

**PERFORMANCE AND APPROVALS TESTING ACCREDITATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

3rd MEETING SUMMARY

The 3rd meeting of the Performance and Approvals Testing Accreditation Advisory Committee was held at NATA's Melbourne Office on 28th July 2015.

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

Review of current membership and composition of the Committee

Expressions of interest for Committee membership are to be sought via NATA's website in order to address the impending expiry of the appointment term for one current member.

The Committee also decided to formally appoint a Vice Chairman. Stephen Jenkins accepted this role.

Performance and Approvals Testing ISO/IEC 17025 Application Document and Annexes

The Committee resolved that a note is warranted within the applicable equipment table as to the possibility of measurement errors where radio frequency hazard probes have been calibrated using CW, due to more recent developments in mobile phone modulation.

Review of Classes of Test

The Committee resolved to remove class 3.19 from the Class of Test listing and to relocate affected tests to other product classes.

The increasing extent of firmware testing was also considered and, as a result, the possibility of defining detailed subclasses of test for class 3.24 is to be investigated.

Scope expression

There was discussion regarding the need to preserve clarity of expression where product standards as well as test methods are requested to appear in a scope. It was agreed that the approach should align with the Mechanical Testing field and should ensure that the two types of standards be separated in some way within any given class/subclass.

Measurement uncertainty

The Calibration field has amended its scopes of accreditation to explicitly include the term 'a level of confidence of 95%' in relation to the expression of measurement uncertainty. The Committee resolved to ensure that the same term is applied in cases where measurement uncertainty is included within scopes of accreditation within the PAT field.

Crossovers with Mechanical testing Scopes

In cases where testing disciplines traditionally associated with the Performance and Approvals Testing field appear in accreditation scopes within a product category traditionally associated with Mechanical Testing, the Committee resolved that this does not necessarily require a specialist technical assessor to be automatically included in the assessment team. Rather, it should be up to the Mechanical Testing assessment team when planning the visit to decide whether supplementary expertise, outside the Mechanical Testing field, is needed to provide adequate assessment coverage. The case of 'hybrid' scopes, where test classes from both fields appear within a single scope of accreditation, is a different situation. In this latter case, each designated field is responsible for ensuring adequate coverage for the corresponding portion of the scope.

Assessor matters

A review of technical assessor coverage is to be undertaken, with the purpose of identifying areas of expertise for which assessors are in particular demand, in order to facilitate appointments for critical areas.