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## Attention: Editor

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## PRESS RELEASE



## Cortec's Commitment to Quality, Excellence, and Leadership Shine Through With ISO/IEC 17025, ISO 9001:2008, and ISO 14001:2004 Recertifications!

Cortec® Corporation is committed to meeting and exceeding our customers' needs and requirements globally by continually improving product quality, customer service, environmental management systems, and laboratory practices. Cortec® is ISO/IEC 17025 accredited, ISO 9001:2008 certified, and ISO 14001:2004 certified without any non-conformances. Obtaining and maintaining these accreditations requires a significant investment of time and money. This investment is further evidence of Cortec's commitment to quality, excellence, and leadership in this industry. Cortec® strives to constantly improve our already strong quality and customer service.



From Left: Debbie Hannan, Cortec® Corporation's Director of Quality & Safety with ISO/IEC 17025 Auditor – Zaneta Popovska.

Cortec® Corporation is the only company in the Volatile Corrosion Inhibitor (VCI) industry to have a laboratory that is ISO/IEC 17025 accredited. This year, Zaneta Popovska, performed an ISO/IEC 17025 external surveillance audit on August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and recertified Cortec® Laboratories, Inc. without any non-conformances. The 17025 Standard covers all aspects of quality for testing laboratories including:



testing procedures, test equipment calibration, method/instrument validation, training of chemists and lab technicians, and interpretation/reporting of test results. Accreditation is obtained through an independent organization (accreditation body) that audits Cortec's laboratory and certifies that we are in compliance with the standards. Cortec's laboratory has been accredited since September of 2010, and offers a variety of tests included under their scope. To maintain this accreditation, the laboratory is re-evaluated each year to ensure it continues to comply with the requirements and to check that it maintains the standards of operation. The laboratory is also required to participate in relevant proficiency testing programs between reassessments, as a further demonstration of technical competence. When our customers receive certified test reports from Cortec<sup>®</sup> Laboratories, Inc., they can be assured that those reports are accurate and unbiased.

Certified since 1994, Cortec<sup>®</sup> Corporation was one of the first companies to be ISO 9001 certified in Minnesota. This year, Van Knox performed an ISO 9001 external recertification audit February 24<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> and recertified Cortec<sup>®</sup> without any non-conformances. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is an independent company made up of 163 member countries and 3,368 technical bodies. The people involved in developing ISO standards are experts within the field that understand the needs of the industry. These experts work together to manage the standard of development based on



From Left: ISO 9001 Auditor, Van Knox with Debbie Hannan, Cortec<sup>®</sup> Corporation's Director of Quality & Safety.

economic, environmental, and societal dimensions. The ISO 9001:2008 management system requires that we demonstrate and maintain consistent production of quality products and continually improve our management systems to ensure that our clients receive the best products and services that we can offer. We hold ourselves to a very high standard and our goal is the highest level of customer satisfaction possible; the ISO 9001 management system ensures that we are always working towards achieving it.

The National Quality Assurance, USA Inc. (NQA), the largest and most respected ISO registrars in the world, has also certified Cortec<sup>®</sup> as ISO 14001:2004 compliant since 1998. This year, Clayton Jenson performed an ISO 14001 external surveillance audit from January 27<sup>th</sup> through the 28<sup>th</sup> and recertified Cortec<sup>®</sup> without any non-conformances. ISO 14001:2004 provides Cortec<sup>®</sup> with the structure for effective EMS methods. Our Environmental Management System Committee and employee teamwork enables us to formulate and follow ISO 14001-compliant processes. It has ensured that the EMS maintains control of all

of Cortec's activities that may have an impact on the environment, also allowing us to identify and modify or eliminate potentially environmentally harmful processes before they cause damage or injury. Now, in a time when stringent regulations are being developed and implemented to protect the environment on a daily basis, Cortec® has continued to develop products and procedures that benefit our world, providing a clean and safe environment for future generations.



The three recertifications without any non-conformances demonstrate Cortec's continuous dedication to constant improvement of a mature environmental management system backed by a strong and committed environmental policy, persistent development of quality and customer service, and maintaining a laboratory that is accurate and unbiased.

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Cortec® Corporation is the global leader in innovative, environmentally responsible VpCI® and MCI® corrosion control technologies for Packaging, Metalworking, Construction, Electronics, Water Treatment, Oil & Gas, and other industries. Our relentless dedication to sustainability, quality, service, and support is unmatched in the industry. Headquartered in St. Paul, Minnesota, Cortec® manufactures over 400 products distributed worldwide. ISO 9001, ISO 14001:2004, & ISO 17025 Certified.

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