



Specific Accreditation Criteria

ISO/IEC 17025 Application Document Life Sciences - Annex

Seed testing

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Purpose

In addition to the *ISO/IEC 17025 Standard Application Document (SAD)* and the accompanying *Life Science - Appendix*, this document provides interpretative criteria and recommendations for seed testing for both applicant and accredited facilities.

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, however, as not all clauses require interpretation, the numbering may not be consecutive.

6 Resource requirements

6.4 Equipment

6.4.3 Cleaning of equipment is important to prevent cross contamination between test samples. Hence, equipment maintenance procedures must include procedures for cleaning.

6.4.13 Equipment records must include cleaning performed.

6.5 Metrological traceability

6.5.3

Reference seed collection library

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

Technical literature

The facility must have access to reference literature for the identification of species relevant to the testing it performs.

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.

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 methods must be validated in accordance with the principles of ISTA (e.g. ISTA definitions of pure seed and germination).

7.4 Handling of test or calibration items

7.4.1 The ISTA requirement for sample retention on which ISTA International Certificates have been issued is 12 months. All other samples should be retained for at least 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	No new interpretative criteria or recommendations have been included other than editorial changes.