

ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR TESTING LABORATORIES

AC89

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PREFACE

The attached accreditation criteria have been issued to provide all interested parties with guidelines on implementing performance features of the applicable standards referenced herein. The criteria were developed and adopted following public hearings conducted by the International Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS), Accreditation Committee and are effective on the date shown above. All accreditations issued or reissued on or after the effective date must comply with these criteria. If the criteria are an updated version from a previous edition, solid vertical lines (|) in the outer margin within the criteria indicate a technical change or addition from the previous edition. Deletion indicators (→) are provided in the outer margins where a paragraph or item has been deleted if the deletion resulted from a technical change. These criteria may be further revised as the need dictates.

IAS may consider alternate criteria provided the proponent submits substantiating data demonstrating that the alternate criteria are at least equivalent to the attached criteria and otherwise meet applicable accreditation requirements.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. **Scope:** These criteria set forth the requirements for obtaining and maintaining International Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS), Testing Laboratory accreditation. These criteria supplement the IAS Rules of Procedure for Laboratory Accreditation.
- 1.2. **Normative and Reference Documents:** Publications listed below refer to current editions (unless otherwise stated).
 - 1.2.1. ISO/IEC Standard 17025:2005, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.
 - 1.2.2. ISO/IEC Standard 17025:2017, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.
 - 1.2.3. ILAC-P9, ILAC Policy for Participation in Proficiency Testing Activities.
 - 1.2.4. ISO/IEC Standard 17000, Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles

2. DEFINITIONS

Applicable definitions of ISO/IEC Standard 17000 series apply.

3. ELIGIBILITY

Accreditation services are available to testing laboratories that:

- 3.1. Perform tests of its legal entities' own products (internal).
- 3.2. Perform tests of products of external organizations (external).

4. REQUIRED BASIC INFORMATION

Testing laboratories must demonstrate compliance with the following requirements:

- 4.1. ISO/IEC Standard 17025:2005, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.
- 4.2. ISO/IEC Standard 17025:2017, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.
- 4.3. IAS Rules of Procedure for Laboratory Accreditation.

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (AS APPLICABLE)

- 5.1. **Internal/In-house Calibrations:** Laboratories performing internal/in-house calibrations are required to be in compliance with the requirements of clause 5.6 of ISO/IEC Standard 17025. Additionally, the following information must be provided or made available to IAS:

- 5.1.1. List of equipment that is calibrated internally.
- 5.1.2. List of equipment used as the reference standard(s) for internal calibration.
- 5.1.3. Specific procedures used for internal calibrations of equipment.
- 5.1.4. Training and qualification records of personnel qualified to perform the internal calibration.
- 5.1.5. The internal calibration activity shall be audited as part of the laboratory's internal audit.
- 5.1.6. The laboratory shall participate in proficiency testing, where available, for its calibration activity. The laboratory may also choose other options as indicated in Clause 5.9 of ISO/IEC Standard 17025.

5.2. **Proficiency Testing Activity:** Proficiency testing activity shall be completed in accordance with Clause 4.2 of ILAC-P9.

5.3. **Regulatory Requirements:** Regulatory entities may place specific compliance requirements on laboratories. If a laboratory is required to comply with the regulatory requirements as may be applicable, they must agree to comply with additional requirements.

Testing laboratories must comply with regulatory requirements of Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) or other regulatory entities, including specific compliance requirements for qualification, licensing, etc., of personnel and operation of testing laboratory.

5.4 **IAS Transition Policy for International Standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017:** The laboratory management may select the 2005 version or the 2017 version for assessments conducted prior to November 30, 2018. All applicants and existing accredited organizations will not be permitted to be assessed to the 2005 version of the international standard after December 1, 2018. Laboratories that have not demonstrated full compliance with ISO/IEC 17025:2017 international standard by December 1, 2020, are subject to suspension and their accreditation certificate will be removed from the IAS website until further compliance is demonstrated. For further details, please refer to the transition policy posted on the IAS website.

6. LINKS TO ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

- 6.1 Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation – www.aplac.org
- 6.2 International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation – www.ilac.org
- 6.3 International Organization for Standardization – www.iso.org
- 6.4 International Electrotechnical Commission – www.iec.ch
- 6.5 International Accreditation Service – www.iasonline.org

6.6 IAS Transition Policy – <https://www.iasonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/17025-Transition-Policy-Jan-2018.pdf>

6.7 Article on ISO/IEC 17025:2017 – <https://www.iasonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/The-New-ISO-IEC-17025-2017.pdf>

These criteria were previously issued September 2002, June 2003, May 2004, May 2005, August 2006, April 2008, May 2010, September 2013, February 2015, February 2016 and April 2017.