



August 5, 2023

TO: IAS – PROFICIENCY TESTING PROVIDERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES.

SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to the Accreditation Criteria for Proficiency Testing Providers, AC785-202310-R0 (MS)

Hearing Information:

IAS Accreditation Committee
Wednesday, October 4, 2023
8:30 am (Pacific Time Zone)
WebEx Meeting – Refer to IAS website for details.

Dear Madam or Sir:

Proposed Revisions to the Accreditation Criteria for Proficiency Testing Providers, (AC785) has been placed on the agenda for committee consideration at the above-noted meeting.

Proposed changes include:

1. Line 21-22, 74, The Scope section has been revised and aligned with the latest second edition of the ISO/IEC 17043:2023 international standard.
2. Line 28-38, All normative and reference standards associated with the second edition have been updated.
3. Line 31-54, addition of the second edition of ISO/IEC 17043:2023 and rewrite of the subclauses for better sentence structure.
4. Line 56-67, identification of 'salient points and exceptions' for the operation of a Proficiency Testing Provider (PTP).
5. Line 67-70, Information on the ILAC Resolution applicable to the transition of the second edition of ISO/IEC 17043:2023.
6. Line 86, where homogeneity and stability checks are required during the production of a PT item, ISO 17034 requirements are to be considered and included.
7. Line 105, For subcontracting both the sub clauses of the first edition and second edition of ISO/IEC 17043 have been updated.

You are cordially invited to submit written comments, or to attend the WebEx committee hearing and present verbal comments. Written comments will be forwarded to the committee, **prior to the hearing**, if received by September 4, 2023.

For your convenience, a comment form is provided. The link can be found on the Accreditation Committee meeting page on the IAS website, www.iasonline.org. Comments must be emailed to iasinfo@iasonline.org.

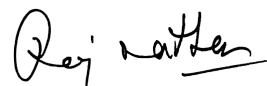
Parties interested in proposed revised criteria may deliver written communications and submissions regarding such proposed criteria to IAS within approximately 30 days of posting of the public notice on the IAS website. The committee shall be informed of all pertinent written communications received by IAS. Any relevant communication and changes to a criteria arising from the written communication/submission shall be posted to the IAS website prior to the meeting.

Participants at the accreditation committee meetings shall have the opportunity to speak on the proposed criteria to provide information to the committee. Committee meetings are generally held by electronic means. Participants are responsible to ensure access to appropriate computer equipment, software, and internet connectivity to ensure effective participation during the meeting.

Your cooperation is requested in forwarding to IAS, as noted above, all material directed to the committee. Prior to the hearing, parties interested in the deliberations of the committee should refrain from communicating, whether in writing or verbally, with committee members regarding agenda items. The committee reserves the right to refuse communications that do not comply with this request.

If you have any questions, please contact IAS at 562-364-8201. You may also reach us by e-mail at iasinfo@iasonline.org.

Yours very truly,



Raj Nathan
President

Enclosures: Proposed Revised AC785

cc: Accreditation Committee



1 **PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR PROFICIENCY**
2 **TESTING PROVIDERS**

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4 **AC785**

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7 **Proposed October 4, 2023**

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10 **PREFACE**

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12 The attached accreditation criteria have been proposed to provide all interested parties with an
13 opportunity to comment. These criteria may be further revised as needed. The criteria are
14 developed and adopted following public hearings conducted by the International Accreditation
15 Service, Inc. (IAS), Accreditation Committee and are effective on the first of the month following
16 approval by the Accreditation Committee, but no earlier than 30 days following the approval.

17 **PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR PROFICIENCY TESTING**
18 **PROVIDERS**

19
20 **1. INTRODUCTION**

21 1.1. **Scope:** These criteria set forth the general requirements for the competence and impartiality of
22 proficiency testing (PT) providers requirements for obtaining and maintaining International
23 Accreditation Service, Inc. (IAS), Proficiency Testing Provider (PTP) accreditation. These
24 criteria supplement the IAS Rules of Procedure for Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditation.
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26 1.2. **Normative and Reference Documents:** Publications listed below refer to current editions
27 (unless otherwise stated).

28 1.2.1. ISO/IEC 17043:2023, Conformity assessment - General requirements for the
29 competence of proficiency testing providers.

30 ~~1.2.1.1.2.2.~~ 1.2.2. ISO/IEC 17043:2010, Conformity assessment - General requirements for
31 proficiency testing.

32 ~~1.2.2.1.2.3.~~ 1.2.2. ISO 13528:2022~~15~~, Statistical methods for use in proficiency testing by
33 interlaboratory comparison.

34 ~~1.2.3.1.2.4.~~ 1.2.3. IUPAC Harmonized Protocol: 2006.

35 ~~1.2.4.1.2.5.~~ 1.2.4. ILAC-P9, 06/2014, ILAC Policy for Participation in Proficiency Testing Activities.

36 1.2.6. ILAC P10:07/2020~~4/2013~~, ILAC Policy on Traceability of Measurement Results.

37 ~~1.2.5.~~ 1.2.5. ILAC-G27, 07/2019, Guidance on measurements performed as part of an inspection
38 process

39 ~~1.2.6.1.2.7.~~ 1.2.6. ISO/IEC 17000, Conformity assessment – Vocabulary and general principles.

40 ~~2.~~

41 **2. DEFINITIONS**

42 Applicable definitions of ISO/IEC Standard 17000 series apply (refer to above).

43
44 **3. ELIGIBILITY**

45 Accreditation services are available to organizations ~~and/or laboratories~~ that are:

46 3.1. ~~E~~Have effectively implementing the management system according to ISO/IEC 17043:2010
47 or ISO/IEC 17043:2023

48 3.2. Capable~~Are competent of to~~ conducting PT schemes~~inter-laboratory comparisons~~ in
49 accordance with ISO/IEC 17043:~~2010~~

50 3.3. Knowledgeable and h~~Have~~ access to expertise ~~with the~~ specific to the PT~~roficiency Testing~~
51 ~~(PT)~~ item being offered (i.e., conversant with the behavior of the product or item used in the PT
52 Scheme)

53 3.4. CAre competent in establishing and assigning the measurement of the properties being
54 determined for the use in a PT scheme.

55 3.4.---

56 3.5. The PT Provider must have a testing/calibration laboratory. Refer to the points below for
57 exceptions and additional requirements:

58 Note: Where a subcontractor is used, the subcontractor must have a testing/calibration
59 laboratory.

60 3.5.1 Note: If the testing/calibration/inspection of the PT items are conducted for the purpose of
61 ensuring the homogeneity and/or stability of the PT items used as well as for the purpose
62 of measuring or assigning the property value for measurand/characteristic then the
63 organization performing the activity facilities must comply with ISO 17034, ISO/IEC
64 17025, and/or ISO 15189 laboratory or ISO/IEC 17020 requirements, as required.

65 3.5.2 Where a subcontractor is used, the subcontractor must have a testing/calibration
66 laboratory.

67 3.5.3 In accordance with ILAC Resolution GA 26.09, all accredited PTPs must be transitioned to
68 the second edition of ISO/IEC 17043: 2023 by May 2026. At the end of the transition
69 period, accreditation of a proficiency testing provider to ISO/IEC 17043:2010 will not be
70 recognized under the ILAC Arrangement.

71 72 **4. REQUIRED BASIC INFORMATION**

73 PTP must demonstrate compliance with the following requirements:

74 4.1. ISO/IEC 17043:2023, Conformity assessment - General requirements for the competence of
75 proficiency testing providers.

76 4.1.4.2. ISO/IEC 17043:2010, Conformity assessment - General requirements for proficiency
77 testing,

78 4.2.4.3. ISO 13528:2022~~15~~, Statistical methods for use in proficiency testing by interlaboratory
79 comparison,

80 4.3.4.4. IAS Rules of Procedure for Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditation

81 82 **5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (AS APPLICABLE)**

83 5.1. **Homogeneity/stability check:** The PT items used for conducting the PT Schemes must be
84 sufficiently homogeneous and stable. Organizations performing homogeneous testing, stability
85 testing and assigning property values and associated uncertainty values of the PT items are
86 required to be in compliance with the requirements of ISO 17034 and ISO/IEC Standard-17025
87 (or ISO 15189 for medical laboratories).

89 The laboratory shall participate in proficiency testing, where available, for its testing activity.
90 The laboratory may also choose other options as indicated in Clause 7.7.1 of ISO/IEC Standard
91 17025.

92
93 5.2. **Internal calibration:** Where applicable, the following information must be provided or made
94 available to IAS prior to an assessment:
95 5.2.1. List of equipment that is calibrated internally for the production of the PT sample.
96 5.2.2. Specific procedures used for internal calibration of equipment.
97 5.2.3. Training and qualification records of personnel performing the internal calibration
98 and/or testing of PT items.
99 5.2.4. The internal measurement activity shall be audited as part of the organization’s internal
100 audit.

101 5.3. **Subcontracting:** A competent subcontractor engaged for testing and measurement by the
102 PTP is not limited to an accredited IAS Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) or a CAB
103 accredited by a signatory to ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement. The subcontractor must be
104 competent and meet the requirements of the latest version of ISO/IEC 17025 (refer to clause
105 [6.1.25-5](#), ISO/IEC 17043:2023 or 5.5 of ISO/IEC 17043:2010).
106

107 **6. LINKS TO ADDITIONAL REFERENCES**

- 108 6.1 Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation – www.apac-accreditation.org
109 6.2 Asia Pacific Legal Metrology Forum - www.aplmf.org
110 6.3 International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation – www.ilac.org
111 6.4 International Organization for Standardization – www.iso.org
112 6.5 International Electrotechnical Commission – www.iec.ch
113 6.6 International Organization of Legal Metrology – www.oiml.org
114 6.7 International Accreditation Service – www.iasonline.org

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116 *[These criteria were previously issued September 2019](#)*
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