

SADCAS Assessors Attend Method Validation & Measurement Uncertainty Workshop

SADCAS assessors participated in a 5-day Method Validation and Measurement Uncertainty Training presented by Mr MJ McNerney of Quality Africa Network PTY Ltd from the 30th of January to the 3rd of February 2017, at Sheraton Hotel, Pretoria, South Africa.

The training was attended by 16 Assessors from the SADC region. The assessors were from The Medical (4), Testing (9) and Calibration (3) Laboratories Accreditation Programmes. The TBT – SPS Technical Advisor EU EDF 10 SADC REIS Programme, Dr Geoff Visser welcomed the participants to this very important workshop.

The objective of the training was to equip laboratory personnel with a broad-base background on the tools required to perform method validation and verification, train participants on understanding the statistical tools in terms of their principles, applications and constraints and equip assessors on how to assess the requirements for method(s) validation and uncertainty of measurement in laboratories.

At the beginning of the workshop the Trainer Mr McNerney explained to the participants that some people had wrong beliefs about validation. Some think that standard methods do not require further verification of performance capability whilst others think that a superficial level of comparison against a known benchmark will suffice for either validation or verification. He told the participants that more data or reams of data seem impressive but that it was important for an assessor to evaluate what the laboratory has made as a conclusion and not to be blinded by the data.



The Trainer took the participants through the following aspects over the 5 days:

- The scope and application of validation/verification techniques,
- Statistical tools used in validation of Quantitative Methods,
- Validation of Qualitative Methods
- Measurement Uncertainty.

A lot of calculations were involved in the training as participants delved into the statistics involved with method validation and measurement uncertainty. The training was intensive, rigorous and informative.

Commenting on the training the trained assessors said that as laboratory experts, they were equipped with knowledge to assess and design simple but effective validation programmes using the statistical methodologies described in the workshop. The assessors further said that the course was very informative and equipped them well to perform assessments competently.

SADCAS is grateful to the SADC REIS PROGRAMME for the training. This training is critical to the skills required for assessor's competency.

~~~~~