

## **MECHANICAL TESTING ACCREDITATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **53<sup>rd</sup> MEETING SUMMARY**

The 53<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Mechanical Testing Accreditation Advisory Committee was held at NATA's Melbourne Office on 18 and 19 November 2013.

As in previous meetings, an extensive range of topics was discussed, the principal items being listed below.

#### **Review of current membership and composition of the Committee**

Gaps in the Committee's coverage of technical expertise were recognised. Individuals with expertise covering these gaps will be sought at the time of advertising for expressions of interest.

#### **Mechanical Testing classes of test**

Class of test 13.44 *Mechanical tests on assemblies* covers an extremely wide range of products that the testing is performed e.g. from toys to cranes. It was determined that two new classes are required, each relating to similar products, namely *Architectural products* and *Children and infant products*. Class 13.44 will then apply to structural assemblies only. Laboratories are to be advised of the implementation of this proposed change.

#### **Proficiency testing**

There was extensive discussion relating to the difficulties of applying proficiency testing across the wide breadth of tests within the field. Both in-situ work (e.g. pipelines) and qualitative testing (e.g. proof loading) are particular problem areas. It was agreed that the next draft revision of the ISO/IEC 17025 Application Document for Mechanical Testing should contain additional information pertaining to PT in order to clarify the requirements.

Also, a request for a provider of a proficiency testing program for the proof testing of slings has been placed on NATA's web site.

#### **Lifting gear issues**

A report on the Lifting Gear Working Group's (LGWG) activities was presented. This included a meeting with the Australian branch of the Lifting Equipment Engineers Association (LEEA).

It was agreed that lifting gear facilities which hire load cells must have an internal process covering this practice.

#### **Macroscopic examination reporting requirements**

The committee determined that the requirement for reporting of the magnification used in macroscopic examinations should not be regarded as mandatory and that this be reflected in the next revision of the ISO/IEC 17025 Application Document for Mechanical Testing.

## **Regulatory context**

Where products are known to be subject to regulation, NATA staff are to be requested to ensure that discussion takes place regarding the facility's awareness of the legislative environment surrounding the testing.

## **Assessor matters**

The Committee supported the use of the *Technical Assessor Aide Memoire for Competency Assessment* as a means of promoting uniformity in the assessment of personnel aspects in support of an overall determination of a facility's competence.

The Committee also supported development of a webinar to provide guidance on the assessment of equipment assurance programs in Mechanical Testing.