Biological Testing ISO/IEC 17025 Application Document

Annex C: Accreditation of seed testing facilities

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

8.62 Commodity seed testing
- .01 Sprouting test
- .02 Mung bean export oversoak test
- .03 Chickpea/chickpea splits export purity test
- .04 Grain/legume purity test
- .05 Bird seed export quality grain test
- .06 Oil seeds purity, moisture and oil content
- .07 Bird seeds

8.63 Seed testing
- .11 Sampling
- .12 Moisture
- .13 Purity
- .14 Germination
- .15 Tetrazolium
- .16 Fluorescence
- .17 Weed seed search
- .99 Other tests

Applicant and accredited facilities must also comply with the ISO/IEC 17025 standard and the Biological Testing field application document and any field annexes, policies and/or technical circulars (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.

5.4 Test and calibration methods and method validation

5.4.4 The methods published by the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA) (and current at the date of testing) should be adopted as the standard used for testing.

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.

5.5 Equipment

Equipment maintenance instructions must include procedures for cleaning equipment. Equipment records must also include cleaning performed.

5.6.3 Reference materials

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 the scope of work undertaken by the laboratory.

5.8 Handling of test items

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.