



Specific Accreditation Criteria

Transition Policy for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17020:2026

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Purpose

This policy is effective from 1 August 2026 and describes changes to the NATA Accreditation Criteria (NAC) applicable to all applicant and accredited Inspection Bodies.

Background information

In March 2026, ISO/IEC 17020 *Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies performing inspection* was published. This document replaces ISO/IEC 17020:2012 *Conformity assessment - Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection*.

The standard is to be adopted in full as an Australian New Zealand Standard in due course and published as AS/NZS ISO/IEC 17020:2026.

Accredited facilities or those seeking accreditation must obtain a copy of the revised standard directly from a supplier of ISO or Australian Standards.

The Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI, previously ILAC) has mandated a three-year transition period from the date of publication of the standard. The transition date prescribed by Global ACI ends on 31 March 2029. As a signatory to the Global ACI MRA, NATA is obligated to ensure transition of facilities to the new version occurs by this date. At the end of the period, accreditation of a facility to ISO/IEC 17020:2012 will no longer be recognised under the Global ACI MRA arrangement.

Assessment of facilities to ISO/IEC 17020:2026

From 1 October 2026, all assessments will be conducted against ISO/IEC 17020:2026.

Those facilities that have not transitioned to ISO/IEC 17020:2026 by 31 March 2029 will have their accreditation suspended.

Applicant facilities

Applicant facilities will be assessed against ISO/IEC 17020:2026 if they have not yet had an assessment conducted by NATA prior to 1 October 2026.

Accredited facilities

The changes between ISO/IEC 17020:2012 and ISO/IEC 17020:2026 are such that an assessment will be necessary to convert accreditation to the new standard.

Assessment to the new standard can occur either:

- at the time of the next scheduled NATA assessment after 1 October 2026; or
- prior to a scheduled NATA visit on request of the facility as a chargeable variation to accreditation.

To assist facilities, a *Gap Analysis* between the two editions of the standard has been prepared, identifying the new and amended requirements detailed in ISO/IEC 17020:2026. This document can be downloaded from the NATA website at www.nata.com.au.

An additional *ISO/IEC 17020:2026 Implementation Checklist* has been prepared which identifies the specific changes accredited facilities need to adopt to satisfy the requirements of the new standard. This document is also available from the NATA website.

Assessment against ISO/IEC 17020:2026 at the next scheduled NATA visit

From 1 October 2026, all accredited facilities will be assessed to the new standard at the time of their next scheduled assessment visit.

Facilities will be required to complete the *ISO/IEC 17020:2026 Implementation Checklist* and to supply information demonstrating compliance with the new standard, as part of the routine preliminary arrangements prior to an on-site visit.

Any areas of non-compliance identified at the scheduled NATA visit will be detailed in the assessment report as findings as per the current NATA process. Facilities will need to respond to these in the usual manner prior to accreditation being continued and granted to the new standard.

The scope of accreditation will be updated to reference the new standard following confirmation of compliance, or where non-conformities have been raised, following a satisfactory response to these.

Assessment against the new standard on request of the facility

Facilities may seek accreditation against the new standard prior to a scheduled NATA visit by requesting a chargeable variation to the scope of accreditation. In order for this request to be considered, the facility must formally advise NATA in writing and submit supporting evidence (policies, procedures and records as necessary) to demonstrate compliance with the new standard.

Following review of the supporting information provided, NATA may request further evidence be provided, or may determine that an on-site assessment is necessary, should compliance against the new standard not be confirmed through desk-top review.

Variation visits or desk-top reviews are chargeable activities in accordance with NATA's Fee Schedule current at the time.

Transition of Multi-site Accreditation facilities to ISO/IEC 17020:2026

Where a facility is accredited as a multi-site facility it is expected that the transition will occur for all inspection sites of the entire facility. For multi-site transition to occur, the facility must be able to demonstrate all inspection sites within its network have been included in the implementation of ISO/IEC 17020:2026. This will be assessed at the next scheduled assessment of the primary site. For multi-site accreditations where the primary site assessment is due on or after April 1 2028, an alternative site with a scheduled assessment due before that date will be identified for the transition. The facility will be advised of this arrangement via an updated Assessment Program to ensure all members transition in a timely manner.

Further information

Further information can be obtained by contacting your NATA client coordinator.

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 17020:2026 *Conformity assessment - Requirements for bodies performing inspection*

Amendment table

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

Section or Clause	Amendment
All	New