

January 8, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

Following the release and worldwide distribution of the CWA 15793:2008 “Laboratory Biorisk Management Standard in 2008,” the international community is more and more embracing the concepts of biorisk management systems to address laboratory biosafety and biosecurity. Laboratories have started the implementation process and at the same time, the user community has identified a need for an additional document to assist them in understanding and implementing the CWA 15793:2008. Such a document would be considered a “Guidance Document” and would be similar in format and intent to that of OHSAS 18002.

In response to these requests, key stakeholders representing the international biosafety community have again come together to initiate the development of this guidance document through a CEN Workshop process.

The guidance document initiative will serve to:

- Increase the likelihood that the user community adopts CWA 15793:2008
- Ensure that users of CWA 15793:2008 are able to easily understand and confidently implement all aspects of the CWA
- Increase the confidence of stakeholders including regulators, funding organizations and the community, that there is consistency in the application of the CWA across different laboratories.

Funding for this initiative is provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada’s Global Partnership Program, the Public Health Agency of Canada, the American Biosafety Association, the European Biosafety Association and the Asia-Pacific Biosafety Association.

The kick-off meeting of the **CEN Workshop 55** will take place in Brussels, on February 24, 2010 with the first workshop meeting scheduled for the next day (February, 25). Registration information will be available soon and posted on the CEN website:

<http://www.cen.eu/cenorm/sectors/technicalcommitteesworkshops/workshops/cwa15793-guide.asp>

Participation in this workshop will require a solid working knowledge in national and international laboratory biosafety and biosecurity issues to effectively interpret the CWA

and provide the necessary input for the development of the guidance document. Knowledge in management systems and OHSAS 18001/18002 as well as the CWA 15793:2008 is highly desirable.

Expressions of interest to participate in the workshop process and requests for information can be forwarded by email to: biorisk@icid.com

Important Notice:

There will be a separate stakeholder meeting to explore future development of a certification scheme for certification against CWA 15793

The CWA 15793:2008 will enable organizations to do a number of things including allowing them to seek and achieve certification or verification of the biorisk management system by an independent third party.

An interest was expressed by the CEN workshop (CWA 15793:2008) in the final meeting of 2007 for the development of procedures which could form the basis of an accredited certification scheme. Such a scheme has the potential to meet, at least in part, the needs for independent assurance or oversight for a large number of stakeholders including the laboratories themselves, funding bodies, collaborating partners as well as government authorities.

Goals for the meeting include:

- Gathering information regarding the need for and interest in certification against CWA 15793;
- Exploring options regarding accreditation, certification, accredited certification, etc;
- Identifying a path to move forward, including what would need to be addressed in any certification guidelines.

This stakeholder meeting is not an official CEN Workshop meeting. It will take place in Brussels on February 26, 2010 in order to take advantage of having the CEN Workshop 55 participants (Feb 24-25) already being present in Brussels.

We are still in the process of determining the exact location of this meeting. It will either take place at CEN (same location as the Workshop 55) or in one of the nearby hotels. There is no charge associated with this meeting and it is open to all CEN Workshop 55 participants and others.

If you are interested in participating in this additional meeting please RSVP Jennifer Gaudio (Sandia National Labs) at: jmgaudi@sandia.gov