

ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR TESTING LABORATORIES

AC89

October 2020
Effective December 1, 2020

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 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).

- 1.2.1. ISO/IEC Standard 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.
- 1.2.2. ILAC-P9, ILAC Policy for Participation in Proficiency Testing Activities.
- 1.2.3. ISO/IEC Standard 17000, Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles.
- 1.2.4. ILAC-P10, ILAC Policy on Metrological 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:

- 4.1. ISO/IEC Standard 17025, General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.
- 4.2. IAS Rules of Procedure for Testing Laboratory Accreditation.
- 4.3. ILAC P-9, ILAC Policy for Participation in Proficiency Testing Activities.
- 4.4. ILAC-P10, ILAC Policy on Metrological Traceability of Measurement Results.
- 4.5. Relevant IAS policy documents.
 - 4.5.1. IAS/CL/025 IAS Policy on Calibration, Traceability and Measurement Uncertainty for Testing Laboratories
 - 4.5.2. IAS/TL-CL/026 Policy on Off-Site Testing/Calibration
 - 4.5.3. IAS/TL-CL/031 IAS Policy on Proficiency Testing for Laboratories
 - 4.5.4. IAS/ADM/044 IAS Policy on Relocation of Accredited Organizations

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (AS APPLICABLE)

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

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.

5.3. **IAS Transition Policy for International Standard ISO/IEC 17025:2017:** Laboratories that have not demonstrated full compliance with ISO/IEC 17025:2017 international standard by 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.

6. LINKS TO ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

6.1 Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation – www.apac-accreditation.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-June-2020.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, April 2017, September 27, 2018 and Editorially revised January 22, 2019.