Notice:

Management of Extraordinary Events or Circumstances Affecting ABs, CABs and Certified Organizations - Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

The IAQG Other Party Management Team (OPMT) accepts that the impact of Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is an extraordinary event potentially affecting AQMS certified organizations. Our intention is to work with Certification Bodies (CBs) and Accreditation Bodies (Abs) to ensure that the ICOP scheme does not adversely impact industry stakeholders at a time when they are dealing with this difficult situation.

Any CB that is prevented from carrying out planned audits on-site due to this or any other extraordinary event or circumstance shall apply its process for the proper maintenance of certification in accordance with the requirements of IAF Informative Document (ID) 3 and IAQG OPMT Resolution #98.

CBs shall review and ensure compliance with all local laws and regulations.

For each certified organization affected, a CB shall:
- assess the risk for continuing certification, and
- understand the certified organization’s current and expected future situation in accordance with ID 3, and
- establish a reasonable planned course of action for affected clients, and
- apply the requirements of IAQG OPMT Resolution #98, and
- ensure that the accrediting AB has accepted the planned course of action for all clients before using the OASIS database feedback system to provide awareness to the IAQG OPMT Chair.

Upon receipt of CB plans, the IAQG OPMT will evaluate any OASIS database guidance that may need to be updated.

Note 1): The IAQG OPMT expectation is to submit a single plan for all affected clients. There is no need for awareness of the plan for each certified organization affected.

Note 2): IAQG OPMT Resolution #150 may not be applicable for certified organizations affected by 2019-nCoV that prevents the conduct of on-site audits.

Marie-Laurence Petit

IAQG OPMT Chair