

MECHANICAL TESTING ACCREDITATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

55th MEETING SUMMARY

The 55th meeting of the Mechanical Testing Accreditation Advisory Committee was held at NATA's Melbourne Office on 23rd November 2016.

As in previous meetings, a diverse range of topics was considered by the Committee, the principal items being listed below.

Review of current membership and composition of the Committee

The impending completion of some membership terms was acknowledged. Expressions of interest will be sought via NATA's web site at the time of expiry of the members' terms.

Stakeholder engagement

The Committee was provided with an overview of NATA's significant engagement activities with government and industry bodies, particularly in relation to building product and construction compliance.

Mechanical Testing ISO/IEC 17025 Application Document and Annexes

The Committee agreed that certain aspects of these documents would benefit from further clarification. Initial public comment on the relatively minor proposed changes will be sought in due course.

Review of Classes of Test

The Committee was provided with an update of the new Accreditation Information Management System (AIMS) and in particular relevant Activity groupings (Materials, Infrastructure/Asset Integrity and Manufactured Goods) and associated product listings which are relevant to the Mechanical Testing field.

Reporting in relation to product standards

The Committee acknowledged NATA's implementation of criteria relevant to the reporting of compliance to product standards and supported the proposal for a guidance statement in a concise form to be provided to laboratories.

Flexible scopes

The Committee acknowledged the current approach described in the Mechanical Testing field criteria for the listing of test methods in Scopes of Accreditation. The Committee was in agreement that a fixed listing of standards would be appropriate, and proposed that mechanisms for including additional standards should be clearly communicated to facilities.

Lifting gear

The Committee considered various technical issues pertaining to lifting gear test facilities including display of the force range on Scopes of Accreditation, the requirement for recording of numerical force applied and the suitability of proposed arrangements by a lifting laboratory for their equipment assurance program. No changes to existing interpretations are recommended at this time.

Controlled Environments

The Committee discussed a number of technical issues related to testing for controlled environments including, but not limited to, the practice of laboratories placing compliance information on cabinets, the application of correction factors for anemometers and the measurement accuracy for face velocity tests. The Committee agreed that further work is needed and referred several matters to the Mechanical Testing AAC Controlled Environments Working Group for technical investigation.