

Background Memo

Document:	Specific Accreditation Criteria ISO/IEC 17025 Application Document Legal (including Forensic Science) - Appendix
Date:	16 February 2026
Key changes:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in prescription to align with ISO/IEC 17025 more risk based approach; • Clear accountability for operational and technical control, with explicit responsibility for governance, ethics, risk management and business continuity; • Amended competency and court-related requirements; • Amended contamination controls for molecular techniques, including physical separation, unidirectional workflow and environmental monitoring. Consideration of rapid DNA instruments now included; • Clearer expectations for method verification and validation, including in-house verification of externally validated methods and defined validation planning and approval; • New, structured framework for notifying NATA of changes, introducing risk-based categories (major, minor, inconsequential) with clear notification expectations.
Background:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The document has been amended considerably to reduce the prescriptive nature of the current document. This aligns with the more risk based approach of ISO/IEC 17025 and NATAs risk based assessment approach. ▪ Accountability, method validation and competency have been identified as significant risk areas and have been amended and strengthened. ▪ Guidance has been provided in the new Appendix to advise of NATAs expectation in terms of notification of changes, this is an area of come inconsistency which would benefit from the guidance. 	
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