

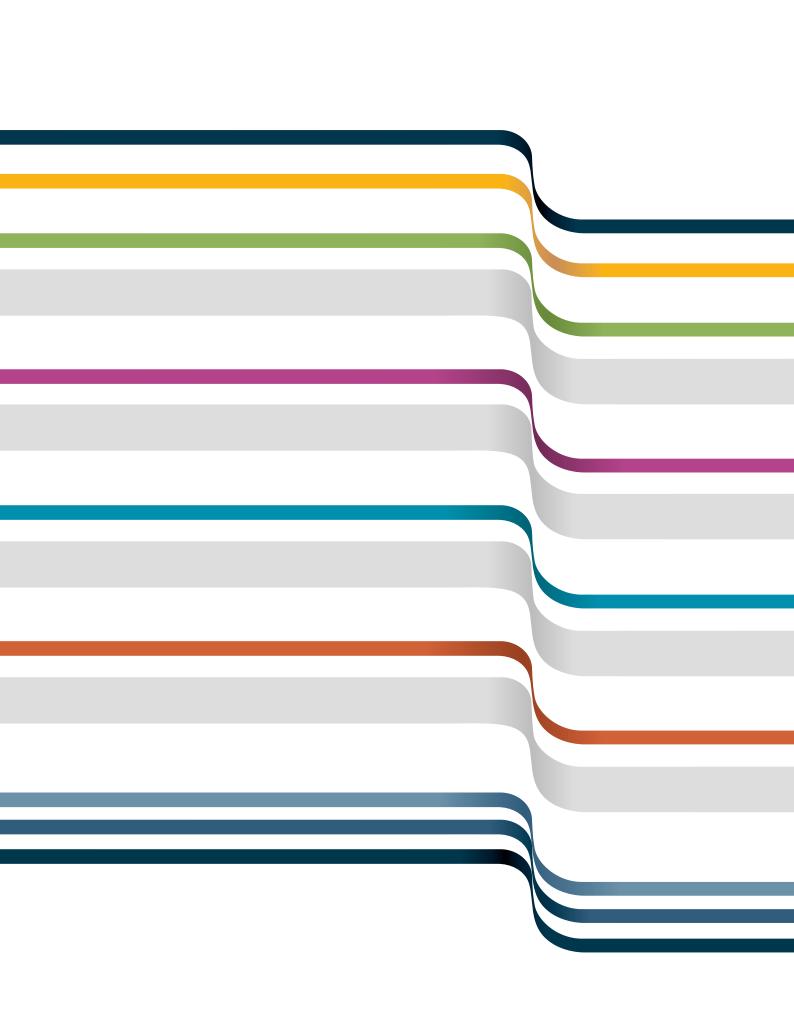


ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT OF THE ACCREDIA DIRECTIVE COUNCIL FOR 2019

Data at 31 12 2019





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In 2019 Accredia celebrated its 10th anniversary, a significant moment for taking stock of its path of continuous growth and evolution, a major landmark, but also a starting-point for embarking on new projects and planning new activities.

Looking back over these last ten years of hard work and sustained commitment, the decade from 2009 to 2019 saw the number of bodies and laboratories accredited by the three Departments grow to over 1,860 units - a rise of over 50%. Also the results for 2019 confirm the trust of the market and of institutions in the quality infrastructure: in the last year the number of accreditations grew from 2,059 to 2,172, whilst Accredia's verification activities increased by 8% with around 16,500 audit days worked by 580 assessors and technical experts.

Accredia is continuing along the same path as we have been doing for these ten years, strengthening the credibility of accredited conformity assessment, backed up by the European legislator. In particular, the new EU Regulation 1020 of 2019 revises the rules covering market surveillance and confirms the role ascribed to the accreditation system by EC Regulation 765 of 2008 for ensuring the quality and safety of products and services.

Relations with the public administration authorities and the regulated sector: the path of subsidiarity

In 2019 many agreements with the public administration authorities were signed or renewed, bearing testimony to the strong ties, starting from the designation in 2009 on the part of the government and the recognition of Accredia's competences at the heart of the mechanism of subsidiarity, both public and private. Amongst the new collaborations, Accredia has signed two agreements with the Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport to define the modalities for performing assessments and ensuring the effectiveness of safety and interoperability measures for the railway system, in the light of Legislative Decrees 50 and 57 of 2019, whereby accreditation is a pre-requisite for conformity assessment bodies. The Ministry has also confirmed by means of an agreement Accredia's competence to qualify certification bodies operating in the mandatory sector of cableway systems.

2019 also saw the renewal of the memorandum of understanding with AIAD, the Italian aerospace, defense and security federation, endorsing the trust of aerospace organizations in attestations issued by accredited bodies.

The GDPR - Regulation 679 of 2016 - has given certification a key role in the privacy sector, backed up by the agreement signed by Accredia and the Guarantor for the protection of personal data. The commitment involves the exchange of information on accreditation activities and certifications in accordance with the GDPR, ensuring fundamental rights to security and personal data protection.

Close collaboration was also continued with the Istituto Superiore di Sanità for defining the technical rules of accreditation in the innovative area of biobanks, which will be able to demonstrate their competence and correct procedures thanks to accreditation according to the new standard UNI ISO 20387.

Animal welfare is another field where accredited conformity plays an essential role, and Accredia has organized a working group with the participation of the Ministries of Health and of Agriculture Food and Forestry with the aim of setting out requirements in a certification scheme based on accreditation.

The principle of subsidiarity provides efficiency to administrations and encourages security, environmental protection and competitiveness as priorities in public policies. In 2019 there was a rise in the number accreditations of the assessment activities conducted on measuring instruments in line with the Ministerial Decree 93/2017, concerning, in particular, inspection bodies and calibration laboratories, as well as assessments of electrical grounding systems in compliance with the Decree 462/2001 undertaken by inspection bodies qualified by the Ministry of Economic Development.

In the sector of biofuels and bioliquids an Inter-ministerial Decree (Environment, Economic Development and Agriculture) of November 2019 introduced certification of sustainability for the entire delivery chain of biofuels and bioliquids.

Accreditation pricelist reflecting the market

The functions delegated by the public administration authorities, along with the growing awareness shown by businesses and consumers have, over the ten-year period, redrawn the map of accredited certifications, standing at 148,000 for management systems alone. In 2019 Accredia revised its accreditation pricelist with respect to annual maintenance for certification, inspection and verification bodies in view of the major changes taking place in Italian accreditation where many accredited bodies totaled over ten million euro of revenue, whilst others operate in both the regulated and in the voluntary sectors.

New audit techniques and ict tools: innovations and efficiency

Engendering ever more trust among market operators in Accredia's work, bolstering the value of accredited certifications, tests and calibrations and increasing the transparency and efficiency of the accreditation process - these are the goals of the pilot project started up in 2019 for introducing new audit methodologies for all accredited bodies and laboratories, in line with the standard UNI CEI EN ISO/ IEC 17011:2018. This applies to unannounced assessments carried out at the body's premises which are useful for (amongst other things) managing complaints and remarks, for market surveillance visits ideal for performing company audits, for mystery shopping - which can be performed with Accredia's mandate, and also for governance audits undertaken directly at the head office of the accredited body. Work continued in 2019 to simplify and improve the efficiency of the processes and quality of operative tools by means of the use of dedicated ICT tools, such as the online application for accreditation and the 3A application (favoring interaction between the laboratory, personnel and inspectors). These tools will have successfully passed the testing phase of accredited bodies.

Expanding sectors: strategic accreditation for the public administration authorities, for businesses and for citizens

Globalization and digital transformation, sustainable development and the green economy are important new challenges faced by the accreditation system in support of the market, protecting public interests and enhancing the competitiveness of businesses and professionals in innovative sectors.

Public contracts

Due to the fact that many aspects of the law governing public contracts require accreditation and accredited conformity assessment, Accredia has collaborated actively with all the stakeholders to encourage recourse to conformity assessment in the allocation of works, services and procurements, also taking part in the consultations of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport for the definition of the unique Regulation which is due to appear in 2020. The Accredia technical regulations RT-07 and RT-21 have been updated to specify the accreditation requirements for certifications and inspections in the planning of public works for the purposes of validation. In collaboration with UNI, Accredia has also begun an e-learning training program for public commissioning bodies, and has prepared the "New guidelines for requests for accredited conformity assessments", and it has opened a window in its website for public contracts. The objective is to promote the correct drawing up of competitive public contracts with respect to the references made not only to accreditation but also and more generally to the infrastructure for quality.

The business crisis

Accreditation activity in support of companies also when they face difficult situations has assumed an important role in the area of the crisis for businesses. Legislative Decree 14 of 2019 "Legal code for the business crisis and for insolvency" has radically reformed the rules concerning business failure, bringing significant repercussions for the organizational, administrative and managerial activities of companies, which are now obliged to possess a structure which is able to identify the evolution of the default risk in both short and long term. And it is with regard to these aims that the new accredited certification schemes of the commercial credit management system and of the treasury service have proved to be technical tools capable of handling the needs of companies.

Cybersecurity

Another important area for all stakeholders regards cybersecurity for the fulfillment in Italy of the requirements of the European Cybersecurity Act - EU Regulation 881 of 2019. The key point is the introduction of a European system of certification of ICT product and digital services security, preferably based on accreditation, along with voluntary conformity assessment. In this area, Accredia was the world's first accreditation body to embark on the accreditation of "vulnerability assessment" tests which are of strategic importance for increasing the robustness of IT structures. This is a challenge faced by governments and enterprises which have to manage growing threats to information security on a daily basis.

Sustainable development

Sustainability is the key to the development of societies and economies in the new millennium and accreditation has to make an effective contribution to this process. From the social to the environmental fields, from food safety to workplace safety, within the United Nations Agenda 2030 for sustainable development it is possible to find a set of accreditation schemes which have helped to achieve each one of the seventeen objectives for sustainable development. The new certifications for combating and preventing bullying and for sustainable development in communities constitute a significant example of Accredia's commitment in important social contexts.

Green economy

In the environmental area Accredia has activated new certifications in strategic fields such as certifications in the production chain of plastic, from PVC to packaging recycling all the way to the manufacture of products from recycled materials. These activities have provided support for policies for the circular economy and for protection of the environment, also in wood products, in which sector a new accredited certification ensures the traceability of materials, also in processed products and in every phase of the procurement chain.

Professions – a sector in constant growth

In the sector of professions, to which Accredia is dedicating a working group within the Steering and Guarantee Committee, the number of categories using accredited certification to give value to their competence and performance quality has increased by 50% in 2019. These categories include diabetologists, who were Italy's first health professionals to qualify under accreditation, constituting a significant precedent in one of the most regulated sectors on a national level. Amongst the professional orders, the National Council of Italian Engineers has decided to take the opportunity offered by accredited certification by activating voluntary certification schemes for about twenty professional specializations.

In the light of Law 4 of 2013 and of the related technical standards and UNI publicly available specifications, accreditation schemes were activated for the certification of the wedding planner, the music therapist as well as numerous professionals in the banking and insurance sectors.

International commitments, recognitions and corporate collaborations

Over the years Accredia's international reputation has grown with active collaboration in the work of international associations of accreditation bodies: EA in Europe, IAF and ILAC worldwide. Accredia is signatory to the EA MLA, IAF MLA and ILAC MRA international agreements of mutual recognition, attesting its competence and conformity with EC Regulation 765 of 2008 and with the applicable technical standards and documents for the sector. In particular, in 2019 Accredia signed the new ILAC MRA agreement for providers of interlaboratory proficiency testing (PTP), extending the global level of mutual recognition of accreditation certificates

International collaboration is increasingly of a corporate nature, with participation in EU cooperation projects in the ambit of the Neighbourhood Policy, such as EuropAid, Taiex and Twinning projects. In 2019 the Twinning project in support of the Azerbaijan system of accreditation, started in 2017 and conducted together with DAkkS, the German accreditation body, and with Latak, from Lithuania, was concluded. In addition, Accredia won a European Commission contract for strengthening the quality infrastructure of the Republic of Georgia, again in partnership with DAkkS, and with the participation of Unioncamere.

10 years of Accredia and the return of the ea General Assembly to Italy

In 2019 Accredia's 10th anniversary celebrations marked the occasion to review the 40-year history of accreditation in Italy and the importance of the national quality infrastructure, in particular during the course of the Members' Assembly. The opening meeting was dedicated to the presentation of the new "Osservatorio": "Accredited certification, a tool for the development of international trade", linking national and international institutions, from EU representatives in Italy to the European Commission, from the Agenzia ICI (Italian trade and investment agency) to the WTO for giving value to the role of accreditation and standardization in support of the EU single market.

Accredia also hosted the 43rd EA General Assembly in Rome, held once again in Italy after a 14-year interval. There were 92 delegates from 45 European accreditation bodies, representatives of the European Commission and of EFTA, as well as official EA stakeholders including Eurolab, Euromet and IQNet.

Communicating the culture of quality - past and future

Also in 2019 Accredia invested in external communications activities, availing itself of new tools in order to consolidate its reputation and profile and to promote the value of accreditation and conformity assessment, supporting businesses, institutions and citizens.

Reflecting upon ten years of activity also means looking back over 40 years of the history of accreditation in Italy, from the first attestation with the SIT mark to the birth of SINAL and SINCERT. It is an opportunity also to remember those who have made their contribution to Accredia's growth, for the benefit of all actors in the Italian quality system.

With these factors in mind, the 10th anniversary logo was created, along with the historical archive, the documentary, the celebratory publication and the video interviews which were promoted on the digital channels and published on the website.

Spreading the message of a unique and coherent value, setting out the written and visual contents in a synergy of traditional and innovative forms of communication - these have been the objectives of digital communication, by means of the website and including Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook and Youtube. The corporate advertising campaigns were planned for transmitting informative messages - not just advertising - through chosen TV, radio and press media channels.

In line with activities carried out in previous years, Accredia has created a broad program of specialist updates and trainings, also in collaboration with associations for the promotion of the culture of quality, like AICQ and ANGQ, with universities and other training and research institutions, and Accredia has contributed to important corporate initiatives, amongst which the Award for Business Security of Confindustria, INAIL and APQI and the Fiera Connext, dedicated to industrial partnership. These communications activities are all in constant growth, confirming Accredia's commitment to respond to the needs and interests of the economic and social system.

> Ing. Giuseppe Rossi President of Accredia



FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2017-2019

BALANCE SHEET	2019	2018	2017
ASSETS			
Intangible assets	735	814	543
Tangible assets	10,207	9,771	7,750
Financial fixed assets	99	599	568
Short-term receivables	5,543	5,290	5,442
Long-term receivables	47	66	209
Liquid assets	1,877	1,945	4,114
Other assets	761	524	256
TOTAL ASSETS	19,323	19,009	18,882
LIABILITIES			
Capital and reserves	9,543	9,525	9,425
Severance indemnity reserve	1,866	1,672	1,524
Short-term payables	6,328	5,954	5,795
Long-term payables	1,575	1,854	2,130
Other liabilities	11	4	8
TOTAL LIABILITIES	19,323	19,009	18,882

INCOME STATEMENT	2019	2018	2017
Production value	21,789	20,156	19,284
Production costs	21,662	19,908	19,018
Difference between production value and production costs	127	248	266
Financial income and expenses	-9	-5	6
Pre-tax income	118	243	272
Income tax	101	143	126
Net income	17	100	146

In thousands of euro



ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

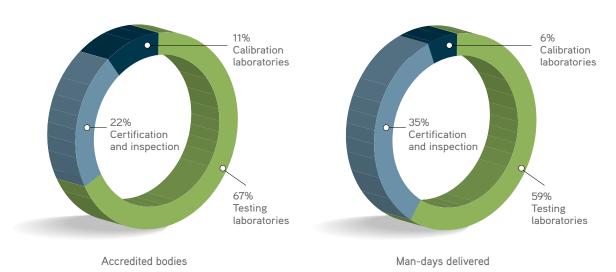
In 2019 Accredia's assessment activities for granting accreditation exceeded 16,000 assessment days worked - an increase of 8% on 2018, greater than the rise of 5% for accredited bodies, which reached a total of 1,862.

In line with the results obtained in previous years, these developments are reflected in the broadening fields of competence of certification, inspection and verification bodies and of testing laboratories and calibration laboratories operating under accreditation, either voluntary or in accordance with legal requirements. Assessment activities increased for all three Departments, especially the Certification and Inspection Department, which topped 5,862 days performed and 417 accreditations (Table 1).

Table 1 - ASSESSMENTS 2017-2019 - MAN-DAYS/ACCREDITED BODIES								
	2017		20)18	2019			
Department	Man-days	Accredited bodies	Man-days	Accredited bodies	Man-days	Accredited bodies		
Testing laboratories	8,675	1,168	9,420	1,222	9,720	1,250		
Certification and inspection	4,927	351	4,999	365	5,826	417		
Calibration laboratories	871	180	901	189	947	195		
Total	14,473	1,699	15,320	1,776	16,493	1,862		

The breakdown of accredited bodies by department shows that the majority of them (67%) were testing laboratories, compared with 22% of certification, inspection and verification bodies and 11% of calibration laboratories. With regard to assessment days performed, the highest number was recorded testing laboratories accreditation, with 59%, above the level recorded by the Certification and Inspection Department (Figure 1), clearly indicating the extent of activities managed under accreditation by the individual bodies.

Figure 1 - ACCREDITED BODIES AND MAN-DAYS 2019 - PERCENTAGE VALUES



The long-term analysis of assessment activities starting from 2010 reveals a positive trend, reflecting Accredia's growing commitment in the assurance of the competence of bodies and laboratories (Figure 2).

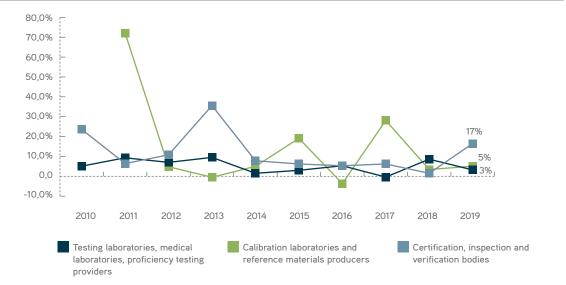


Figure 2 - ASSESSMENTS 2010-2019 - MAN-DAYS - PERCENTAGE VARIATIONS

ASSESSORS AND EXPERTS

Ensuring a high level of competence and professionalism in the conduct of assessments, 489 assessors including the technical officers of the three Departments - perform assessments, bringing their knowledge and experience in specific scientific and technological sectors and constituting a significant upswing since 2018 when there were 474 professionals, supported by a team of technical experts of whom there were

At December 31, 2019, 326 assessors performed assessments for the Testing Laboratories Department, 94 for the Certification and Inspection Department and 69 for the Calibration Laboratories Department (Figure 3). The greatest increase in the number of assessors regarded the accreditation of certification, inspection and verification bodies.

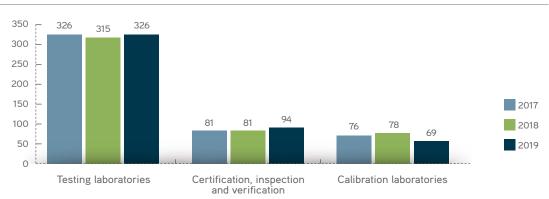


Figure 3 - ASSESSORS PER DEPARTMENT 2017-2019

ACCREDITATIONS OF BODIES AND LABORATORIES

Over the long-term, starting from 2010, the evolution of bodies accredited by the three Departments has always been positive, and in 2019 the trend was even stronger, showing a growth of 14% for certification, inspection and verification bodies, 3% for calibration laboratories and 2% for testing laboratories (Figure 4).

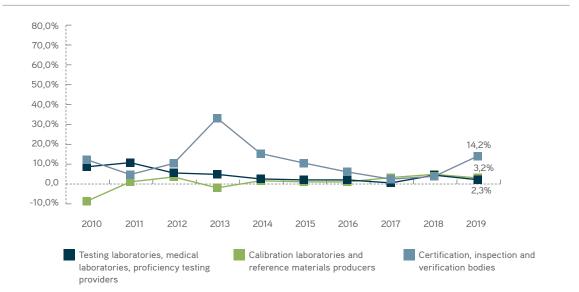


Figure 4 - ASSESSMENTS 2010-2019 - ACCREDITED BODIES - PERCENTAGE VALUES

The picture of accreditations issued at the close of 2019 for the various schemes shows a diversified situation which, excluding testing laboratories, reflects the market demand relating to the use of accredited services, both voluntary and obligatory by law (Figure 5).

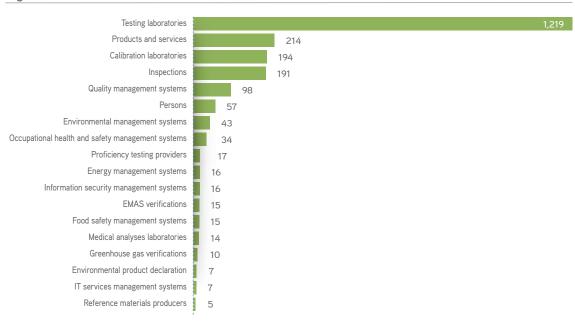
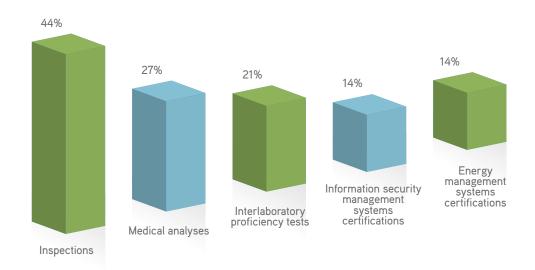


Figure 5 - ACCREDITATIONS FOR THE VARIOUS SCHEMES - 2019

Compared with 2018, the sharpest rise concerns inspections (+44%) but no scheme recorded a reduction in the number of accreditations.

The best annual records, in addition to inspections, regard the accreditation of medical analyses (+27%) and interlaboratory proficiency tests (+21%). Nevertheless these are not very numerous schemes which do not impact greatly on the annual trend. The increase in accreditations, however, for energy management system certifications and for information security (+14%) is a sure indication of emerging market needs (Figure 6).

Figure 6 - ACCREDITATION SCHEMES SHOWING THE FASTEST GROWTH RATE IN 2019 -PERCENTAGE VALUES



COMPLAINTS

Accredia's reputation amongst accredited bodies and stakeholders is based on a process of constant improvement of its activities, and the management of complaints and remarks are fundamental to this. Despite strong growth in activities in 2019, there was a decline in the number of complaints and remarks received and handled by the three Departments. 133 well-founded complaints were received, 29 regarding the Testing Laboratories Department, 97 the Certification and Inspection Department and 7 for the Calibration Laboratories Department. The biggest decline concerned the Certification and Inspection Department, with 35 fewer remarks and complaints than in 2018 (Figure 7).

In general, the complaints and remarks regarded the activities of the bodies and laboratories rather than (in percentage terms) those of the Departments, due to the fact that they are accredited bodies operating directly on the market and are therefore more exposed.

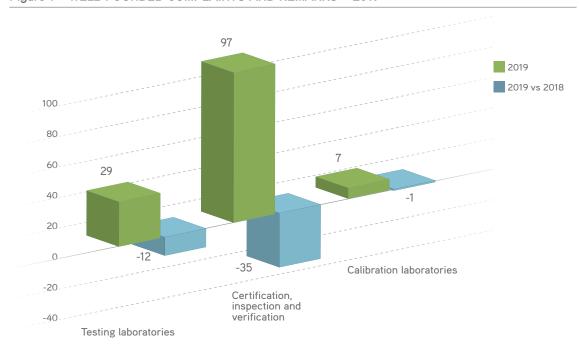


Figure 7 - WELL-FOUNDED COMPLAINTS AND REMARKS - 2019



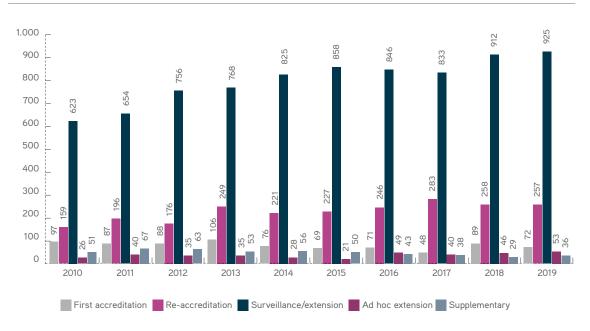
Department

ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

In 2019 the overall number of files regarding the accreditation of testing laboratories, medical laboratories and proficiency testing providers rose slightly in one year from 1,334 to 1,343.

The files concerning extensions to accreditation and regarding supplementary assessments rose by 15% and 24% respectively, whilst those for first accreditation showed a slight downward trend to stand at 72. Re-accreditation remained stable on 257, as were surveillances, at 925 (Figure 8). One explanation for the fall in first accreditations, coherent with the increase in the number of extensions, could be the restructuring of laboratory personnel through mergers or incorporations.





With regard to the distribution of accreditations in the testing sector, the chemical area is the largest with 1,041 laboratories, followed by biology/microbiology with 868 locations (Figure 9). These sectors alone amount to 70% of all accredited sites.

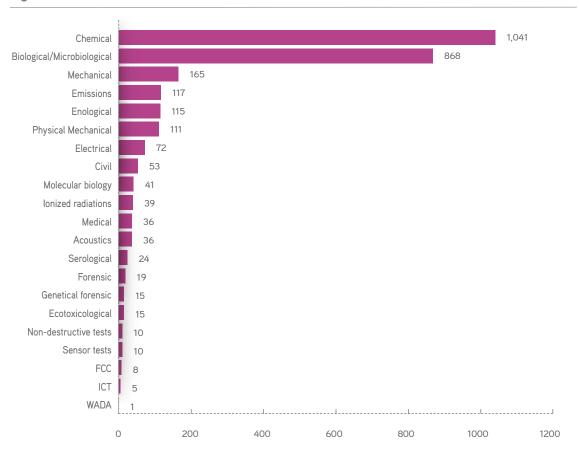


Figure 9 - DISTRIBUTION BY SECTOR OF ACCREDITED LABORATORIES - 2019

In 2019 assessment activities for accreditation of laboratories and proficiency testing providers involved technical officers and assessors in accordance with their specialization as system or as technical assessors, performing, respectively, 3,859 and 5,746 work days, in addition to 18 and 51 days of supplementary assessments (Table 2).

Assessors with both system and technical qualifications worked 34 assessment days. The Testing Laboratories Department used the support of technical experts for 12 assessment days in 2019.

Table 2 - ASSESSMENTS PER ACCREDITATION 2019 - TYPE OF ASSESSMENT - TOTAL MANDAYS							
	Assessments	Supplementary assessments					
Experts	12						
System assessors	3,858	18					
Technical assessors	5,747	51					
System/Technical assessors	34						

11

With regard to days worked on-site, to document examinations and to assessments of internal methods in 2019, document examinations involved system assessors for 1,247 days - 32% of the total for this activity. The percentage stood at 19% for technical assessors covering 1,113 days (Table 3). The highest concentration of system assessors for document examinations is in line with the organization of the activities and corresponds to their reduced use on-site.

Table 3 - ASSESSMENTS PER ACCREDITATION 2019 - MAN-DAYS DELIVERED ON-SITE AND FOR DOCUMENT EXAMINATIONS							
	Days on-site	Document examinations	Internal methods				
Experts	10	2					
System assessors	2,629	1,247					

1,113

12

4,674

22

ASSESSORS AND EXPERTS

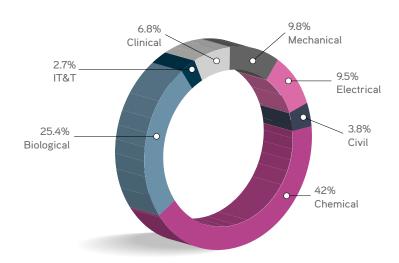
Technical assessors

System/Technical assessors

In 2019 the assessment activities of the Testing Laboratories Department were carried out by 326 assessors with the support of 4 technical experts.

Consistently with sectors with more accreditation activity, the assessors are specialized mainly in the chemical and biological sectors, accounting for 42% and 25.4% respectively of the total number of assessors (Figure 10).

Figure 10 - ASSESSORS PER SECTOR OF COMPETENCE - 2019



TESTING LABORATORIES, MEDICAL LABORATORIES AND PROFICIENCY TESTING PROVIDERS

At the close of 2019 the accreditations issued by the Department were concentrated in northern Italy, chiefly in Lombardy, Veneto and Emilia Romagna. Of the 1,250 accredited bodies (1,219 testing laboratories, 14 medical laboratories and 17 proficiency testing providers) the three northern regions account for 40% of the total. There is a significant presence of testing laboratories in Piemonte (7.9), Tuscany (7.8%), Lazio (7.6%) and Campania with 7.5% (Figure 11).

Figure 11 - DISTRIBUTION OF TESTING LABORATORIES PER REGION - 2019



COMPLAINTS

Taking only well-founded complaints into consideration, in 2019 there were 29, 12 fewer than in 2018. 20 of them were remarks, and 6 of the 15 complaints were unfounded (Figure 12).

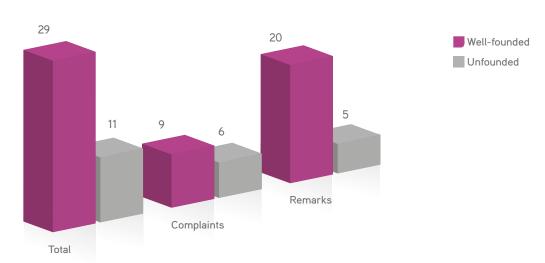


Figure 12 - COMPLAINTS AND REMARKS HANDLED IN 2019

15% of the complaints and remarks regarded dissatisfaction with the Department's work; most of the cases concerned accredited and third party laboratories, including bodies without accreditation using improper reference to accreditation (Figure 13).

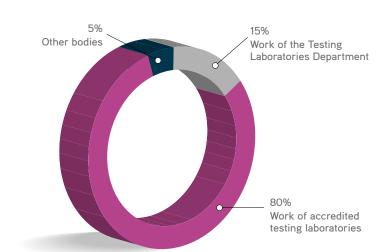


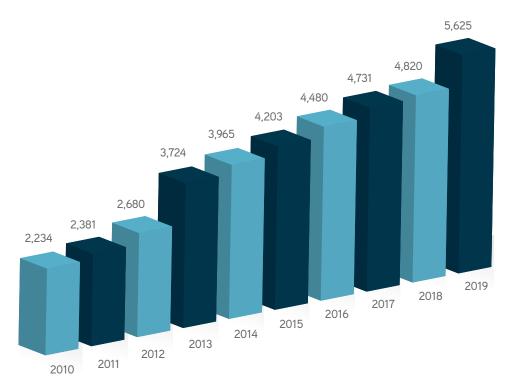
Figure 13 - OBJECT OF THE REMARKS AND COMPLAINTS - 2019



ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

The growth of assessment activities over the years has been constant and progressive, reflecting the greater needs of the market of accredited services, recognized as effective instruments for ensuring and signaling the conformity of certified products, services, organizations and professionals with the expected characteristics. In 2019, altogether 5,625 assessment days were delivered, with an increase of 16% on the previous year (Figure 14).





This growth is also the result of Accredia's increased involvement in regulated activities which now account for almost half of the Department's operations. 2019 saw the expansion of the inspection scheme following the agreement in 2017 between Accredia and the Ministry of Economic Development whereby accreditation became obligatory for bodies providing audits of electrical grounding systems in compliance with Law 462/2001. In addition, there were the accreditation activities for inspection bodies performing periodical audits of measuring instruments with legal measurements functions in accordance with the Ministerial Decree 93/2017.

In 2019 there was a 35% rise in *Cross Frontier* activities (the accreditation of bodies operating in foreign countries), reaching 109 days delivered, whilst there was a decline of 6 units in the recognition activities of foreign accreditations possessed by quality management system certification bodies in the construction sector (Figure 15).

Recognition Cross frontier

Figure 15 - ASSESSMENT FOR RECOGNITION AND CROSS FRONTIER ACTIVITIES 2010-2019 - MAN-DAYS

In 2019 the Certification and Inspection Department's team performed 3,484 assessment days, an increase on 2018 of 22%, with a slight reduction in document examinations for a total of 456 days. The number of witness assessments grew after a decline in 2018, to reach 1,686 days, a rise of 11% (Figure 16).

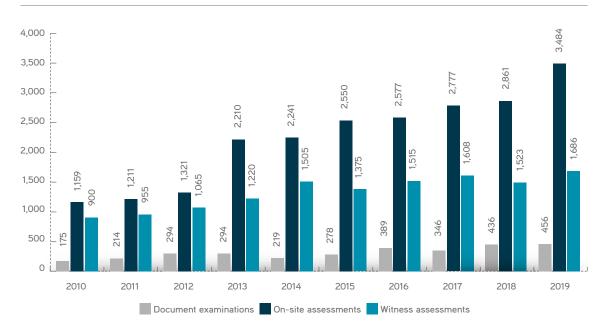
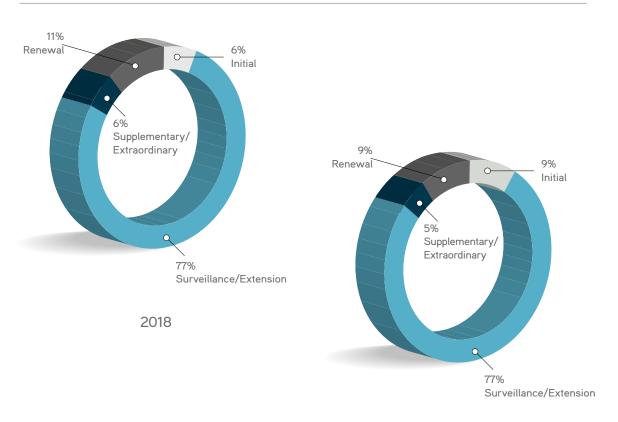


Figure 16 - ASSESSMENTS PER ACCREDITATION 2010-2019 - TYPE OF ACTIVITY - MAN-DAYS

The distribution of activities per type of assessment shows an increase in initial accreditations in 2019, accounting for 9% of the Department's assessment activities, for a total of 480 days delivered. The number of supplementary assessments dropped to 243 days and renewals also fell to 485 days. Surveillances and extension remained on a par with 2018, with 3,400 days delivered (Figure 17).

Figure 17 - ASSESSMENTS PER ACCREDITATION 2018-2019 - TYPE OF ACTIVITY - MAN-DAYS

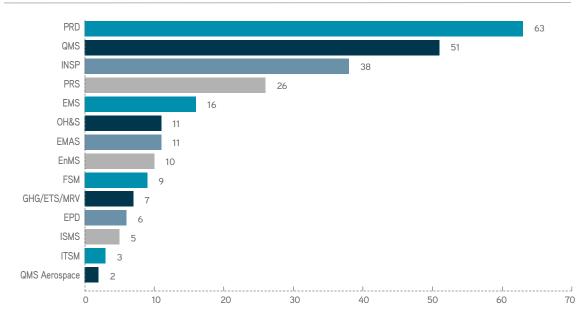


2019

ASSESSORS AND EXPERTS

The assessment team used the support of 28 more experts than in 2018 - a total of 94 assessors and 73 technical experts performing assessments of certification, inspection and verification bodies. At the end of 2019 the activities of the assessors and experts, in line with the distribution of the accreditations, were concentrated (152 of a total of 167) in product schemes, quality management systems and inspections. Compared with 2018 there were more experts for the inspection scheme and there was a further rise with regard to the certification of persons for which there were 26 experts used in 2019 which was 6 more than in the previous year (Figure 18).





Legend - Accreditation schemes

QMS - Certification of quality management systems

PRD - Certification of products/services

INSP - Inspection

PRS - Certification of persons

EMS - Certification of environmental management systems

OH&S - Certification of occupational health and safety management

FSM - Certification of food safety management systems

EMAS - Certification for environmental verification activities (EC Reg. 1221 2009)

EnMS - Certification of energy management systems **GHG/ETS/MRV** - Verification of GHG emissions. Voluntary and

mandatory sectors

EPD - Environmental product declaration

ISMS - Certification of information security management systems

ITSM - Certification of management systems for IT services

QMS Aerospace - Certification of quality management systems aerospace sector

CERTIFICATION, INSPECTION AND VERIFICATION BODIES

At the end of 2019 there were 417 bodies accredited by the Department holding 723 accreditations for the various typologies of certification, inspection and verification, a rise of 79 on 2018 (Table 4).

Table 4 - THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBE	R OF	ACCF	REDITA	NOITA	S PER	SCH	EME 2	2010-2	2019	
Accreditation scheme	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
PRD - Certification of products/services	63	66	84	149	171	195	203	212	212	214
INSP - Inspection	52	57	62	64	79	97	109	119	133	191
QMS - Certification of quality management systems	85	89	90	91	92	92	95	95	96	98
PRS - Certification of persons	15	15	23	28	29	37	40	49	52	57
EMS - Certification of environmental management systems	37	42	37	40	40	39	40	40	39	43
OH&S - Certification of occupational health and safety management systems	17	21	23	26	29	27	27	30	31	34
EnMS - Certification of energy management systems	2	7	7	10	12	12	13	13	14	16
ISMS - Certification of information security management systems	9	10	10	10	10	11	12	13	14	16
FSM - Certification of food safety management systems	12	12	11	11	10	10	12	13	14	15
EMAS - Certification for environmental verification activities	-	-	-	15	15	15	15	15	15	15
GHG/ETS/MRV - Verification of GHG emissions. Voluntary and mandatory areas	-	-	-	1	15	12	12	11	10	10
ITSM - Certification of management systems for IT services	1	1	2	3	4	4	5	5	7	7
EPD - Environmental product declaration	4	4	6	6	7	7	7	7	7	7
Total	297	324	355	454	513	558	590	622	644	723

The significant increase largely depends on increased activity in the inspection scheme in the light of new normative requirements for verifications of electrical grounding systems and the periodical checks of measuring instruments, alongside the continuous growth of accreditations in established product, service and management system schemes for quality and the environment, partly resulting from Brexit.

Food & Wine - regulated accreditation for the certification of PDO, PGI and TSG quality products

The trust of consumers in the quality of products constitutes the basis of the quality agri-food market. It is a system which is guaranteed by the European system of controls, aimed at checking the conformity of products with recognized rules which in turn are based on European regulations: EU Regulation 1151 of 2012 for PDO, PGI and TSG; EU Regulations 1308 and 1306 of 2013 regarding geographical origin in the wine sector and EC Regulation 834 of 2017 for organic production. The system is based on surveillance by the public authorities and on the self-control activities of producers. The control bodies are authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture Food and Forestry and, in cases of private entities, they are accredited by Accredia.

In 2019 the accredited control bodies for the issuance of product certification in line with the European regulations on geographical origin numbered 25 in the food sector and 9 in the wine area, in line with 2018. There was one new accreditation for organic production (Figure 19).

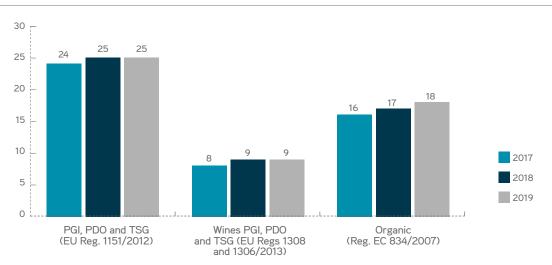


Figure 19 - FOOD & WINE CONTROL BODIES WITH ACCREDITATION IN CONFORMITY WITH EU REGULATIONS 2017-2019

Whilst the number of control bodies remained unchanged, the number of assessment days delivered by Accredia for EU Regulation 1151 of 2012 reached a total of 109 in 2019. The number of days of accreditation activities in accordance with EU Regulations 1308 and 1306 on geographical origins in the wine sector declined to 36 (Figure 20).

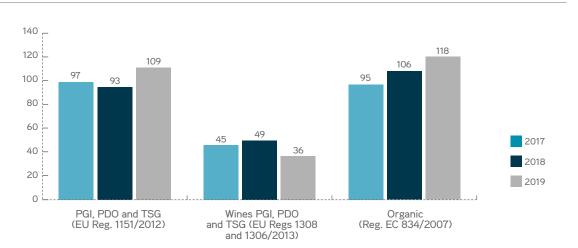


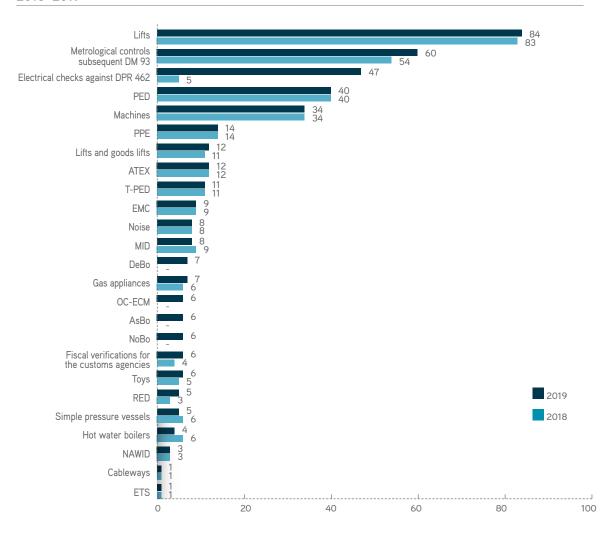
Figure 20 - FOOD & WINE ASSESSMENTS 2017-2019 - MAN-DAYS DELIVERED ON CONTROL BODIES

Qualified, authorized and notified bodies

In recent years new developments in the normative requirements have affected activities in the mandatory and regulated sector. Accreditations rose with respect to 2018 by 24% reaching a total of 402 issued to bodies operating according to European Directives and Regulations as well as other obligatory fulfillments. The decision of the Ministry of Economic Development requiring accreditation for the issuance of authorizations in line with Law 462 of 2001 had a significant impact on 47 accredited bodies.

Accreditation activities for performing metrological controls in compliance with the Ministerial Decree 93 of 2017 brought to a total of 60 the number of accredited bodies in this area (Figure 21).

Figure 21 - ACCREDITATIONS PER NOTIFIED SECTOR AND OTHER REGULATED ACTIVITIES 2018-2019



Legend - Provisions for authorization and notification of bodies

Lifts - Directive 2014/33/EU

Metrological controls – DM 93/2017 Electrical checks – DPR 462/2001

PED - Pressure equipment - Directive 2014/68/EU

Machines - Directive 2006/42/EC

PPE - Personal protective equipment – EU Regulation 425/2016 and Directive 89/686/EEC

ATEX - Protective equipment and systems for potentially explosive atmospheres - Directive 2014/34/EU

Lifts and goods lifts - DPR 8/2015

T-PED - Transportable pressure equipment devices – Directive 2010/35/EU

EMC - Electromagnetic compatibility - Directive 2014/30/EU

MID - Measuring instruments - Directive 2014/32/EU

Noise - Directive 2000/14/EC

Gas appliances - EU Regulation 426/2016 GAR

DeBo – Railway subsystems – Directive 2016/797/EU

Toys - Directive 2009/48/EC

Fiscal verifications for the customs agency

NoBo - Railway subsystems - Directive 2016/797/EU

AsBo - Railway subsystems – EU Regulation 402/2013 **OC-ECM** - Railway subsystems – EU Regulation 779/2019

Simple pressure vessels – Directive 2014/29/EU

RED - Radio and telecommunications equipment – Directive 2014/53/EU

Hot water boilers - Directive 92/42/EEC

NAWID – Non-automatic weighing instruments – Directive 2014/31/FU

ETS - Electronic toll service - Decision 2009/9/EC

 $\hbox{\bf Cableway installations} - \hbox{\bf EU Regulation 424/2016 and Directive 2000/9/EC} \\$

MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFICATIONS

The number of management system certifications in 2019 issued by accredited bodies to public and private organizations grew considerably with respect to 2018 to reach 147,756 certified organization sites, a rise of 6.1% for sites, +2.8% for organizations and +6.6% for certificates of conformity (Figure 22).

After a decline in the previous two years the trend was once again upward, thanks also to the recovery of certifications for conformity with the standard UNI EN ISO 9001.

Figure 22 - EVOLUTION OF MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFICATIONS 2013-2019 - SITES, COMPANIES, CERTIFICATES¹ - PERCENTAGE VARIATIONS



Concerning certified sites, in the period 2018 to 2019 there was an increase in the number of companies seeking certification of the management system for occupational health and safety, of 28%, for a total of 20,548 sites; and information security management system certifications also rose by 38% with 2,233 certified sites (Table 5).

¹ Statistical report of MS certifications are drawn up on the basis of data of certified organizations/companies communicated to Accredia by the accredited bodies. Data are processed and updated in accordance with three categories:

[•] Certified site: the individual certified company or productive site which may be an office, department, production unit of a certified company. A certified company may possess more than one certification.

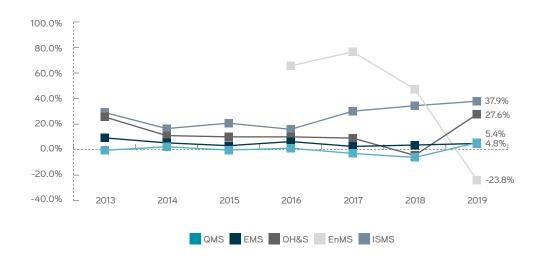
Certified company: the unit or company in possession of MS certification unequivocally identified by a fiscal code number and a VAT number.

[•] Certificate: the specific scope prepared as a procedure which, together with the date of first issue, unequivocally identifies the MS certification granted to the certified company.

Certification standard	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
QMS - quality management systems (UNI EN ISO 9001)	124,615	127,303	126,865	128,240	124,420	116,891	123,211
EMS - environmental management systems (UNI EN ISO 14001)	18,738	19,735	20,339	21,616	22,160	22,963	24,076
OH&S - occupational health and safety management systems (BS OHSAS 18001 - UNI ISO 45001)	11,516	12,779	14,052	15,461	16,860	16,103	20,548
EnMS - energy management systems (UNI CEI EN ISO 50001)	-	-	794	1,315	2,322	3,420	2,607
ISMS - information security management systems (UNI ISO 27001)	568	662	799	926	1,205	1,619	2,233
FSM - food safety management systems (UNI EN ISO 22000)	-	-	854	1.218	1,190	1,308	1,545
ITSM - management systems for IT services (ISO/IEC 20000-1)	17	57	73	81	108	191	233

The annual percentage variations in the number of certified sites in the most important schemes all showed a positive trend in 2019, except for energy management systems which fell by 23.8% (Figure 23).

Figure 23 - EVOLUTION OF THE CERTIFICATION OF THE PRINCIPLE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS 2013 - 2019 - CERTIFIED SITES PER STANDARD - PERCENTAGE VARIATIONS



The spread of management systems per sector confirms the dominance of the sector of construction (IAF 28) with almost 25,000 certified sites. This reflects a stable distribution over time, conditioned by the legal requirement to possess accredited certification in compliance with UNI EN ISO 9001 for companies participating in public tender contracts. After this, come the sectors of metal manufacturing, general services, wholesale and retail commerce, which, altogether, top 10,000 certifications (Figure 24).

Figure 24 - DISTRIBUTION OF MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CERTIFICATIONS FOR 2019 -**TOP 20 SECTORS**



Legend - IAF certification sectors

- 01 Agriculture, fishing and forestry
- 02 Mining and quarrying
- 03 Food products, beverages and tobacco
- **04** Textiles and textile products
- 05 Leather and leather products
- 06 Wood and wood products
- 07 Pulp for paper, paper and paper products
- 08 Publishing companies
- 09 Printing companies
- 10 Manufacture of coke and refined petroleum products
- 11 Nuclear fuel
- 12 Chemicals, chemical products and fibres
- 13 Pharmaceuticals

- **14** Rubber and plastic products
- 15 Non-metallic mineral products
- 16 Concrete, cement, lime, plaster etc
- 17 Basic metals and fabricated metal products
- 18 Machinery and equipment
- 19 Electrical and optical equipment
- 20 Shipbuilding
- 21 Aerospace
- **22** Other transport equipment
- 23 Manufacturing not elsewhere classified
- 24 Recycling
- 25 Electricity supply
- 26 Gas supply
- 27 Water supply
- 28 Construction

- 29 Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles and personal and household goods
- 30 Hotels and restaurants
- **31** Transport, storage and communication
- 32 Financial intermediation; real estate;
- **33** Information technology
- 34 Engineering services
- 35 Other services
- 36 Public administration
- 37 Education
- 38 Health and social services
- 39 Other social services

COMPLAINTS

117 remarks and complaints were received in 2019 of which 97 were well-founded, 35 fewer than in 2018 - a steep decline and even more significant when seen in the light of the increase in the Department's activities. Of the total of 97 there were 60 remarks and 37 complaints (Figure 25).

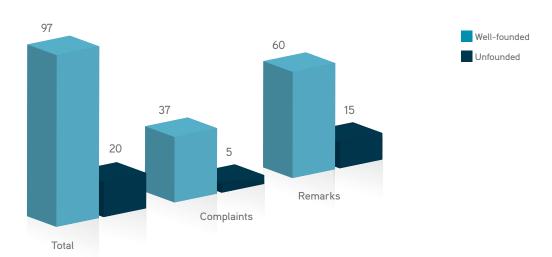


Figure 25 - REMARKS AND COMPLAINTS HANDLED IN 2019

3.4% of the remarks and complaints concerned the work undertaken by the Certification and Inspection Department, and less than 1% regarded the database service provided by Accredia's website. About half regarded the activities of accredited bodies operating directly in the service of organizations and professionals and are therefore more exposed to the possibility of being the object of remarks (Figure 26).

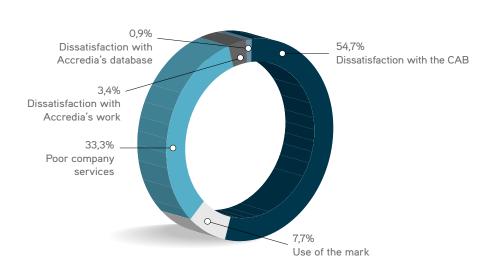


Figure 26 - OBJECT OF THE REMARKS AND COMPLAINTS



ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES

Accreditation files

Modern economies are making increasing use of accredited calibrations. Correct measurements increase the efficiency and quality of products, ensuring a favorable context for economic growth. These factors had an important effect on the Calibration Laboratories Department in 2019: it had 195 operators of which only one was not accredited for performing calibrations; 5 accreditations were for the production of reference materials – 6 more than in 2018 (Figure 27).

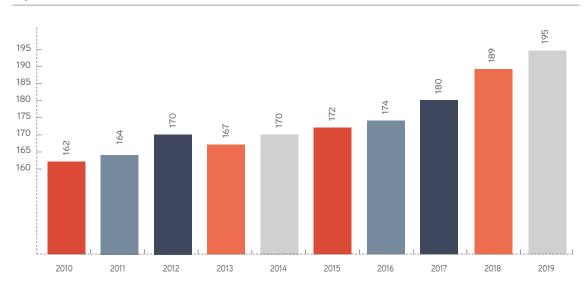


Figure 27 - EVOLUTION OF CALIBRATION LABORATORIES 2010-2019

Alongside the increased number of accredited bodies, there was also a rise in the Department's conformity assessment activities: from 278 to 299 files (Figure 28).

The biggest increase in 2019 was in assessments for extension: 37% for a total of 48 files. Surveillances also rose by 7% to reach a total of 116 whilst renewal assessments were down from 45 to 36.

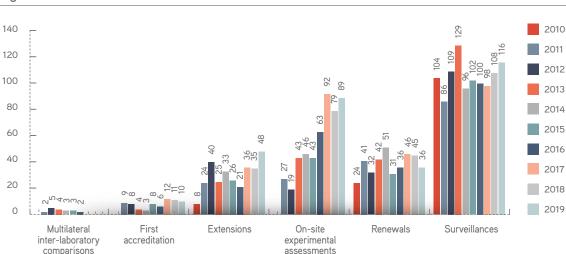


Figure 28 - ASSESSMENTS PER ACCREDITATION 2010-2019 - NUMBER OF FILES

THE AUDITS

947 days were delivered in 2019 by the Calibration Laboratories Department: 378 for document examinations, 528 for on-site assessments and 42 for experimental assessments. Compared with 2018 this was a rise of 5% (45 days delivered) in assessment activities.

The rise in document examinations in 2018 stood at 8% with 30 more days performed, and on-site assessments were also up, by 4% (Table 6).

Table 6 - ASSESSMENTS 2010-2019 - TYPE OF ACTIVITY - MAN-DAYS											
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Document examinations	87	210	198	167	199	317	197	315	348	378	
On-site assessments	228	332	370	398	394	389	437	502	506	528	
Experimental assessments	27	85	48	80	74	55	46	55	48	42	
Total	342	627	616	645	667	761	680	872	902	947	

Also over the long-term, after years of stability, the number of accredited bodies rose significantly, together with a progressive and continuous rise in the assessment activities in a national system of accredited calibrations which is increasingly involved in the economic and social dynamics of our country (Figure 29).

Figure 29 - ASSESSMENTS 2010-2019 - TYPE OF ACTIVITY - MAN-DAYS



The larger part of the accreditations was accounted for by on-site activities, involving technical experts in 60.2% of cases, whilst 64.2% of document examinations required the participation of technical experts (Figure 30).

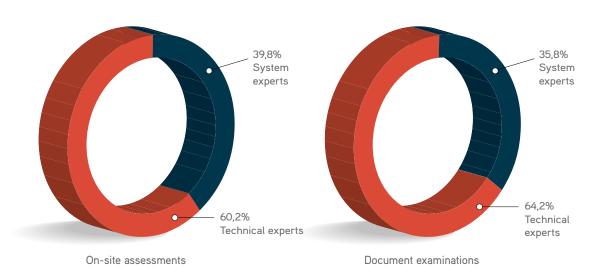


Figure 30 - ASSESSMENTS PER ACCREDITATION 2019 - TYPE OF ACTIVITY - MAN-DAYS

ASSESSORS AND EXPERTS

In 2019, 69 assessors and 13 experts coordinated by the Department ensured accreditation activities regarding calibration accreditations and the production of reference materials in conformity with the international standards. The Decree of the Ministry of Economic Development number 93 of 2017, for periodical assessments of measuring instruments requiring accreditation also for calibration laboratories, confirmed, also in 2019, the importance of inspection competences regarding 16 professional person categories. Apart from this sector, the areas more prevalently involving the activities of the assessment team were the calibration of quantities "lengths, angles" carried out by 15 specialist assessors, and "mass", performed by 11 specialist assessors (Figure 31).

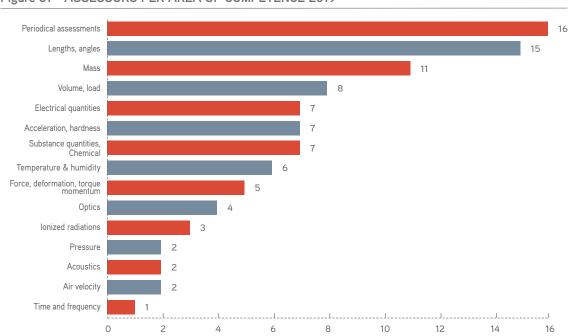


Figure 31 - ASSESSORS PER AREA OF COMPETENCE 2019

CALIBRATION LABORATORIES

In general, the distribution of laboratories per group of quantities highlights the breadth of the activities of calibration laboratories and the multiplicity of calibration services requested by the market. At the end of 2019 laboratories with accreditation obtained from the Department, as was the case in previous years, has shown few changes and remains primarily in "Lengths and angles", "Temperature and humidity" and "Electrical quantities" (Figure 32). These three groups constituted about 40% of all the accreditations.

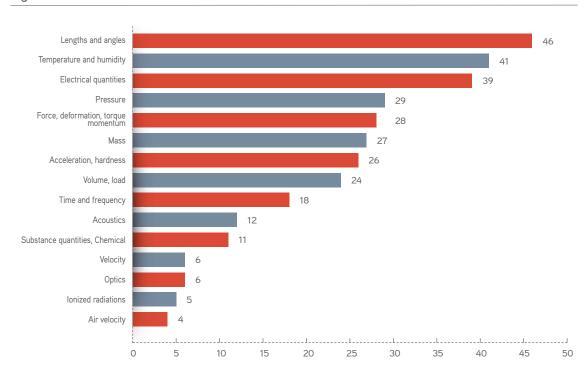


Figure 32 - DISTRIBUTION OF LABORATORIES PER GROUPS OF QUANTITIES 2019

On a regional level, at the end of 2019 the majority of the accredited calibration laboratories were in the north, with 35.9% in Lombardy and 17.4% in Piedmont. Emilia Romagna accounted for 9.7%, Tuscany and Lazio 6.7% and in the Valle d'Aosta region there were no accredited calibrations (Figure 33).



Figure 33 - DISTRIBUTION OF CALIBRATION LABORATORIES PER REGION 2019

CALIBRATION CERTIFICATES

There was a considerable rise in the activities of accredited laboratories, taking the total number of calibration certificates issued to over 166,000 – 11% more than in 2018 and 28% more over a two-year period (Figure 34). The need for reliable measurements is constantly increasing in modern economies which require suitable instruments to support the continuous process of technological innovation carried on by Italian companies, as well as the challenges which sustainability creates for a measuring system which is capable of ensuring reliable information to the market. Additional legal requirements such as the Ministerial Decree 93 have also undoubtedly contributed to the strong growth trend.

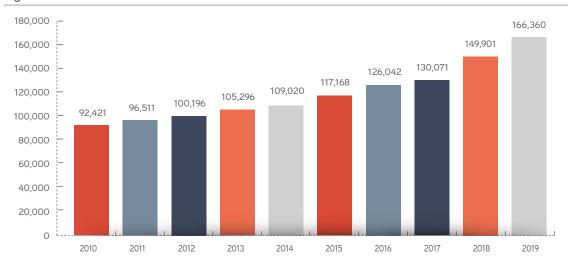


Figure 34 - EVOLUTION OF CALIBRATION CERTIFICATES 2010-2019

The relationship between the number of accredited laboratories and the number of certificates issued per region shows the average regional activity rates, reflecting approximately the intensity of the activities of the laboratories in 2019. The average number of calibration certificates per laboratory is 853, excluding the northern regions. Abruzzo and Molise posted good results at 1,267 and 1,257 certificates respectively for calibration laboratories (Figure 35).

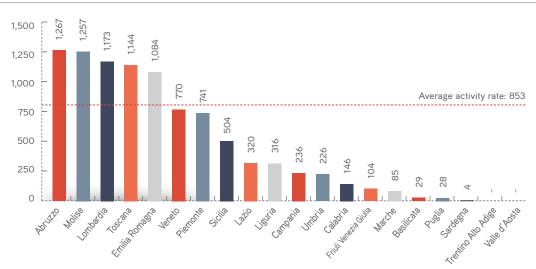
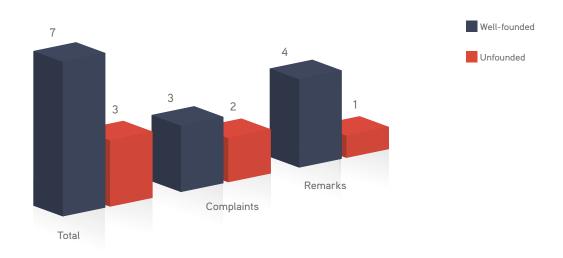


Figure 35 - ACTIVITY RATE PER REGION WITH AVERAGE - 2019

COMPLAINTS

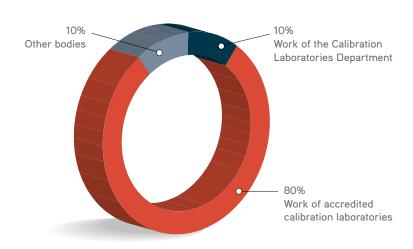
Similar to the other Departments, the increase in activities in 2019 did not lead to a greater number of complaints and remarks regarding calibration laboratories and reference material producers: the total was 7, with 3 well-founded complaints and 4 remarks (Figure 36).

Figure 36 - COMPLAINTS AND REMARKS HANDLED - 2019

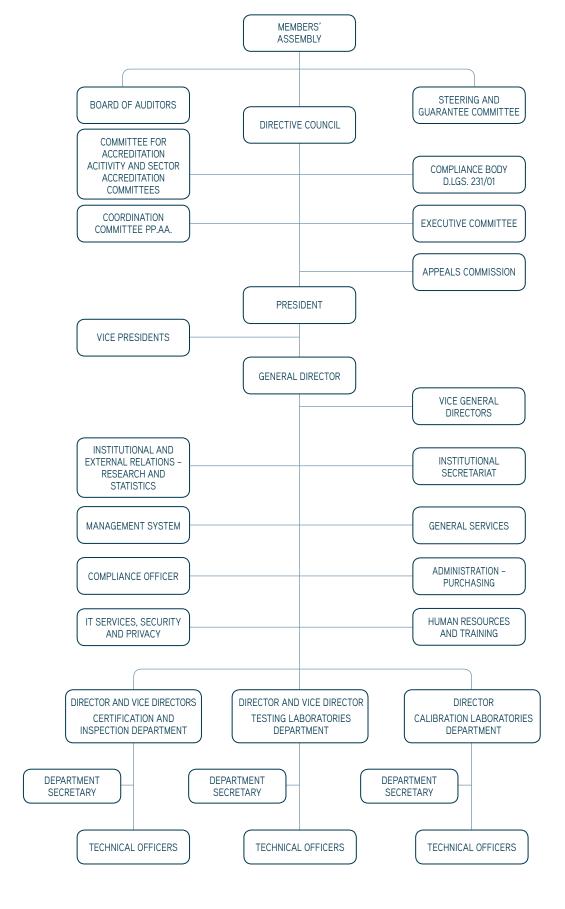


10% of the cases concerned the Department's work whilst the rest regarded accredited bodies and non-accredited laboratories and other market operators (Figure 37).

Figure 37 - OBJECT OF REMARKS AND COMPLAINTS - 2019









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ALA - Raffaella Raffaelli

ALPI - Roberto Cusolito

ASCOTECO - Tommaso Paoluzi Vincenti Mareri

CONFORMA - Paolo Salza

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UNOA - Radu Solomon

National standardization bodies, consumer associations for protection from risks and protection of the environment; suppliers of public utility services and other interested subject

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AIAS - Claudio Munforti

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Federico Grazioli - President Edoardo d'Avossa - Standing Antonio Gucciardino - Standing Maria Grazia Cappugi - Substitute Francesco Morabito - Substitute

Compliance Body (D.Lgs. 231/01)

Emanuele Montemarano *- President* Marino Gabellini Rosamaria Gallo Mariagrazia Lanzanova *- Compliance Officer*

Data at 15 03 2020



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Ministry for the Environment and Land and Maritime

Protection

Ministry of Defense

Ministry of Infrastructures and Transport

Ministry of Internal Affairs

Ministry of Education, Universities and Research

Ministry of Labor and Social Policies Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry

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Standardization bodies

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