

## Geotechnical and Civil Construction Material Testing Summary of the 29<sup>th</sup> Accreditation Advisory Committee Meeting

This meeting took place on 21 March 2019 in NATA's office at 2-6 Railway Parade, Camberwell VIC 3124.

### Committee Membership

- Welcome to new AAC members Ernie Gmehling and Ian Stewart.
- It was noted that some members of this AAC share technical competencies with members of the Materials Characterisation AAC. This opens up the possibility of future cooperation between AACs.

### Reports from Members

- Due to the takeover of IPC Global by Controls Group, the IPC Gyropac will no longer be manufactured or maintained. The ARWG is currently investigating possible alternatives as replacement. The outcome of their investigation will be communicated in due course.
- The Committee discussed the prevalence and implications of fabricated test results within the sector. NATA's role is to assess facilities for technical competence, which is not a forensic activity.

### Stakeholder Engagement

- Technical Assessor forums will commence in late 2019, and are intended to be ongoing.
- NATA continues to engage with industry bodies, regulators and specifiers.

### Service Descriptors

- The Committee were referred to the NATA publication *Specific Accreditation Guidance – Scope of accreditation – service descriptors for infrastructure and asset integrity*. The Committee were asked to advise of anything duplicated, unnecessary, obsolete, technically inconsistent, or incorrect. Some duplication was identified by the Committee and will be corrected.

### Miscellaneous Discussion

- Sampling performed by personnel of non-accredited facilities which is specified in reported standard methods was discussed by the committee.
- The quality and nature of facility competency records reviewed during assessment was discussed. The committee agreed that such records must clearly support the facilities

contention that their staff are competent to perform tasks identified in the records. A record stating a person has been ‘trained’ is not equivalent to a record demonstrating that competence has been achieved.

### Precedents

- The Committee discussed the lack of technical control over externally provided services for concrete, e.g. manufacturing, field curing, sampling, slump tests, etc. It has been observed that some external reports lack detail, i.e. name of technician, location, and sign-off. The Committee agreed that any field testing must be accompanied with an endorsed report and/or worksheet that must include the name of the technician and test location at a minimum. The final strength report must make reference to the endorsed report/worksheet for traceability.
- The NATA precedent *Validation and Verification of Commercial Software* was provided for the Committee’s consideration and approval. It was noted that ISO/IEC 17025 requires facilities to validate or verify software in the same manner as an in-house test method. These requirements have always been in ISO/IEC 17025, but are more explicit in the 2017 version. The precedent was accepted by the Committee.

The next meeting is planned for June 2020.