



Heads Up

Issue: 17

Date: 2003/08/20

To: ANSI-RAB NAP Accredited Registrars and Accreditation Auditors

From: Randy Dougherty, Director of Registrar Accreditation

Re: Heads Up Now on the RAB Web site

In response to popular demand, the “Heads Up” documents are now available on our Web site, www.rabnet.com. To find them, on the home page click on QMS or EMS on the top bar, then click on “Registrars” on the bar at the left.

It is important to reaffirm the purpose of “Heads Up,” which was stated in the inaugural issue: “The purpose of this tool is for us to be able to communicate to our registrar clients, in an informal and unofficial manner, issues and information of interest. Such information may include trends from audits, developments at the ANSI-RAB NAP or IAF, or other information that can be of value to you in your business.”

In response to the first issue, we incorporated other changes, as follows:

- Assign an issue number and date for future reference
- Have each issue under document control
- Confirm each issue is sent to our accreditation auditors
- Keep each issue with a single subject to make it easy to use for reference purposes

We have allowed registrars to distribute copies or place them on their intranets. The request for copies of these documents has expanded to additional groups. We have received a number of requests for all of the past issues. Recent requests have been to have these accessible through our Web site. It was in response to all of these demands that we made them available on our Web site.

Disclaimer

As we are now making these publicly available on a broader basis, it is important to emphasize that a “Heads Up” is not an official ANSI-RAB NAP rule or additional rule to ISO standards or guides or to IAF guidance. A “Heads Up” is a communication from me, as the Director of Registrar Accreditation for the ANSI-RAB NAP. Some of the “Heads Up” issues inform our registrar clients and our auditors how the ANSI-RAB NAP will apply some of the accreditation rules, in order to increase consistent application by all of our auditors for all of our registrar clients, **but a “Heads Up” does not establish a new rule. The “rules” for accreditation are ISO standards or guides, IAF guidance, and ANSI-RAB NAP Advisories as stated in the**

ANSI-RAB NAP procedures and the standardized accreditation agreement (i.e., the contract with the registrar). Some of the “Heads Up” issues provide our registrars and auditors information of interest. Some of the issues communicate information from industry sectors, such as the automotive or aerospace industries.