

1. Introduction

In May 2023, the International Standards Organisation (ISO) published a new edition of ISO/IEC 17043 *Conformity assessment – General requirements for competence of proficiency testing providers*, replacing ISO/IEC 17043:2010 *Conformity assessment – General requirements for proficiency testing*.

The International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) has resolved that accredited proficiency testing providers recognised under the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) have three years to transition their ISO/IEC 17043 accreditations of the new edition of the Standard; that is, by 31 May 2026. Any proficiency testing providers that continue to be accredited under the 2010 edition of the Standard at 31 May 2026 will not be recognised under the ILAC MRA.

As a Signatory to the ILAC MRA for the accreditation of proficiency testing providers, IANZ, and its accredited proficiency testing providers, are obliged to comply with the ILAC resolution. This document describes how the transition of accreditations to ISO/IEC 17043:2023 will be managed to ensure the prescribed deadlines will be met.

2. Timelines

All accredited proficiency testing providers must have demonstrated full conformity with ISO/IEC 17043:2023 by **31 May 2026**.

From **1 January 2024**, all IANZ assessments of applicant and accredited proficiency testing providers will be against ISO/IEC 17043:2023.

3. The Assessment Process

All new applications for accreditation under the IANZ Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditation Programme received after 1 July 2023 will be assessed against ISO/IEC 17043:2023.

Currently accredited proficiency testing providers will be assessed against the new standard at their next scheduled annual IANZ assessment after 1 January 2024. In the case where this scheduled visit is a Surveillance Assessment or Technical Assessment (as distinct from a Routine Reassessment), an additional documentation (Quality Manual) review will be required prior to the visit. Your IANZ Lead Assessor will contact you in advance to request the required documentation.

Where Nonconformities with ISO/IEC 17043:2023 are identified at this next scheduled 2024 assessment:

- Normal timeframes for addressing the Nonconformities will apply where the Nonconformity is also considered to be a Nonconformity with ISO/IEC 17043:2010;
- Where a Nonconformity with ISO/IEC 17043:2023 is identified, but is not a Nonconformity with ISO/IEC 17043:2010, IANZ will encourage the proficiency testing provider to address the Nonconformity within 3 months. However, up to 12 months is permitted and it will be cleared, at the latest, at the scheduled assessment in 2025. Nonconformities identified at 2025 assessments must be addressed within normal timeframes.

Accredited proficiency testing providers may wish to transition their accreditation to the new standard before their scheduled 2024 assessment. Please contact the Programme Manager/Specialist – each request, and the process to be followed, will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Once the accredited proficiency testing provider has fully demonstrated conformity with the new standard, a new Certificate of Accreditation and Schedule to the Certificate of Accreditation will be issued referencing ISO/IEC 17043:2023. Annual visit anniversaries, current year in the accreditation cycle, initial accreditation dates, IANZ accreditation numbers and other identifiers will remain unchanged.

4. Failure to transition

From **31 May 2026**, all accreditations to ISO/IEC 17043:2010 will cease to be valid.

Any IANZ accredited proficiency testing providers that have not transitioned their accreditations by **31 May 2026** will have their accreditation suspended at that date until such time as full conformity with ISO/IEC 17043:0223 has been demonstrated. Proficiency testing providers cannot claim accreditation for their activities while the accreditation is suspended.

5. Assistance

Any queries regarding this Transition Notice, please contact either:

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