



## Policy on calculated methods

PS36

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to clarify INAB policy in the area of the accreditation of calculated methods.

The policy applies to all applicant and accredited testing laboratories (ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 15189).

### 2. Statement

- 2.1. Calculated methods are considered a separate test method for the purposes of accreditation. A laboratory shall apply for accreditation for these types of tests in the same manner as with other test methods on their scope of accreditation.
- 2.2. Assessment of these test methods shall be completed in the same manner as the normal assessment processes in place (on site during surveillance visits, by correspondence, or added on using a flexible scope system if the laboratory is accredited for flexible scope).
- 2.3. The validation or verification of the method itself shall be fit for purpose.
- 2.4. In order for a calculated method to be reported as accredited all the constituent results used in the calculation shall also be accredited. This is to preserve the accreditation/traceability chain.
- 2.5. The laboratory may subcontract one or more of the constituent tests to another laboratory. If this is the case, the subcontracted laboratory shall also be accredited for the test in question.
- 2.6. In reporting a calculated method, the laboratory shall report the results of all of the constituent tests on the same report. This will include stating whether any of the constituent tests have been subcontracted and their accreditation status. This is to ensure transparency to the user of the results/report.
- 2.7. If it is not practical to report all constituent tests (due to the large numbers of tests involved) the report shall detail, at minimum, the list of tests that are subcontracted and also refer the user back to the laboratory for full details of all tests, if so required.

### 3. Contact

For further information about this statement, please contact an assessment manager at the Irish National Accreditation Board.

Email: [inab@inab.ie](mailto:inab@inab.ie)

Website: [www.inab.ie](http://www.inab.ie)

### 4. Document Status and Implementation

This policy is mandatory and effective from the date of publication.