



## **Specific Accreditation Criteria**

**ISO/IEC 17025 Application Document  
Life Sciences - Annex**

**Seed testing facilities**

**July 2018**

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# Seed testing facilities

This document provides additional interpretative criteria and recommendations for the application of ISO/IEC 17025 for both applicant and accredited facilities conducting seed testing.

Applicant and accredited facilities must comply with all relevant documents in the NATA Accreditation Criteria (NAC) package for Agribusiness (refer to *NATA Procedures for Accreditation*).

The clause numbers in this document follow those of ISO/IEC 17025 but since not all clauses require interpretation the numbering may not be consecutive.

## 6 Resource requirements

### 6.4 Equipment

**6.4.3** Equipment maintenance instructions must include procedures for cleaning equipment.

**6.4.13** Equipment records must include cleaning performed.

### 6.5 Metrological traceability

#### 6.5.3

##### Reference seed collection library

The facility must carry an adequate collection of reference seed samples and technical literature to allow analysts to identify with reasonable precision, species of common crops, pastures and weeds as defined in the relevant State legislation.

##### Technical literature

The facility must have reference literature for identification of species relevant to its scope of work undertaken.

## 7 Process Requirements

### 7.2 Selection, verification and validation of methods

#### 7.2.1 Selection and verification of methods

**7.2.1.1** Current methods published by the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) should be adopted as the standard used for testing.

#### 7.2.2 Validation of methods

**7.2.2.1** In cases where accreditation is requested for methods or species not covered by ISTA, the adopted method must be developed and validated in accordance with the principles of ISTA (e.g. ISTA definitions of pure seed and germination). Documentation on the proposed methods shall be requested by NATA prior to the assessment of the facility.

## 7.4 Handling test or calibration items

**7.4.1** The facility must provide an adequate storage system to ensure security of samples and prevent undue deterioration or other damage to seed before and after testing.

The ISTA requirement for sample retention on which ISTA International Certificates have been issued is 12 months. All other samples should be retained for a period of 3 months following the completion of testing.

## 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 17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories

### NATA Publications

NATA Accreditation Criteria (NAC) package for Agribusiness

## Amendment Table

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

Section or Clause	Amendment
Whole document	<p>Clauses have been aligned with ISO/IEC 17025:2017.</p> <p>Any criteria included in the previous issue that are now covered by ISO/IEC 17025:2017 have been removed.</p> <p>No new interpretative criteria or recommendations have been included other than editorial changes.</p>