

30 June 2020

Dear Authorised Representative

UPDATE: NATA'S TRANSITION POLICY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ISO/IEC 17025:2017

As you may be aware, ILAC has recently announced a seven-month extension to its policy for accreditation bodies to transition laboratories to ISO/IEC 17025:2017. This has been necessary due to accreditation bodies struggling with the transition due to the pandemic. Fortunately, in Australia, restrictions due to COVID-19 have not been as severe as in other countries. As a result, NATA is in a position where amendment of our existing transition policy is not deemed necessary. A copy of the policy together with other supporting documentation can be obtained from our website (<https://www.nata.com.au/accreditation-information/iso-iec-17025-2017-information>).

Over the past few months, NATA has been able to continue to offer its accreditation services, albeit in a modified format, and is pleased to advise that the majority of accredited testing and calibration laboratories have now had their accreditation transitioned or have had an assessment against the new version of the standard. The remaining small percentage of laboratories are on schedule to be transitioned by November 2020.

A series of communications has been sent to Members since March 2020 to advise of the continuation to NATA services during the pandemic. Members have also been contacted to clarify our modified services and to offer support in relation to accreditation needs, notably where hardships were present or anticipated.

NATA is constantly monitoring and adapting our operations according to Government guidelines and health advice to ensure that we protect the safety of our staff and members in carrying out our assessment services. Due to the recent easing of restrictions in relation to meetings and gatherings we may now be able to conduct on-site visits in some instances. Whilst interstate travel restrictions have been extended to 30 September 2020, NATA can now conduct on-site activities subject to the following guidelines:

1. The assessment activity can be conducted by a lead assessor(s) and technical assessor(s) located in the State in which the facility is located
2. Both the facility and the assessment team (lead assessor (s) and technical assessors(s)) agree to and are comfortable with conducting the on-site visit
3. Government guidelines pertaining to social distancing are in place (including travelling in separate cars)
4. The client can provide PPE to the assessment team as required

Therefore, if requirements are met, scheduled and non-scheduled jobs can be conducted on-site. If this is not possible, the current remote assessment approach will remain in place.

Should you have any queries in relation to your accreditation, including any disruptions that may be relevant to your accreditation due to the pandemic, please contact your NATA Client Coordinator who will work with you to ensure we achieve the best result for your facility.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Evans". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "E".

JENNIFER EVANS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER