

Workshop 1: Quality Assurance related to Verification Flow Surveys

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Despite the rather mundane title three hours of interesting discussion ensued on this topic. Each workshop contained a mix of contractors and client organisations which ensured a lively debate, and thanks are due to all the contributors for easing the chairman's task.

There was inevitably some overlap with the workshop on model verification and the discussion often covered matters that strictly speaking related to quality control rather than quality assurance.

However in general QA procedures were summed up in three phrases:

- plan what you are doing
- carry it out
- record what was done

Several common threads emerged within this framework, particularly the need for pre-planning and good liaison between contractor and client both at this stage and during installation. The contractor's view was that he would supply data collected by quality assured procedures, but that data quality was dependent on site conditions over which he had little control. It was thus not possible to specify the accuracy required and that the client should have realistic expectations with regard to data quality, particularly in view of the limitations of equipment.

Many of the potential clients accepted the constraints on accuracy, but still felt that the person commissioning the survey needed some indication at least of the accuracy of results. This also applied to rainfall data, a facet several contributors felt became neglected amidst detailed discussion of monitor accuracy.

A final comment from both sides was that current tendering procedures often went against the contractor who had instigated quality assurance procedures with a resulting higher tender price. In conclusion, although there are still problems to be overcome, we are a long way forward from 10 years ago, and if realistic expectations are maintained on both sides very useful results can be obtained from short-term flow surveys.