

## **ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR PROFICIENCY TESTING PROVIDERS**

### **AC785**

**September 2019  
(Effective November 1, 2019)**

### **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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## ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR PROFICIENCY TESTING PROVIDERS

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. **Scope:** These criteria set forth the requirements for obtaining and maintaining International Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS), Proficiency Testing Provider (PTP) accreditation. These criteria supplement the IAS Rules of Procedure for Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditation.
- 1.2. **Normative and Reference Documents:** Publications listed below refer to current editions (unless otherwise stated).
  - 1.2.1. ISO/IEC 17043:2010, Conformity assessment - General requirements for proficiency testing.
  - 1.2.2. ISO 13528:2015, Statistical methods for use in proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparison.
  - 1.2.3. IUPAC Harmonized Protocol: 2006.
  - 1.2.4. ILAC-P9, ILAC Policy for Participation in Proficiency Testing Activities.
  - 1.2.5. ILAC P10:01/2013, ILAC Policy on Traceability of Measurement Results.
  - 1.2.6. ISO/IEC 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 organizations and/or laboratories that:

- 3.1. Have effectively implemented the management system according to ISO/IEC 17043:2010
- 3.2. Are competent to conduct inter-laboratory comparisons in accordance with ISO/IEC 17043:2010
- 3.3. Have access to expertise with the specific Proficiency Testing (PT) item being offered (i.e., conversant with the behavior of the product or item used in the PT Scheme)
- 3.4. Are competent in the measurement of the properties being determined:

The PT Provider must have a testing/calibration laboratory

**Note:** Where a subcontractor is used, the subcontractor must have a testing/calibration laboratory.

**Note:** If the testing/calibration of the PT items are conducted for the purpose of ensuring the homogeneity and/or stability of the PT items used as well as for the purpose of assigning the property value for measurand/characteristic then the facilities must comply with ISO/IEC 17025 and/or ISO 15189 laboratory requirements.

#### 4. REQUIRED BASIC INFORMATION

PTP must demonstrate compliance with the following requirements:

- 4.1. ISO/IEC 17043:2010, Conformity assessment - General requirements for proficiency testing,
- 4.2. ISO 13528:2015, Statistical methods for use in proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparison,
- 4.3. IAS Rules of Procedure for Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditation

#### 5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (AS APPLICABLE)

- 5.1. **Homogeneity/stability check:** The PT items used for conducting the PT Schemes must be sufficiently homogeneous and stable. Organizations performing homogeneous testing, stability testing and assigning property values and associated uncertainty values of the PT items are required to be in compliance with the requirements of ISO/IEC Standard 17025 (or ISO 15189 for medical laboratories).

The laboratory shall participate in proficiency testing, where available, for its testing activity. The laboratory may also choose other options as indicated in Clause 7.7.1 of ISO/IEC Standard 17025.

- 5.2. **Internal calibration:** Where applicable, the following information must be provided or made available to IAS prior to an assessment:
  - 5.2.1. List of equipment that is calibrated internally for the production of the PT sample.
  - 5.2.2. Specific procedures used for internal calibration of equipment.
  - 5.2.3. Training and qualification records of personnel performing the internal calibration and/or testing of PT items.
  - 5.2.4. The internal measurement activity shall be audited as part of the organization's internal audit.
- 5.3. **Subcontracting:** A competent subcontractor engaged for testing and measurement by the PTP is not limited to an accredited IAS Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) or a CAB accredited by a signatory to ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement. The subcontractor must be competent and meet the requirements of the latest version of ISO/IEC 17025 (refer to clause 5.5, ISO/IEC 17043).

#### 6. LINKS TO ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

- 6.1 Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation – [www.apac-accreditation.org](http://www.apac-accreditation.org)
- 6.2 Asia Pacific Legal Metrology Forum - [www.aplmf.org](http://www.aplmf.org)
- 6.3 International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation – [www.ilac.org](http://www.ilac.org)
- 6.4 International Organization for Standardization – [www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

6.5 International Electrotechnical Commission – [www.iec.ch](http://www.iec.ch)

6.6 International Organization of Legal Metrology – [www.oiml.org](http://www.oiml.org)

6.7 International Accreditation Service – [www.iasonline.org](http://www.iasonline.org)