

DoD Advanced Geophysical Classification Accreditation Program (DAGCAP)

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Topics

EDQW Background
Data Quality Requirements
Why Use Accreditation?
EDQW Advanced Geophysical
Classification Subgroup
DAGCAP Overview
How it will work
Summary

EDQW Background

Established 1996 – Navy Lead

Develop and recommend coordinated DoD positions and policy on environmental sampling and laboratory testing issues, to:

- Promote the generation of environmental data of known and documented quality
- Reduce unnecessary duplication and program costs
- Ensure compliance with established standards
- Promote better use of environmental resources
- Improve overall performance

Data Quality Requirements

DoD Information Quality Guidelines

(Implementing Public Law 106-554)

- Defines policy, procedures & responsibilities for maximizing the quality of information disseminated to the public
- Provides administrative mechanisms for affected persons to obtain correction of information

“Influential scientific, financial, and statistical information must be capable of being substantially reproduced”

Data Quality Requirements

DoD Instruction 4715.15

It is DoD Policy to:

- Comply with Public Law 106-554 (as implemented by DoD Information Quality Guidelines)
- Work with regulators to improve planning, collection & use of environmental data
- Implement environmental quality systems for the collection, management & use of environmental data (ANSI/ASQ E-4, ISO/IEC 17011, ISO/IEC 17025)

Why Use Accreditation?

Accreditation:

- ✓ Demonstrates an organization's competency to perform specific types of testing based on accepted standards
- ✓ Provides formal recognition to competent testing organizations
- ✓ Provides a means to identify and select testing organizations that meet minimum program requirements
- ✓ Provides for ongoing demonstrations of capability and periodic re-evaluation for continued compliance
- ✓ Enhances confidence in results by clients, regulators and the public

Why Use Accreditation?

Accreditation evaluates:

- ✓ Qualifications, training and experience of staff
- ✓ Demonstrations of capability
- ✓ Proper equipment maintenance
- ✓ Documented organizational quality systems
- ✓ Management accountability
- ✓ Measurement traceability
- ✓ Recordkeeping and reporting
- ✓ Effectiveness of internal quality assurance, quality control, assessments, and corrective action

EDQW Advanced Geophysical Classification Subgroup (AGCS)

Goal:

Develop a unified program through which geophysical testing organizations can demonstrate competency and document conformance to ISO/IEC 17025:2005, *“General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories”*

As used by ISO/IEC, “laboratory” refers to any organization that conducts testing or calibrations

EDQW AGCS

Tasks:

- Develop minimum DoD Quality Systems Requirements for Organizations Performing Advanced Geophysical Classification (DoD QSR) based on the GCMR-QAPP template and ISO/IEC 17025
- Develop quality systems documentation for the implementation and oversight of DAGCAP

DAGCAP Overview

- Modeled after DoD Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP)
- Third-party Accreditation Bodies (ABs) conduct assessments
- Applies to all testing organizations regardless of size or volume of business
- Applies to use of geophysical classification at all munitions response sites (MRS)

AB Requirements

ABs must:

- Be a U.S.-based signatory to International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)
- Submit a documented management system conforming to ISO/IEC 17011
- Accept DoD conditions and criteria for recognition
- Complete assessor training

DRAFT DAGCAP: How it will work

Accreditation Bodies:

- Participate in ILAC MRA peer evaluation
- Receive applications and collect fees
- Perform assessments i/a/w ISO/IEC 17011
- Issue accreditation certificates
- Monitor on-going proficiency (?)
- Maintain website listing accredited organizations and terms of accreditation

DRAFT DAGCAP: How it will work

Geophysical Testing Organizations:

- Develop Internal Quality Systems Manual i/a/w DoD QSR
- Apply for and pay cost of accreditation
- Select AB
- Undergo quality systems and technical assessments
- Respond to findings/implement corrective action
- Maintain ongoing compliance with DoD QSR

DRAFT DAGCAP: How it will work

DoD EDQW:

- Evaluates and grants recognition to ABs
- Observes assessments and AB peer evaluations
- Maintains DoD QSR
- Interprets DoD-specific requirements
- Monitors feedback & identifies opportunities for continual improvement

DRAFT DAGCAP: How it will work

DoD Project Managers/Prime Contractors:

- Develop a project-specific QAPP using the GCMR-QAPP template
- Select accredited organization from AB websites
- Verify organization is capable of meeting all project-specific requirements
- Provide project-specific quality assurance surveillance (e.g., contractor quality control seeds and government validation seeds)
- Notify EDQW of any organizations failure to meet requirements

DRAFT DAGCAP Questions/Answers

How will the program address minimum qualifications for geophysical testing personnel?

- ✓ I/A/W ISO 17025, the organization's quality systems manual must address qualifications, training, and demonstrations of capability (DOC) for personnel
- ✓ Organizations must also maintain training records

DRAFT DAGCAP Questions/Answers

What are options for conducting on-site assessments?

- ✓ Assessment activities will include a review of documents and personnel and witnessing the performance of geophysical classification
- ✓ It is proposed that a test site will be used to provide a venue for witnessing the performance of geophysical classification technology (i.e., DOCs)

DRAFT DAGCAP Questions/Answers

How will the scope of accreditation be defined?

- ✓ The scope of accreditation will be "advanced geophysical classification"
- ✓ Testing organizations must develop detailed SOPs describing equipment and procedures used
- ✓ SOPs must meet minimum requirements defined in the DoD QSR
- ✓ Testing organizations must notify the AB of any significant changes to SOPs (e.g., the use of different technology) which may trigger a re-assessment

DRAFT DAGCAP Questions/Answers

How will accreditation be implemented?

- ✓ The accreditation of a specific organization should be a two-step process, with the quality systems assessment being completed satisfactorily before the DOC at the test site is conducted

DRAFT DAGCAP Questions/Answers

What will government oversight consist of?
Who will be involved?

Government oversight would include the following:

- ✓ Recognizing ABs
- ✓ Issuing and maintaining the QSR
- ✓ Observing AB peer evaluations
- ✓ Observing onsite DAGCAP assessments
- ✓ Reviewing assessment reports

Next Steps

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| <i>October 2014</i> | Begin development of a white paper and draft initial outline for DAGCAP Manual |
| <i>January 2015</i> | “Socialize” White Paper |
| <i>February 2015</i> | OSD establishes DAGCAP (DoD Memo) |
| <i>April 2015</i> | Recognize ABs |
| <i>May 2015</i> | Issue draft DoD QSR |
| <i>July 2015</i> | Finalize QSR; develop AB training |
| <i>September 2015</i> | Begin assessments |
| <i>March 2016</i> | Organizations must be accredited |