




## **Policy Circular 11 — February 2010**

**Issued:** March 2003 **Amended and reissued:** March 2005, December 2006, January 2007, December 2009, February 2010

## **Policy on Metrological Traceability**




**© Copyright National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia 2010**

All intellectual property rights in this publication are the property of the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA).

Users of this publication acknowledge that they do not have the right to use this material without written permission from NATA.

This publication is protected by copyright under the Commonwealth of Australia Copyright Act 1968.

You must not modify copy, reproduce, republish, frame, upload to a third party, store in a retrieval system, post, transmit or distribute this content in any way or any form or by any means, except as expressly authorised by NATA.



# Policy on Metrological Traceability

This policy is applicable to all facilities accredited with NATA, whether they are located in Australia or overseas. Specific calibration requirements and related traceability issues are included in the field and program application documents that are available from the NATA website ([www.nata.com.au](http://www.nata.com.au)) under Accreditation Requirements.

## 1. Policy

This policy requires that the results of all tests, measurements and calibrations, together with the assigned values of reference materials, that have a significant effect on the reported result and associated uncertainty of measurement, to be traceable, where possible to national or international standards. To ensure this policy is maintained, all facilities must:

### 1) Equipment or instruments

Have these calibrated by one (or more, if relevant) of the organisations included below:

- a) a NATA accredited calibration facility and the results reported on a NATA endorsed document;
- b) a calibration facility accredited by one of NATA's mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) partners, when the MRA recognition covers calibration and the results are reported on an endorsed document;<sup>1</sup>
- c) Australia's National Measurement Institute (NMI) or a national metrology institute that is a signatory to the Comité International des Poids et Mesures (CIPM) MRA.<sup>2</sup>

### 2) Reference materials

Demonstrate suitable traceability of assigned values, through:

- a) a NATA accredited reference material provider and the results reported on a NATA endorsed document;
- b) a reference material provider accredited by one of NATA's mutual recognition arrangement (MRA) partners, when the MRA recognition covers reference material providers and the results are reported on an endorsed document;<sup>1</sup>
- c) Australia's National Measurement Institute (NMI) or a national metrology institute that is a signatory to the Comité International des Poids et Mesures (CIPM) MRA.<sup>2</sup>

or where there are no readily available reference material providers as described in 2a) to c):

- d) a competent supplier who can demonstrate traceability of its reference material(s) using specified methods and/or consensus standards that are clearly described and agreed by all parties concerned.

## 2. Further information

The document *Traceability in Chemical Measurement. A guide to achieving comparable results in chemical measurement* (available from [www.measurementuncertainty.org](http://www.measurementuncertainty.org)) provides additional information on this topic.

If you have any queries in relation to this policy please contact:

John Styzinski, Technical Manager

email: [John.Styzinski@nata.com.au](mailto:John.Styzinski@nata.com.au); ph: (03) 9329 1633 (NATA, Melbourne)

**Notes:**

1. For details of NATA's current MRA partners, refer to NATA's website: [www.nata.com.au](http://www.nata.com.au)
2. The calibration must actually be done by the NMI. Unendorsed reports from organisations claiming traceability to a NMI or those bearing only an ISO 9000 series certification logo are not acceptable.

**AMENDMENTS**

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

<b>Section</b>	<b>Amendment</b>
Title	Title altered to <i>Policy on Metrological Traceability</i>
Section 1	Detail of policy re-organised to include specific sections on equipment or instruments and reference materials
Section 2	Contact details for Helen Liddy removed