



Specific Accreditation Criteria

ISO/IEC 17025 Application Document

Life Sciences - Annex

On-site abattoir facilities and contract testing facilities approved by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) to test carcass hygiene samples and export meat samples

Issued: November 2020

Effective: February 2021

© Copyright National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia 2013

This publication is protected by copyright under the Commonwealth of Australia Copyright Act 1968.

NATA's accredited facilities or facilities seeking accreditation may use or copy this publication or print or email this publication internally for accreditation purposes.

Individuals may store a copy of this publication for private non-commercial use or copy a reasonable portion of this publication in accordance with the fair dealing provisions in Part III Division 3 of the Copyright Act 1968.

You must include this copyright notice in its complete form if you make a copy of this publication.

Apart from these permitted uses, you must not modify, copy, reproduce, republish, frame, upload to a third party, store in a retrieval system, post, transmit or distribute this content in any way or any form or by any means without express written authority from NATA.

Table of Contents

Purpose	4
Introduction	4
7 Process Requirements.....	5
7.2 Selection, verification and validation of methods.....	5
7.2.1 Selection and verification of methods	5
7.7 Ensuring the validity of results.....	5
References.....	6
Amendment Table	6

Purpose

In addition to the *ISO/IEC 17025 Standard Application Document (SAD)* and the accompanying *Life Sciences - Appendix*, this document provides interpretative criteria and recommendations for testing required and approved by the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) for export performed by both applicant and accredited facilities. These requirements are specified in the Deed of Agreement between the DAWE and NATA

Facilities must comply with all relevant documents in the NATA Accreditation Criteria (NAC) package for Agribusiness (refer to *NATA Procedures for Accreditation*).

The clause numbers in this document follow those of ISO/IEC 17025, however, as not all clauses require interpretation, the numbering may not be consecutive.

Introduction

The DAWE document, *Microbiological Manual for Sampling and Testing of Export Meat and Meat Products*, specifies testing requirements for:

- Hygienic Performance
 - Aerobic Plate Count (APC), generic *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella* and *Listeria monocytogenes*
- Specific Market Requirements
 - *Salmonella*, *E. coli* O157:H7, *STEC* and *Listeria monocytogenes*
- Ready-to-eat (RTE) processing environments
 - *Listeria species*

These requirements depend on the product type and export destination.

As specified by the DAWE, assessments are undertaken every eighteen (18) months using the *Surveillance* or *Reassessment* checklists for DAWE approved facilities. These checklists detail specific criteria for accreditation and are to be read in conjunction with this Annex.

The *Microbiological Manual for Sampling and Testing of Export Meat and Meat Products* document and the *Surveillance* and *Reassessment* checklists are available from the DAWE website (<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/meat/elmer-3#microbiological-testing-of-meat-and-meat-products>).

A copy of the NATA report on assessment is sent to the DAWE. DAWE personnel may also attend NATA assessments as observers.

The DAWE is additionally informed when any non-conformities raised at assessments have been addressed and accreditation is granted, maintained or continued by NATA.

7 Process Requirements

7.2 Selection, verification and validation of methods

7.2.1 Selection and verification of methods

7.2.1.1 Only methods approved by the DAWE and published on the DAWE website can be used to test carcass hygiene samples and samples of export meat and meat products.

The methods must be followed in full unless approval is obtained from the DAWE for the variation. Specific checklists used for the assessment of approved methods are available from the DAWE website (<http://www.agriculture.gov.au/export/controlled-goods/meat/elmer-3/approved-methods-manual>).

7.7 Ensuring the validity of results

7.7.2 Facilities testing carcass hygiene samples must participate biannually in a third party carcass hygiene proficiency testing (PT) program.

Facilities testing meat samples intended for export must complete *Escherichia coli* PT testing in either a program covering carcass hygiene or non-pathogen in food testing.

Facilities testing for pathogens must participate biannually in a program covering pathogens in food.

References

This section lists publications referenced in this document. The year of publication is not included as it is expected that only current versions of the references shall be used.

Standards

ISO/IEC 17025 *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*

NATA Publications

NATA Accreditation Criteria (NAC) package for Agribusiness

Other Publications

Microbiological Manual for Sampling and Testing of Export Meat and Meat Products, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Approved Microbiological Methods Checklists Manual, Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Surveillance visit checklist (*Surveillance visit to the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources approved facility*), Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Reassessment checklist (*Report on reassessment visit to approved laboratories*), Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment

Amendment Table

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

Section or Clause	Amendment
Whole document	No new interpretative criteria or recommendations have been included other than editorial changes.