

RESPIRATORY FUNCTION LABORATORY ACCREDITATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Summary of the 2nd Meeting, 19 June 2026

Opening & welcome	Welcome and introductory remarks from the Chair
Communicating issues related to the interpretation of the Standard.	A process is in place to identify, review and communicate areas of the Standard requiring clarification or further refinement. Individual enquiries are addressed directly, while issues of broader relevance are communicated through NATA publications and stakeholder communications. Additional industry channels, such as ANZSRS and TSANZ newsletters, may also be used to support wider dissemination where appropriate.
Application of ERS/ATS Standards.	Recognising that interpretation of ERS/ATS Standards can vary due to differences in language across the documents, a decision flowchart has been developed to support a consistent and transparent assessment approach for NATA staff and technical assessors.
Use of the “mini box”.	Mini boxes used for TLCO and spirometry could be considered under the accreditation framework, so long as the laboratory has validated these tests. Mini boxes used for lung volumes are not accreditable at this stage, as the method cannot be adequately described.
Reporting requirements.	Reporting practices vary across the industry. To support a consistent assessment approach, the committee agreed that reporting processes should be evaluated against documented procedures, delegation arrangements, staff training and competency records, and processes for escalation or obtaining additional input where required.

Metrological traceability	Isothermal lungs: • The committee resolved there is no need for a calibration requirement as minimal risk involved. 3L syringes: • It was noted that manufacturers often refer to “recalibration” of 3L syringes; however, these devices cannot be adjusted. The terminology can therefore be misleading, and the requirement is intended to ensure ongoing verification of accuracy rather than recalibration. • The verification of 3L syringe accuracy must be conducted in accordance with the manufacturer’s specifications. • It was noted that verification activities may be undertaken by providers with the capability to determine and document whether the 3L syringe meets the required accuracy specifications.
Accreditation program	A review of the assessments conducted to date, including the non-conformances raised was conducted. Early observations identified recurring non-conformances relating to test methodology and reporting.
Next meeting	The next meeting is planned for June 2027.