



**SRI LANKA ACCREDITATION BOARD**  
For CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

# **SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR PROFICIENCY TESTING PROVIDERS**

SRI LANKA ACCREDITATION BOARD FOR CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT				
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## ABREVIATIONS

- APMP - Asia Pacific Metrology Programme
- IEC - International Electro Technical Commission
- GACI - Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated
- ISO - International Organization for Standards
- MRA - Mutual Recognition Arrangement
- PTP - Proficiency Testing Providers
- APAC - Asia Pacific Accreditation Corporation
- SLAB - Sri Lanka Accreditation Board for Conformity Assessment

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Accreditation Scheme for Proficiency Testing Providers (PTPs) of the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB) is based on the requirements laid down in ISO/IEC 17043 conformity Assessment- General Requirements for Proficiency Testing Providers.
- 1.2 The requirements stipulated in ISO/IEC 17043 apply to proficiency testing service providers providing all types of proficiency testing programmes and inter-laboratory comparisons in different fields of testing, calibration and inspection. However, in certain instances additional guidance is considered and necessary to take into account the field of proficiency testing, competency level of personnel in the PTPs and the expertise required for different proficiency testing programmes according to the complexities based on the additional criteria published by the International / Regional Accreditation Organizations. (APAC)
- 1.3 This specific criteria document has been prepared by the Technical Advisory Committee on Proficiency Testing Service Providers and has been authorized for adoption by the Council of the Sri Lanka Accreditation Board (SLAB). PTPs seeking accreditation are required to comply with all the requirements listed in the international standard ISO/IEC 17043. This document supplements International Standard; ISO/IEC 17043 and provides guidance and interpretation of requirements for the accreditation of PTPs, assessors and for potential PTPs pursue accreditation.
- 1.4 This Specific Criteria document must be used in conjunction with ISO/IEC 17043. It provides an interpretation of the latter document and describes specific requirements for those clauses of ISO/IEC 17043 which are general in nature. Corresponding reference to the clauses in ISO /IEC 17043 is indicated in parenthesis in the text of the document. This document should be read in conjunction with the Rules & Procedures for Accreditation TL/CL/ML/IB/PTP/RMP/GLP (AC-RG(P)-26) of SLAB as applicable to PTPs. Further, all PTPs which provide Proficiency Testing Programmes as per ISO/IEC 17043 shall also comply with any national and regional laws, regulations and ethical standards as applicable.
- 1.5 This document will be periodically reviewed and updated based on experience gained and developments in technology.
- 1.6 All accredited Proficiency Testing Providers shall conform to specific requirements stipulated in this document at all times. For an applicant proficiency Testing Provider, accreditation will only be granted after it has demonstrated conformity to the specific criteria for proficiency testing providers and competence to undertake proficiency testing programmes in the relevant field of testing and /or calibration and inspection.

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## 2. NORMATIVE REFERENCES

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document and last edition of the referenced documents including any amendments applies. If there are any discrepancy in requirements described in ISO/IEC 17043 and the other related documents including ISO/IEC 17025 and ISO 15189, the ISO /IEC 17020, ISO 17034, ISO /IEC Guide 99:2007 shall take precedence.

ISO/IEC 17000:2020 - Conformity Assessment- Vocabulary and General Principles

ISO/IEC 17025:2017 - General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories

ISO 15189:2022 - Medical Laboratories – Particular requirements for Quality and Competence

ISO 13528: 2022 - Statistical Methods for use in proficiency testing by inter-laboratory comparisons

ISO 17020: 2012/2026 - Conformity Assessment- Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection

ISO 17034: 2016 - General requirements for the competence of reference material producers

ISO /IEC Guide 99:2007 - International Vocabulary of Metrology – Basic and General Concepts and Associated Terms (VIM)

## 3. TERMS & DEFINITIONS

The terms and definitions given in Clause 3 of ISO/IEC 17043:2023 shall apply.

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#### **4. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

##### ***IMPARTIALITY & CONFIDENTIALITY***

The requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 clause 4.1 & 4.2 apply.

#### **5. STRUCTURAL REQUIREMENTS**

The requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 clause 5 apply.

#### **6. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS**

##### **6.2 Personnel**

**The requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 clause 6.2 apply.**

Competence of the PTP personals to be complied to Annexure A

##### **6.3 Facilities and environmental conditions**

The requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 clause 6.3 apply.

##### **6.4 Externally provided products and services**

The requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 clause 6.4 apply.

If any activities of the PTP is obtained from external provider, an external provider holding current accreditation by SLAB or any other ILAC MRA partner for the relevant scope is accepted. Evidences of competence of external provider is also assessed during the assessments conducted by the SLAB at different stages of accreditation process such as pre assessments, initial, surveillance and re-assessments, as appropriate. SLAB may visit the external provider's premises where PT activities carried out and witnessing of relevant PT activities, as a part of the assessment, if necessary.

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## **7 Process requirements**

### **7.1 Establishing, contracting and communicating the PT scheme objectives**

The requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 clause 7.1 apply.

### **7.2 Design and planning of a PT scheme**

The requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 clause 7.2 apply.

### **Measurement uncertainty of participants results**

PT provider on testing may request participants to report Measurement Uncertainty. Whenever the PT provider asks the participants to report the measurement uncertainty, PT provider should consider the measurement uncertainty while evaluation the performance of the participants and same to be incorporated in the PT report. (Please refer ISO 13528:2022)

### **In case of calibration PT programs -**

For calibration proficiency testing (PT) programmes where the PT artefact is not owned by the PT provider (applicable only for on site calibrations), the following conditions shall be fulfilled:

- A written contract shall be established between the PT provider and the artefact owner.
- The contract duration shall be valid during the period of PT implementation and shall define responsibilities and conditions related to maintenance, servicing, storage, handling, and protection of the artefact to ensure its integrity.
- The contract shall also state that the artefact shall not be used for any purpose other than the PT programme during the PT implementation period.

### **7.3 Production and distribution of PT items**

The requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 clause 7.3 apply.

### **7.4 Evaluation and reporting of PT scheme results**

The requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 clause 7.4 apply.

### **7.5 Control of the PT scheme process**

The requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 clause 7.5 apply.

### **7.6 Handling of complaints**

The requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 clause 7.6 apply.

### **7.7 Handling of appeals**

The requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 clause 7.7 apply.

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## 8. MANAGEMENT SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Where the proficiency testing provider's laboratories are also a participant of the concerned proficiency testing scheme, there shall be documented procedures and mechanisms established to prevent collusion and falsification of results and the personnel involved in the operation of proficiency testing scheme shall be different from the personnel participating in the scheme.

### 8.1 General requirements

The requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 clause 8.1 apply.

### 8.2 Management system documentation

The requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 clause 8.2 apply.

### 8.3 Management system documentation

The requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 clause 8.3 apply.

### 8.4 Management system documentation

The requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 clause 8.4 apply.

### 8.5 Management system documentation

The requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 clause 8.5 apply.

### 8.6 Management system documentation

The requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 clause 8.6 apply.

### 8.7 Management system documentation

The requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 clause 8.7 apply.

### 8.8 Internal audits (*ISO/IEC 17043: 2023*)

The requirements given in clause 8.8 shall apply.

Internal auditors shall be familiar with the ISO/IEC 17043 & ISO 13528 requirements and other relevant national and international requirements, if applicable.

The proficiency testing provider shall perform internal audit at least once a year including the activities of the external providers for PT activities, if applicable.

### 8.9 Management reviews (*ISO/IEC 17043: 2023*)

The requirements given in Clause 8.9 of ISO/IEC 17043:2023 shall apply.

The proficiency testing provider shall perform management review meeting at least once a year.

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## APPENDIX A – MINIMUM COMPETENCY CRITERIA

Field	Task	Educational qualification	Knowledge/Training	Experience & Skill
Chemical / Biological	PT Report authorization, providing opinions and interpretations	Graduates in Science/Technology in relevant field (Eg- Chemistry, Physics/ Zoology/ Microbiology/Biotechnology / Molecular Biology) or equivalent qualifications/ NVQ level 07	Knowledge on ISO/IEC 17043 & ISO 13528 and relevant accreditation criteria	3 years minimum experience in relation to PT/ILC activities.
			Knowledge on ISO/IEC 17043 & ISO 13528 and relevant accreditation criteria	3 years minimum experience in relation to PT/ILC activities.
Mechanical		Graduates in Science/Technology or Engineering or equivalent qualifications in relevant field NVQ level 07	Knowledge on ISO/IEC 17043 & ISO 13528 and relevant accreditation criteria	3 years minimum experience in relation to PT/ILC activities.
Medical		MBBS degree from a recognized university	Knowledge on ISO/IEC 17043 & ISO 13528 and relevant accreditation criteria	3 years minimum experience in relation to PT/ILC activities.

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## APPENDIX B

### COMPOSITION OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SI No	Name	Designation	Status
01	Dr. H P P S Somasiri	Additional Director General, ITI	Chairman
02	Ms. Subadra Jayasinghe	PTP Representative – Association of Testing Laboratories	Member
03	Ms. Sujeewa Udakara	Retired Director, Metrology Division, SLSI	Member
04	Mr. S. D. I. Dias	Deputy Director, MUSSD	Member
05	Dr. S. I. Abeygunawardena	Retired Senior Lecturer, University of Kelaniya.	Member
06	Professor Chandrika Nanayakkara	Senior Lecturer, Department of Plant Science, University of Colombo.	Member
07	Ms. S. Muthuratne	Director, Building Material Research & Testing Division, NBRO	Member
09	Ms. Manisha Wickremasinghe	Deputy Director, SLAB	Technical Manager
08	Mr. N D S K Fernando Ms. P S T R Mudalige	Assistant Directors (Accreditation), SLAB	Co- secretaries

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