natasha Mugambwa was promoted to Manager, AIHA Proficiency Analytical Testing Programs, LLC. She will be responsible for managing all PAT programs, policies and

sample vendors so that we are compliant with relevant international guidelines as well as managing the volunteers that will serve on a new PAT Board.

Finally, Anthony Hodge was promoted to Assistant Manager, AIHA Affiliate Laboratory Programs – meaning that he is not being assigned to one specific LLC -- and in this new role, will work more closely with Cheryl Morton, Director of the Affiliate Laboratory Programs, to manage contracts, finances and payment plans for all of the LLCs in addition to enrollment activities for AIHA PAT Programs, LLC.

Please join us in congratulating Margie, Natasha, Carter and Tony on their promotions and wishing them well as they each take on new and expanded responsibilities for the LLCs. Below is the updated ORG chart for the Affiliate Laboratory Programs.

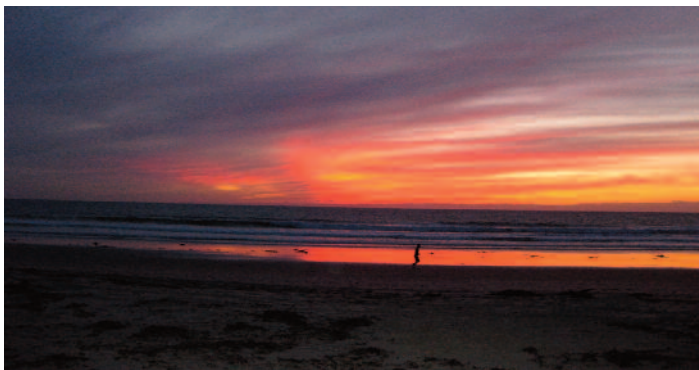


- AIHA AFFILIATE LABORATORY PROGRAMS
- AIHA LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAMS, LLC
- AIHA PROFICIENCY ANALYTICAL TESTING PROGRAMS, LLC
- AIHA REGISTRY PROGRAMS, LLC

AFFILIATE LABORATORY PROGRAMS

Orientation and Training Held in San Diego; Award Recipients Honored

Staff, volunteers and site assessors of AIHA's Affiliated Laboratory Programs gathered in San Diego, CA for their annual training. An orientation was also provided for nine members who assumed new roles in the AAB and TAP.



Attendees were treated to a beautiful sunset!

SITE ASSESSOR MEETING

This year, the site assessors met for two days, discussing policy changes, reviewing consolidation of deficiencies and expressing deficiencies in the words of the standard. There was a discussion of whether virtual assessments could be a useful tool for site assessors who determine that additional surveillance is needed, but perhaps an on-site assessment is not needed. Also discussed was the importance of the On-Site Document Review List.

Assessors and staff agreed to provide examples of root cause analysis and update the "Preparing Deficiency Responses" document that is sent to the laboratories. The assessors also finalized the 2009 Application for Accreditation, which is now available on the website.

Other topics of discussion included: CPSC requirements; LQSR 3.0; and Third Party Proficiency Testing Providers. Ad hoc task groups were formed to address the current guidelines on measurement uncertainty and traceability.

Presentations from site assessors included updates on methods and method development for beryllium, diacetyl, and acetoin. Finally, presentations on TEM and ICP-MS were provided.



There was time for lunch and networking near the bay!

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Seven new TAP members and two new AAB members were provided an introduction to governance and structure, expectations of volunteers, roles and responsibilities, and an accreditation process overview. A sample TAP review was presented by an experienced TAP reviewer.

GENERAL SESSION

The site assessors, AAB and TAP gathered for a joint session to discuss: 2009 policy changes; and quality issues, including the roles of the various groups in meeting ISO/IEC 17011 requirements. Attendees were provided the opportunity to ask questions of the proficiency testing providers in attendance.

TASK FORCE MEETINGS AND BREAKOUTS

A number of groups took the opportunity to meet while in San Diego, the Asbestos Analysts Registry reviewers, the EMLAP/EMPAT Task Force, and the Proficiency Testing Task Force. Members with an interest in lead issues participated in a breakout discussion to hear the latest on CPSC issues.

VOLUNTEERS, LEADERS AND SITE ASSESSORS HONORED

Volunteers were also honored at the meeting. This year's honorees were - Jason Dobranic, recipient of the Harriotte A. Hurley Award for his contributions to the AAB; Laura McMahon recipient of AAB Past Chair Award for leadership and contributions to the AAB; Howard Varner recipient of the Newton Whitman Award for TAP Reviewer of the Year; and Tessie Gamber recipient of the Evan Campbell Award for Site Assessor of the Year.

AFFILIATE LABORATORY PROGRAMS

AAB MEETING

On Friday evening, the AAB met to discuss strategic focus areas and operational policies.



THANKS TO OUR PHOTOGRAPHER, SHALINI SAHA, LABORATORY ACCREDITATION SPECIALIST!

Affiliate Laboratory Programs Branding

The Affiliate Laboratory Programs team is working hard to promote awareness of its new LLC brands. Since we do not want to burden our customers with additional costs this year, we have decided that accredited laboratory customers do not need to update their marketing materials and websites with the new accreditation logo until January 2010. We will, however, start using our new “look” and accreditation logo on certificates beginning April 1.

AIHA Affiliate Laboratory Programs @ AIHce

This year’s AIHce in Toronto will give AIHA Affiliate Laboratory Programs staff and volunteers opportunities to discuss important issues and plan for the future. Staff will be available at the Expo hall to answer your questions and hear your feedback. Please mark your calendars for these specific events:

AAB MEETING

The Analytical Accreditation Board (AAB) of the AIHA Laboratory Accreditation Programs, LLC will meet on Saturday, May 30 to discuss plans to develop an accreditation program to meet safety rules issued by the Consumer Product Safety Commission and additional policy revisions to accommodate the reorganization of AIHA laboratory programs. The AAB will also get updates from its Task Forces and the other affiliate programs.

RECEPTION FOR LABORATORY COMMUNITY

AIHA Affiliate Laboratory Programs will host a reception on Monday, June 1, from 6:30 pm to 8 pm, for all LLC volunteers, site assessors, vendors, customers, and others from the laboratory community. Look for an e-mail invitation in the coming weeks.

EXHIBIT BOOTHS

There will be an AIHA Affiliate Laboratory Programs exhibit booth on display in the expo hall on Monday, June 1 through Wednesday, June 3 where staff will be available to answer questions about accreditation, proficiency testing, and registry programs. Nearly two dozen AIHA LAP, LLC Accredited laboratories will also have information booths on display. We encourage you to check the website to locate the Affiliate Laboratory Programs LLC booth and be sure to visit the booths of the laboratories that are exhibiting.

For more information about activities at AIHce conference, please contact Cheryl O. Morton at cmorton@aiha.org or (703) 846-0789.

IMPROVE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF ISO/IEC 17025:2005

This course is designed for laboratory professionals interested in learning more about ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and in applying for accreditation under AIHA’s Laboratory Accreditation Programs, LLC.

GET YOUR SEAT TODAY

AIHce, Sunday, May 31 and Monday, June 1

9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. | Fee: \$399/\$499

GET YOUR SEAT TODAY BY CALLING SAGE MORGANTE AT 703-846-0799

OR GOING ONLINE AT THE AIHce WEBSITE

<http://www.aiha.org/aihce09/education/course.aspx?id=501>

AIHA LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAMS, LLC

Update on CPSC Lead Paint Testing

AIHA Laboratory Accreditation Programs, LLC is continuing its dialogue with Consumer Product Safety Commission officials and legislators about including AIHA-accredited lead laboratories as recognized third-party labs for lead paint testing (under 16 CFR 1303), since we accredit labs for lead in paint using the ISO/IEC 17025:2005 standard and additional requirements. AIHA Laboratory Accreditation Programs, LLC has demonstrated its compliance with ISO/IEC 17011 and is recognized by the National Cooperation for Laboratory Accreditation—the same standard that ILAC MRA signatories comply with. An update on these discussions will be soon be provided to our accredited laboratories.

In the meantime, AIHA-LAP, LLC is closer to achieving international recognition under the ILAC MRA. This summer, we expect to undergo a joint evaluation by two ILAC regional bodies—the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation and the Inter America Accreditation Cooperation. Should CPSC change its requirements to include AIHA-accredited labs or we achieve ILAC MRA status, our lead labs will automatically be eligible to be listed as third-party CPSC laboratories for testing painted lead products. We are also working on a program that will fully accommodate consumer product testing for lead that we will launch in the coming months.

For more information on our CPSC efforts underway, please contact Cheryl O. Morton, at (703) 846-0789 or cmorton@aiha.org.

New Accreditation Application Posted

The accreditation application has been updated and is currently posted on the AIHA LAP, LLC website, <http://www.aihaaccreditedlabs.com>.

In our efforts to reduce the amount of paper generated by accreditation and re-accreditation applications, AIHA Laboratory Accreditation Programs, LLC is now accepting applications on compact discs. Submitting an application with quality manuals, procedures and records is as simple as burning files to a CD. Mailing and shipping costs are reduced, and time is saved since numerous copies are no

longer required to be printed out or copied.

Something else you'll notice right away is the new name of the LLC and its logo. The name AIHA Laboratory Accreditation Programs, LLC and its acronym AIHA LAP, LLC now appear on the application. In the coming months, the new name and logo will be updated and appear on all documents and policy modules. To follow is a list of other changes to the application:

There are minor changes to Form 1. The phone number to the facility being assessed is now required. This is a result of too many assessors getting lost and only having the phone numbers of the corporate headquarters. Rarely can the employees give directions to a remote facility. The next change is that you must let us know if your finance department requires receipts with the purchase order. This helps us maintain good relationships with our finance department as well as yours.

Form 2C has been removed. If you need to add more methods, just add lines to the tables in Form 2B.

Form 4 has been updated to reflect changes in our policy modules. "Quality Assurance Coordinator" is now "Quality Manager." Training requirements have also been revised so take careful note of those changes.

Sample procedures and logs are no longer required for initial accreditation or reaccreditation applications.

As always, the staff is here to help answer any questions you may have about the revised application. For more information on the New Accreditation Application posting please contact Scott Goeringer at sgoeringer@aiha.org.

International Accreditation Day

June 9th 2009 will mark International Accreditation Day, a



global initiative jointly established by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) to raise awareness of the importance of accreditation-related activities.

Join AIHA's Affiliate Laboratory Programs in this campaign to gain awareness of accreditation. Stay tuned for more information.

AIHA LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAMS, LLC

Call for AAB and TAP Applications

AIHA-LAP, LLC is seeking qualified volunteers to fill positions on the Analytical Accreditation Board (AAB) and the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP). New members will begin their terms in January 2010. Applications for these positions are due by June 30, 2009.

The AAB oversees the governance and processes related to laboratory accreditation, including responsibility for approving applications submitted for accreditation and reaccreditation once site assessments are conducted. AAB members are also responsible for approving policy changes and participating on ad hoc task forces.

TAP members advise the AAB on technical laboratory matters and review 15 percent (soon to be 20 percent) of all accreditation applications for the major programs: industrial hygiene; environmental lead; and environmental microbiology. TAP members conduct a thorough assessment of the accreditation process steps to ensure conformance with policies and technical requirements.

See www.aiha.org/llc-labaccred/documents.htm for AAB and TAP applications. For additional information, please contact Margie Breida at mbreida@aiha.org.

Accreditation Policy Changes to be Published by May 1, 2009

An article appearing in the February 2009 issue of the LQAP News highlighted the changes planned for the 2009 accreditation policies. Staff anticipated publication of the updated policies on the website by March 1 with an effective date of May 1, 2009. Now that administrative changes reflecting the new LLCs need to be made to the accreditation policies, we are postponing the publication date of the policies on the website to May 1, 2009 with an effective date the policies of July 1, 2009. Questions regarding implementation of the policies should be directed to Margie Breida at mbreida@aiha.org.

Site Assessor Feedback Forms

Sending a site assessor on location is one of the most important of all AIHA-LAP, LLCs processes. You can help us improve this process by completing and submitting the

site assessor feedback form.

These forms are supplied to you by the laboratory accreditation specialists prior to the assessment and your site assessor will also remind you to submit the form at the close of your assessment. The feedback forms help us meet the requirements of ISO17011:2004, the standard for accreditation bodies. Later in the year, we will be providing you with web-based version of the form.

Significant Changes Still Need to Be Reported

Although the annual update is no longer required in the policies reporting of significant changes per 3.8.1 is still required within 20 business days. The following changes need to be reported to AIHA staff

Personnel changes that include technical manager and quality manager. Check Policy 2A.5 and the specifics of your accreditation program to ensure that these positions fulfill the qualifications outlined.

Facility location and/or ownership—not only is it required by Policy 3.8.1, but your accreditation covers only the laboratory as named on the certification of accreditation and the facility address as listed.

If your laboratory is not receiving its proficiency testing samples, the LQAP News, or general correspondence, please contact Shalini Saha at ssaha@aiha.org to verify your address and primary/billing contact.

2009 ASTM Johnson Conference: Standardization of Mold Response

July 13-15, 2009 Burlington, Vermont

The ASTM Conference will highlight practical, science-based approaches for resolving building mold concerns. Presentations will focus on the importance of understanding building moisture, diagnosing occupant sensitivity, microbial testing (both use and misuse), selecting effective response measures, verifying after-damage.

For more information please contact Hannah Sparks at hsparks@astm.org, Tel: 610-832-9677.

AIHA LABORATORY ACCREDITATION PROGRAMS, LLC

CONGRATULATIONS TO AIHA'S NEWLY ACCREDITED LABS

THESE LABS BECAME ACCREDITED BETWEEN JAN 01, 2009 TO APR 01, 2009

ORGANIZATION NAME	LOCATION	HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING LABORATORY	AUGUSTA, ME
COVINO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATES, INC.	WOBURN, MA	NAVY & MARINE CORPS PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER CIHL DETACHMENT NORFOLK	NORFOLK, VA
RHODE ISLAND ANALYTICAL	WARWICK, RI	PENNIMAN AND BROWNE, INC.	BALTIMORE, MD
ENVIROMED SERVICES, INC	MERIDEN, CT	ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH	CHICAGO, IL
ESIS ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LABORATORY	CROMWELL, CT	EAST PENN MANUFACTURING COMPANY	LYON STATION, PA
JLC ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS, INC.	NEW YORK, NY	DIVISION OF FEDERAL OCCUP. HEALTH ENV. LABORATORY	CHICAGO, IL
MSHA - DEPARTMENT OF LABOR ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING, INC.	PITTSBURGH, PA	DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROMOTION	DETROIT, MI
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA	RALEIGH, NC	PURE EARTH ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY, INC.	PENNSAUKEN, NJ
MICHELIN TIRE CORPORATION	GREENVILLE, SC	CREST ANALYTICAL SERVICES, INC.	YOKOHAMA, O
DAVIS & FLOYD, INC.	GREENWOOD, SC	WHITE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS	HONOLULU, HI
BUREAU VERITAS NORTH AMERICA	KENNESAW, GA	CRISP ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES	CARROLLTON, TX
CENTRAL LABORATORY SERV./ TVA	CHATTANOOGA, TN	DOVE ENVIRONMENTAL CORPORATION	MIAMI, FL
OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY	OAK RIDGE, TN	P&K MICROBIOLOGY SERVICES	CHERRY HILL, NJ
KENTUCKY CABINET FOR HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES	FRANKFORT, KY	AEROBIOLOGY LABORATORY ASSOCIATES, INC.	ATLANTA, GA
GRAFTECH INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, INC.	PARMA, OH	EMSL ANALYTICAL, INC.	ORLANDO, FL
MEADWESTVACO SAFETY HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATORY	MIAMISBURG, OH	SCS ENGINEERS - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION LABORATORY	N LAS VEGAS, NV
UNITED STATES ENRICHMENT CORPORATION	PIKETON, OH	LONG ISLAND ANALYTICAL LABORATORIES, INC.	HOLBROOK, NY
BUREAU VERITAS NORTH AMERICA	NOVI, MI	PRISM ANALYTICAL TECHNOLOGIES, INC.	MT. PLEASANT, MI
ACCURATE ANALYTICAL TESTING, LLC	BELLEVILLE, MI	BIOHYGIENE LABORATORIES, INC.	TORRANCE, CA
ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY	ARGONNE, IL	BLUEPOINT ENVIRONMENTAL, LLC	SYRACUSE, NY
RCM LABORATORIES, INC.	COUNTRYSIDE, IL	BIO-CHEM CONSULTING SERVICES LTD.	CALGARY, AB
QUANTEM LABORATORIES	OK CITY, OK	EMSL ANALYTICAL, INC.	MORRISVILLE, NC
USAFSAM/OEHTA	BROOKS CITY, TX	SENSORS SAFETY PRODUCTS, INC.	RALEIGH, NC
FIBERQUANT ANALYTICAL SERVICES	PHOENIX, AZ	EMSL ANALYTICAL, INC.	WOBURN, MA
NVL LABORATORIES, INC.	SEATTLE, WA	UNYSE LABS	BUFFALO, NY
ALS LABORATORY GROUP-ENVIRONMENTAL DIVISION (EDMONTON)	EDMONTON, AB		

AIHA PROFICIENCY ANALYTICAL TESTING PROGRAMS, LLC

New PAT Website

The AIHA Proficiency Analytical Testing Programs, LLC has launched a new website. Please visit to www.aihapat.org to view the new website for the PAT programs. The new website provides the 2009 PAT Program Schedule to help our busy laboratories as they plan their yearly activities. The schedule contains all the dates to help your laboratory plan for sample receipt, PAT data submission and PAT report availability. Laboratories can also access the PAT Data Entry Portal and laboratory reports from the new website. Stock Samples and Retest Sample Order Forms which have been previously provided in the PAT sample kits are now only available online in an effort to reduce paper. Feel free to contact Natasha Mugambwa, Manager, AIHA Proficiency Testing Programs, LLC, at nmugambwa@aiha.org with any feedback or questions.

Call for PAT Board Applications

AIHA Proficiency Analytical Testing Programs, LLC is seeking qualified volunteers to fill positions on the first Proficiency Analytical Testing Board (or PAT Board) that will be established in the coming months. The PAT Board will provide technical expertise to the PAT Programs, LLC, develop proficiency testing policies, and ensure that laboratories participating in the AIHA PAT Programs conform to the AIHA PAT Program policies and technical requirements.

Members will also provide guidance to ensure that the AIHA PAT Programs, LLC conforms to international guidelines, perform a quality review of PAT data following testing rounds, select and monitor the performance of PAT Program subcontractors, review PT appeals and feedback submitted by participating laboratories, address AIHA Affiliate Laboratory Program and contractors' concerns with regard to PT, and contribute to ad hoc task forces as needed. PAT Board members will be required to attend at least two face-to-face meetings each year, the expenses of which will generally be covered by the AIHA PAT Programs, LLC.

Applications, which must be completed and submitted by June 30, and other information about the AIHA PAT Board, can be found on the AIHA PAT Programs, LLC website at www.aihapat.org under "Governance Documents." For more information, please contact Natasha Mugambwa at nmugambwa@aiha.org or (703) 846-0797.

Reference to Proficiency Testing in Advertising

The proficiency testing provided by the AIHA PAT Programs, LLC is aimed at assisting participating laboratories in improving analytical performance. In an effort to market their businesses and services, laboratories that participate in our proficiency testing programs should rightfully advertise their participation in the AIHA PAT programs. A laboratory may use its Laboratory ID number to indicate participation in one or more AIHA PAT programs, as long as accreditation is not implied. The following wording provides a good example of what is acceptable: "XYZ Laboratory participates in the AIHA ____ PAT Program, Laboratory ID Number _____. (Blanks are to be filled with the applicable terms.)"

MARK YOUR CALENDARS KEEP THESE PAT DEADLINES IN MIND

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE PROFICIENCY ANALYTICAL TESTING PROGRAM ENROLLMENT DEADLINES

ROUND #178
06/01/09
ROUND #179
09/01/09

ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY-CULTURABLE PROFICIENCY ANALYTICAL TESTING PROGRAM ENROLLMENT DEADLINES

ROUND #39
05/15/09
ROUND #40
09/15/09

ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY-DIRECT EXAM PROFICIENCY ANALYTICAL TESTING PROGRAM ENROLLMENT DEADLINES

ROUND #19
06/15/09
ROUND #20
09/15/09

ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY-CULTURABLE AND DIRECT EXAM COMBINATION PROFICIENCY ANALYTICAL TESTING PROGRAM ENROLLMENT DEADLINES

ROUND #39
ROUND #19
05/15/09
ROUND #40
ROUND #20
09/15/09

BULK ASBESTOS PROFICIENCY ANALYTICAL TESTING PROGRAM ENROLLMENT DEADLINES

ROUND #79
04/25/09
ROUND #80
07/25/09
ROUND #81
10/15/09

BERYLLIUM PROFICIENCY ANALYTICAL TESTING PROGRAM ENROLLMENT DEADLINES

ROUND #20
06/01/09
ROUND #21
10/01/09

THE PAT SCHEDULE IS LOCATED AT
WWW.AIHA.ORG/1DOCUMENTS/LAB/AAT_PT_SCHEDULE.PDF

AIHA REGISTRY PROGRAMS, LLC

A Letter from the Registry Programs Manager

Asbestos Analysts Registry Participant,

I am writing today to notify your organization of numerous changes and improvements to the Asbestos Analysts Registry (AAR) and its associated Asbestos Analysts Testing (AAT) program. Through the LQAP Newsletter and various e-mails, you have already been introduced to some of the information below, but I wanted to ensure that each participating AAR organization was individually notified. Be sure to take the time to review this information.

NEW AAR / AAT WEBSITE

In conjunction with the formation of the AIHA Registry Programs, LLC, we have launched a new website. Please go to www.aiharegistry.org to view the new website for the AAR and AAT programs. Note you will need to create new bookmarks for pages that you frequently visit. The links for the Approved Organizations and Board Approved Analysts registry web lists have remained the same, as has the link for the PAT Data Entry Portal. We are aware of a few issues and missing links with the new website and are working to correct these. To access the current 2009 LQAP Fee Schedule please go to: www.aiha.org/1documents/lab/2009lqapfees.pdf. The fee schedule for each of the AIHA Registry Programs, LLC will be posted to the AIHA Registry Programs, LLC's Documents, Policies and Fees (www.aiha.org/llc_registry/documents.htm) web page as soon as it is available. Feel free to contact me with any comments or questions regarding the new website.

AAT SAMPLE BOX INSERTS

You will notice that the only insert include in the sample box is the AAT Round Results Worksheet. From round 89 forward, the AAT Deadlines and Instructions for Asbestos Analysts Testing (AAT) Participants and the AAT Retest Order Form will no longer be included with your samples, but will be available on the AIHA Registry Programs, LLC website at: www.aiha.org/llc_registry/program_aat.htm. This change is being implemented in an effort to eliminate waste and lessen the effect of this program on the environment. Many of you have indicated that you do not keep these documents and they are disposed of upon receipt. Posting them online will allow you to access and print the documents whenever necessary.

AAT SAMPLE FIBER TYPE

From AAT round 89 forward, AAT samples will now be composed of Amosite fibers in odd-numbered rounds and Chrysotile fibers in even-numbered rounds. The AIHA Proficiency Analytical Testing, LLC's IHPAT program for asbestos has been alternating chrysotile and amosite rounds since 1988. The addition of amosite rounds will make the AAT program a more well-rounded proficiency testing program. Be aware that the processes necessary to produce sample batches with reproducible fiber size, fiber bundles diameter, and concentration of amosite fibers results in a large number of fibers near five micrometers in length. Amosite samples will provide a new challenge to the analyst's ability to accurately estimate if fibers are longer than five micrometers. However, the results from the IHPAT rounds have shown that the total relative standard deviation for the amosite rounds has been consistently lower than chrysotile rounds and, if this trend continues for the AAT program, these rounds will help to improve the overall performance of analysts in the program.

AAT RESULT CALCULATIONS

From AAT round 89 forward, the AAT performance results will be determined using a more robust statistical processing. AIHA initiated the AAR program in December 1986. Due to the aerosol sample generation and the number of participants, the more traditional method of treating asbestos data, square root transformation, was not possible. Asbestos results exhibit a non-symmetric distribution of data and are traditionally treated to obtain approximately normal distributions. To accomplish this, asbestos data is transformed by taking the square root of all values prior to the calculation of standard deviation and performance limits, then restoring the reported values to their original state by squaring the transformed results. NIOSH and AIHA worked together to determine a statistical processing scheme that would produce reliable and expected results. AAT performance limits since this time have been determined by $\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 times the mean. These practices have provided consistent performance results for the program. However, there is an inherent bias toward a greater number of low outliers.

When we changed the AAT sample generation to liquid filtration deposition in 2006 we began to reevaluate the statistical processing of AAT results. The Proficiency Testing Taskforce and the Analytical Accreditation Board reviewed the results of eight AAT rounds that were processed by the original AAT statistics and transformed statistical processing, and have determined that there is no longer a reason not to transform the AAT data. This change will take effect with the results for AAT round 89.

Thank you for your continued participation in the Asbestos Analysts Registry.
Best regards and thank you for your time,



Carter Dezio
Manager, AIHA Registry Programs, LLC

Call for Registry Programs Board Applications

AIHA Registry Programs, LLC is seeking qualified volunteers to fill positions on the first Registry Programs Board (RPB) that will be established in the coming months. The RPB will develop registry program policies and ensure that organizations participating in AIHA registry programs, including the Asbestos Analysts Registry (AAR), conform to appropriate policies and technical requirements. Members will also conduct thorough reviews of registry applications and be responsible for establishing proficiency testing programs requirements associated with registry programs. Board members will be required to attend at least two face-to-face meetings each year for which the travel expenses will generally be covered by AIHA Registry Programs, LLC.

Applications must be completed and submitted to AIHA by June 30. The application and information about the Registry Programs Board can be found on the AIHA Registry Programs website at www.aiharegistry.org under "Governance Documents." For more information, contact Carter Dezio at (703) 846-0755.

INTERNAL AUDIT STRUGGLES?

Conducting internal audits is an ISO/IEC 17025:2005 requirement that most accredited laboratories find challenging. AIHA Laboratory Accreditation Programs, LLC is sponsoring a course at the AIHce on the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2005. This will help you understand the standard.

AIHce, Sunday, May 31 and Monday, June 1
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. | Fee: \$399/\$499
GET YOUR SEAT TODAY BY CALLING
SAGE MORGANTE AT 703-846-0799

OR GOING ONLINE AT THE AIHCE WEBSITE
<http://www.aiha.org/aihce09/education/course.aspx?id=501>

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