



Heads Up

Issue: 14

Date: 2003/05/07

To: ANSI-RAB NAP Accredited Registrars and Accreditation Auditors

From: Randy Dougherty, Director Registrar Accreditation

Re: Committee for Safeguarding Impartiality

The Heads Up is related to issue 07 of 2003/01/30. With issue 07 were discussion papers related to this topic. The IAF Technical Committee discussed some of these papers at its meeting in February 2003.

The IAF Technical committee affirmed the position of the ANSI-RAB NAP.

The wording in the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting is:

Mr. Dougherty introduced the paper which outlined the ANSI-RAB NAB position that the committee of interested parties required under clause 2.1.2.(e) of Guide 62 has to bring impartiality to the CRB, but is not required to be a focus for technical competence.

Discussion reminded members of the history of this issue. Previous versions of the standard had specified the need for the committee on a more ambiguous basis, and in the past, certain accreditation bodies had required the members of the committee to be representatives of the sectors in which the CRB operated. However, this was not the intent of the standard, and it is clearly not expected under the current Guide 62.

Members welcomed the paper and unanimously endorsed the position that ABs should not require CRBs to have sector specific competence in committees constituted under clause 2.1.2.(e) of Guide 62. The same applies to Guide 66 (and Guide 61).

Mr. Dougherty added the need for effective audit of the fulfilment by such a committee of its real role, to be a counter balance to the commercial instinct of the CRB in the interest of impartiality.