



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report documents the findings of an audit of the performance of the two currently designated Assessment Organisations for lining contractors, in relation to the specification of requirements for Assessors as issued by the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) [1].
2. Both Assessment Organisations co-operated fully with the audit and provided suitable office facilities, information and records as requested.
3. Both Assessment Organisations were observed to be generally suitable as appointed Assessors in respect of the Specification of Requirements for Assessors [1].
4. Although the purpose of the audit was not to assess the technical competence of the Assessment Organisations, it was evident that the principal Assessor in each Organisation demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of the content and application of the relevant Code of Practice [2 and 3].
5. There is little or no involvement by staff other than the principal Assessor in each Assessment Organisation; this is as a consequence of the relatively small number of assessments that are required in each calendar year.
6. There were differences in emphasis between the two Assessment Organisations when assessing contractors for the purpose of accreditation. This difference may be as a result of the current differences between the two Codes of Practice [2 and 3] in respect of training qualifications required by the contractor's staff who are involved in the accreditation trial.
7. Although both Assessment Organisations have produced and implemented procedures and instructions for the assessment and accreditation process, these procedures and instructions would benefit from a review of their comprehensiveness and application. Errors and omissions were found in the administration of the overall process within both Assessment Organisations.
8. It was discovered that a lining contractor has been erroneously listed in Appendix 4 of the DWI Approvals Database for December 2002, having not received full third party accreditation.