

First accreditation for particle counter calibration

PMT (GB) Limited has been awarded the first UKAS calibration accreditation for particle size analysis at their laboratory based in Malvern.



Particle counters are indispensable instruments for the measurement of contaminant particles in cleanrooms and other controlled environments. They employ optical techniques that match a signal response generated by the contaminant particle to an equivalent size of a latex sphere. These spheres are available in various sizes – in this case, from 0.3 µm to 25 µm for aerosol devices and from 2 µm to 30 µm for liquid devices. The instruments are used in a wide variety of applications from pharmaceutical manufacturers, semiconductor companies, hospitals and cleanroom validation companies.

John Hurlll, who led the assessment team, commented, “As this was the first UKAS accreditation in this area of technology, we were presented with difficult issues relating to the traceability of measurement for these latex spheres. However, PMT staff worked hard to obtain credible measurement traceability and, although this took

some time, it was achieved and demonstrated convincingly.”

Ian Norman, PMT (GB) Limited’s Customer Service Manager said, “It has been a tough and long process to achieve this accreditation, but our whole team has worked very hard to satisfy the requirements of UKAS.”

The grant of accreditation for this measurement capability is an important step forward in broadening the availability of accredited calibrations into further areas in which they have previously been unavailable.

For further information please contact **John Hurlll**, UKAS Assessment Manager (john.hurll@ukas.com) or **Ian Norman**, Customer Service Manager, PMT (GB) Limited (iannorman@pmtgb.com).

Accreditation for FSSC 22000

Food safety is a global concern, not only because of the importance for public health, but also because of its impact on international trade. Globalisation of food production and procurement makes food chains longer and more complex and increases the risk of food safety incidents. Effective and harmonised food safety systems manage and ensure the safety and suitability of food in each link of the supply chain.

A certification scheme, FSSC 22000, has been developed for food safety systems of food manufacturers and is based on the international food safety management standard, ISO 22000: 2005 ‘Requirements for any organisation in the food chain’ as well as the BSI publicly available specification PAS 220: 2008 *Prerequisite programmes on food safety for food manufacturing*. Accreditation for certification to FSSC 22000 will be to international standard ISO 17021: 2006 using categories C, D, E and L detailed in ISO/TS 22003:2007.

FSSC 22000 was submitted to the European cooperation for Accreditation’s Horizontal

Harmonisation Committee (HHC) for approval as a scheme that, in principle, is suitable for accredited certification. The scheme was approved on 1 October 2010 and this now paves the way for UKAS to offer assessment accreditation for certification to FSSC 22000 (July 2010 version).

The first accreditations are planned for 1 January 2011 and applications for this new certification scheme are now invited. For further information contact **Pamela Beha**, Accreditation & Development Manager (pam.beha@ukas.com).

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