

Improving the Technical Quality of Laboratory Testing for ASPASA Members thru Independent External Audits

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Barry Pearce : Learning Matters etc



ASPASA Technical Audits – ISO 17025

Content

- Overview
- What will be checked
- Splitting of membership
- Process
- Pilot run
- A final word



ASPASA Technical Audits – ISO 17025 Overview

- ASPASA has recognized the need to improve on inhouse quality testing thru independent external auditors
 - Similar to the HS & E audits
- Proposal to assist in reduction of rejected material
- Improve image of association
- 126 members @ 1 day per audit = 1/2 year of audits

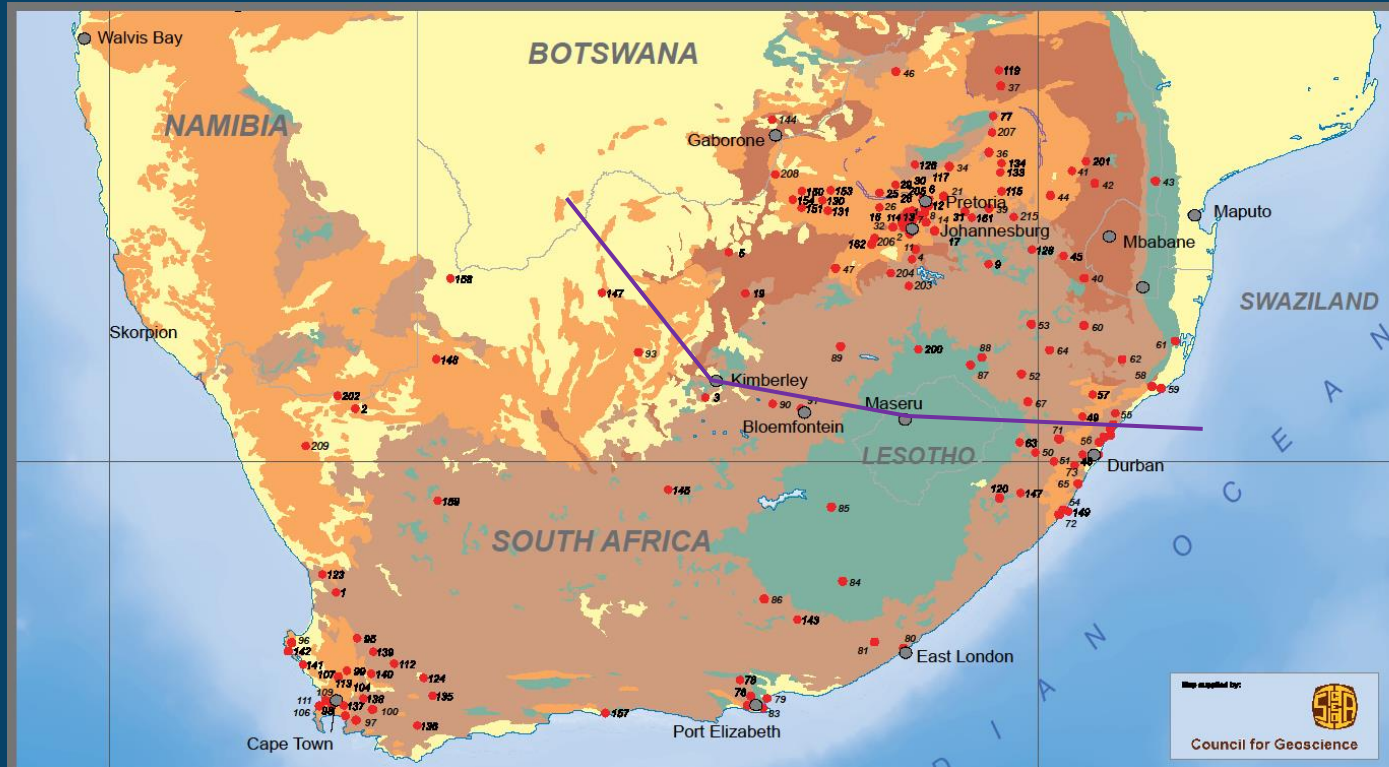


ASPASA Technical Audits – ISO 17025

- Laboratory accreditation requirements:
 - Personnel certification - ISO 17024
 - Calibration of equipment
 - Participation in Inter Laboratory Comparisons
 - System for collecting evidence of testing records
- In line with ISO 17025 but need not go all the way



ASPASA Technical/Quality Audit split Frans vs Barry



ASPASA Technical Audits – ISO 17025

- ASPASA membership split in half diagonally thru SA
- Auditor's
 - Barry Pearce to tackle North Western Region & Southern Coast
 - Frans Beneke to tackle Eastern Region & Northern KZN
- Quarries to contact ASPASA to enquire re audits & the scheduling audits
 - To be undertaken in similar order as for SH & E audits especially for the far-flung quarries.



ASPASA Technical Audits – ISO 17025

- Pilot round already undertaken
- Good overall result BUT forms required revisions
- Revised forms will be checked against facility in Cape Town in early Dec
- Revised audit doc to be published on ASPASA website before year end.
- Calibration audits done annually between auditors
- Rollout in 2020 coordinated with HS & E audits so as not to clash



Lab audit process

- 1st step – initial audit as gap analysis
 - Getting used to the system & what's required
- 2nd step
 - Audit to check gaps addressed
- 3rd audit
 - Annually to check on progress & opportunities for improvements
- Benefits
 - Comparable results to commercial faculties
 - Confidence in labs results
 - Informing changes required for production
 - Quality as produced



Lab audit – process (cont'd)

- What will be checked @ audits
 - Management system of record keeping
 - Calibration of equipment
 - Staff competence and training
 - Inter Laboratory Comparison participation
- Step by step process
 - To improve quality & capabilities
- Assistance also available as & when required outside of audits
 - Staff training, setting up PTS/ILC
- Basically its an assisted training & quality development program in the form of audits & additional quarry visits



So lets do it....

JUST DO IT.

- It is a huge but positive step to introduce these technical audits into the quarry laboratory facilities
- Ensures that correct decisions are made regarding products produced
 - Adjustments to crushing informed by lab results
- Ensures the money spent on infrastructure development for the roads industry and other construction, is money well spent.
 - Less rejected materials



Conclusions on improvement to lab facilities @ quarries....

- Quality labs, personnel & resultant improved confidence in the results allows for better management decisions on the quality of product produced & sold.
- This is by no means a simple quick fix
- It is a long-term approach
 - Incrementally introduced
 - One needs to grow & develop the critically import function of laboratory testing
 - Creating professional facilities whose results are valid & on which good management decisions can be made.

