



# **Specific Accreditation Criteria Life Sciences ISO/IEC 17025 Annex**

## **Seed testing facilities**

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## **Seed testing facilities**

This document provides additional interpretative criteria and recommendations for the application of ISO/IEC 17025 for both applicant and accredited facilities conducting seed testing.

Applicant and accredited facilities must also comply with ISO/IEC 17025, the NATA ISO/IEC 17025 Standard Application Document (SAD) and the Life Sciences ISO/IEC 17025 Appendix. The clause numbers in this document follow those of ISO/IEC 17025 but since not all clauses require interpretation the numbering may not be consecutive.

### **5.4 Test and calibration methods and method validation**

**5.4.4** The methods published by the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) (and current at the date of testing) should be adopted as the standard used for testing.

In cases where accreditation is requested for methods or species not covered by ISTA, the adopted method must be developed and validated in accordance with the principles of ISTA (e.g. ISTA definitions of pure seed and germination). Documentation on the proposed methods shall be requested by NATA prior to the assessment of the facility.

### **5.5 Equipment**

Equipment maintenance instructions must include procedures for cleaning equipment. Equipment records must also include cleaning performed.

#### **5.6.3 Reference materials**

##### **Reference seed collection library**

The facility must carry an adequate collection of reference seed samples and technical literature to allow analysts to identify with reasonable precision, species of common crops, pastures and weeds as defined in the relevant State legislation.

##### **Technical literature**

The facility must have reference literature for identification of species relevant to the scope of work undertaken by the laboratory.

### **5.8 Handling of test items**

The facility must provide an adequate storage system to ensure security of samples and prevent undue deterioration or other damage to seed before and after testing. The ISTA requirement for sample retention on which ISTA International Certificates have been issued is 12 months. All other samples should be retained for a period of 3 months following the completion of testing.

## References

International Rules for Seed Testing 2017

## NATA Publications

Life Sciences ISO/ IEC 17025 Appendix

### Amendment Table

The table below provides a summary of changes made to the document with this issue.

<b>Section or Clause</b>	<b>Amendment</b>
New document	This document represents a direct adoption of the former Biological Testing Annex C. The document has been reviewed and updated to reflect the new accreditation criteria documentation structure.