National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia

CALIBRATION
ACCREDITATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Summary of the 12th Accreditation Advisory Committee Meeting
Tuesday 5th May 2026

Committee membership

The Committee discussed current and upcoming membership changes. The Chair's current term has been extended to support continuity. Mr Anthony Bergen's term has concluded, and the Committee acknowledged his significant contribution since joining the AAC in 2015, including his previous role as Chair.

Mr Laurence Dickinson's term will conclude in 2026, and a recommendation has been submitted for a new member to join the Committee. The Committee acknowledged Laurence's valued contribution and technical input since 2018.

Secretariat Note (post meeting): *Subsequent to the meeting, NATA was saddened to learn of the passing of Mr Graham Smith. Graham served as a valued member of the Calibration AAC for many years and was widely respected for his technical knowledge, practical insight, and commitment to supporting accreditation and the broader calibration community. NATA extends its sincere condolences to Graham's family, friends, and colleagues and acknowledges his significant contribution to the Committee and the calibration profession.*

Review of Accreditation Criteria and Processes

The following NATA publications under the responsibility of the Calibration Sector are subject to further review or progression following discussion at the meeting:

- *Calibration – Annex: Temperature Metrology.* Public comment has concluded and the annex will progress to publication. Future updates will consider additional guidance where appropriate.
- *Calibration – Annex: Optical Metrology.* The annex will progress to publication following minor editorial amendments.
- *Calibration – Annex: Dimensional Metrology.* The annex remains under review, with consideration being given to recent ISO standards and associated technical developments.
- *Calibration – Annex: Acoustic, Ultrasonic and Vibration Measurement.* The Committee considered the previous action relating to IEC 61672 sound level meter linearity. The matter will continue to be monitored as the standard is revised.
- *General Equipment Table and Calibration Reference Equipment Table.* The Committee agreed the documents should remain concise, high-level guidance. The Calibration Reference Equipment Table will be reviewed and simplified.
- *User Checks and Maintenance of Laboratory Balances.* The guidance document will be reviewed to ensure it remains current.
- *Electronic Measuring Equipment as Reference Standards.* The Committee agreed the guidance remains valuable and should be retained, with periodic review to ensure it remains current.

Changes to NATA accreditation criteria will be published after stakeholder feedback is sought and considered, where required.

Technical Matters

The Committee considered a deidentified summary of calibration assessment findings raised between January 2024 and April 2026. The analysis covered 408 assessment jobs and 3,660 findings. The majority of nonconformities related to ISO/IEC 17025 Clause 7 process requirements, with common themes including method selection and implementation, measurement uncertainty, technical records, calibration certificates and personnel competence.

Proficiency testing was discussed in several contexts. The Committee reaffirmed that PT is important evidence for supporting measurement uncertainty claims, CMCs and ongoing technical competence. Members noted that PT results should be interpreted in context, including consideration of the suitability of the artefact and whether the activity sufficiently challenges the claimed capability. Fixed numerical thresholds were not considered appropriate across all disciplines, and application-specific judgement remains necessary.

Technical issues discussed by members included:

- firmware version control and the potential impact of firmware changes on measurement results;
- total harmonic distortion definitions and the need for calibration reports to clearly identify the definition used;
- developments in acoustic camera technology and the distinction between calibrated sound measurement and broader identification or enforcement functions;
- international development of Digital Calibration Certificates;
- electric vehicle supply equipment verification developments;
- updates to hardness and tensile testing standards, including ISO 6506, ISO 6507, ISO 6508 and ISO 7500-1;
- calibration interval guidance and the need for laboratories to base intervals on equipment performance, history and risk; and
- risks associated with unauthorised reproduction or misuse of calibration reports and accreditation marks.

Technical Assessor Capability

The Committee discussed ongoing challenges in recruiting and retaining technical assessors in specialist calibration disciplines. RF and microwave metrology were identified as areas of particular concern, along with other specialist disciplines where expertise is limited or declining.

Potential recruitment pathways discussed included engagement with NMI, universities, CSIRO, industry networks, international accreditation bodies and emerging metrologists. AAC members were asked to identify specialist areas where assessor availability is limited and provide NATA with potential technical assessor leads.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Calibration AAC is expected to be scheduled in approximately 18 months.