



Policy on the provision of accredited services

PS23

1) Purpose

The purpose of this policy statement is to ensure that clients of INAB Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) receive accredited reports/certificates for the tests, calibrations, inspections and certifications as documented on the scope of accreditation. This policy intends to prevent confusion in the market and ensure customer and end user expectations on an accredited activity are met in a consistent manner.

This policy applies to all accredited conformity assessment bodies (CABs).

Conformity assessment services include testing, calibration, inspection, verification/validation, biobanking and certification.

An accredited CAB is awarded accreditation for a defined scope of activities. An alternative service cannot be offered for activities defined in the INAB scope of accreditation; in other words, a CAB cannot offer a non-accredited service for accredited activities.

2) Statement

It is INAB policy that if a CAB is accredited for conformity assessment activity as defined in the scope of accreditation, then the CAB shall offer this conformity assessment activity/service as an accredited service at all times.

The INAB accreditation symbol and/or the text reference to accreditation shall be used on the test/calibration report or certificate, with unaccredited activity clearly identified (R1 Regulations, section 3).

2.1) Calibration Laboratories, ISO/IEC 17025

Accredited calibration laboratories shall not issue non-accredited calibration certificates within their scope of accreditation. INAB recognises that accredited calibration laboratories are required by their clients to undertake and report measurements within their scope of accreditation (e.g. performance checks), other than calibrations. INAB's policy on this is documented in PS4, *Policy Statement on Performance Reports*.

2.2) Testing Laboratories, ISO/IEC 17025

Accredited testing laboratories shall not issue non-accredited test reports within their scope of accreditation. However, it may be necessary that a testing laboratory include rapid test methods on the scope of accreditation, in addition to standard methods, once all accreditation requirements are met and the method is fit for purpose. This allows test laboratories to respond to urgent customer requests and provide an accredited service.

2.3) Medical Testing Laboratories, ISO 15189

Accredited medical testing laboratories shall not issue non-accredited test reports within their scope of accreditation.

It is recognised that some medical laboratories provide an on-call testing service for the purpose of urgent testing of critical patient samples. In these instances, it is INAB policy that for tests on the

scope of accreditation, the laboratory shall be capable of performing an accredited test on these urgent patient samples (Clause 4.4.1(b)).

It is also recognised and acknowledged that these laboratories may offer a reduced suite of tests (for example out of hours, on call or at weekends). However the laboratory shall provide the same level of accredited testing service for this reduced suite of tests.

2.4) Certification Bodies Accredited to ISO/IEC 17021-1 (Management Systems Certification Bodies), ISO/IEC 17065 (Product Certification Bodies) and ISO/IEC 17024 (Personnel Certification Bodies)

Accredited certification bodies shall not issue non-accredited certificates within their scope of accreditation.

See also PS22, *Policy on Witnessing Activities and Scope Management for Certification and Verification Bodies*.

2.5) Inspection Bodies, ISO/IEC 17020

Accredited inspection bodies shall not issue non-accredited inspection reports within their scope of accreditation.

2.6) Validation and verification bodies, ISO/IEC 17029 and ISO 14065

Accredited validation and verification bodies shall not issue non-accredited certificates within their scope of accreditation.

2.7) Biobanking, ISO 20387

If a biobank is accredited for a particular activity / BMaD, (storage, transport, preparation, testing etc.) then it can only issue accredited reports in these areas.

2.8) Reference Material Producers, ISO 17034

Accredited reference material producers shall not issue non-accredited certificates within their scope of accreditation.

3) Implementation

From date of publication.

4) References

Resolutions issued by the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) mandate that accredited certificates are issued in all cases, under the accreditation scope. All EA, IAF and ILACⁱ resolutions are summarised in this publication issued by EA (EA-INF/17) <https://european-accreditation.org/publications/ea-inf-17/>

5) Contact

For further information about this statement, please contact an Assessment Manager at The Irish National Accreditation Board.

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ⁱ EA: European Cooperation for accreditation; IAF: International Accreditation Forum; ILAC: International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation