August 24, 2020

TO: IAS-ACCREDITED TESTING LABORATORIES AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to the Accreditation Criteria for Testing Laboratories (AC89)

Hearing Information:
IAS Accreditation Committee
Thursday, October 22, 2020
8:30 a.m. (Pacific Standard Time)
WebEx Meeting – Refer to IAS website for details.

Dear Madam or Sir:

The proposed IAS Accreditation Criteria for Testing Laboratories, AC89, has been placed on the agenda for committee consideration at the above-noted meeting. Proposed changes include:

- Removing year reference to ISO/IEC 17025. Transition deadline is detailed in clause 5.3 of the criteria.
- Removing explicit reference to ISO/IEC 17025:2017. Transition deadline is details in clause 5.3 of the criteria.
- Clause 4.3 – Addition of reference to ILAC P9, ILAC Policy for Participation in Proficiency Testing Activities
- Clause 4.4 – Addition of reference to ILAC P10, ILAC Policy on the Traceability of Measurement Results
- Clause 4.5 – Addition of compliance requirement to relevant IAS policy documents.
• New Clause 5.3 – Updating transition deadline for ISO/IEC 17025:2017 to June 1, 2021 as per new directive from ILAC.
• Clause 6.1 – Revision to reflect merger of APLAC and PAC to APAC.
• Clause 6.6 – Updating link to IAS website for transition information.

You are cordially invited to submit written comments, or to attend the WebEx committee hearing and present verbal comments. Written comments will be forwarded to the committee, prior to the hearing, if received by September 22, 2020. For your convenience, a comment form is provided. The link can be found on the Accreditation Committee meeting page on the IAS website, www.iasonline.org. Comments may be postal mailed to the address above or emailed to iasinfo@iasonline.org.

Any written material submitted for committee consideration will be available for public distribution as set forth in the Rules of Procedure for Accreditation Committee Meetings found on the IAS website. Since this is a web meeting, comments for public distribution will be placed on the IAS website prior to the meeting.

Your cooperation is requested in forwarding to IAS, as noted above, all material directed to the committee. Prior to the hearing, parties interested in the deliberations of the committee should refrain from communicating, whether in writing or verbally, with committee members regarding agenda items. The committee reserves the right to refuse communications that do not comply with this request.

If you have any questions, please contact IAS at 562-364-8201 ext. 3309. You may also reach us by e-mail at iasinfo@iasonline.org.

Yours very truly,

[Signature]
Raj Nathan
President
RN/ga

cc: Accreditation Committee
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 TESTING LABORATORIES

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 Testing Laboratory Accreditation.

1.2. **Normative and Reference Documents:** Publications listed below refer to current editions (unless otherwise stated).
   - 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
   - 1.2.5. ILAC-P10, ILAC Policy on the Traceability of Measurement Results.

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:
   - 4.2. ISO/IEC Standard 17025:2017, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.
   - 4.3. IAS Rules of Procedure for Testing Laboratory Accreditation.
   - 4.4. ILAC P-9, ILAC Policy for Participation in Proficiency Testing Activities.
   - 4.5. ILAC-P10, ILAC Policy on the Traceability of Measurement Results.
   - 4.6. Relevant IAS policy documents.
5. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (AS APPLICABLE)**

1.1. **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:

   1.1.1. List of equipment that is calibrated internally.
   1.1.2. List of equipment used as the reference standard(s) for internal calibration.
   1.1.3. Specific procedures used for internal calibrations of equipment.
   1.1.4. Training and qualification records of personnel qualified to perform the internal calibration.
   1.1.5. The internal calibration activity shall be audited as part of the laboratory’s internal audit.
   1.1.6. 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.

5.1 **Proficiency Testing Activity:** Proficiency testing activity shall be completed in accordance with Clause 4.2 of ILAC-P9 and IAS/TL-CL/031, IAS Policy on Proficiency Testing for Laboratories.

4.2.1.1. **5.2 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.

5.45.3 **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, June 1, 2021, 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.
2. LINKS TO ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

6.1 Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation – www.aplac.org www.apac-accreditation.org
6.2 International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation – www.ilac.org
6.3 International Organization for Standardization – www.iso.org
6.5 International Accreditation Service – www.iasonline.org