

PERFORMANCE AND APPROVALS TESTING
ACCREDITATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

4th MEETING SUMMARY

The 4th meeting of the Performance and Approvals Testing Accreditation Advisory Committee was held at NATA's Melbourne Office on 8 March 2017.

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

The Committee discussed the proposed realignment of NATA's technical structure and the establishment of the proposed Electrotechnology Testing AAC.

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

The Committee acknowledged the 2017 Draft Performance and Approvals Testing Application Document which has completed a period of public comment review.

Review of Classes of Test

The Committee discussed the pending transfer of all NATA laboratories to a new tabular scope format and acknowledged that NATA's traditional fields and programs will be replaced by 'activity types'. These are considered to give a better reflection of the industries and professions in which NATA accredits facilities.

Firmware assessment for electrical equipment

The Committee discussed the requirements for firmware assessment of electrical equipment and agreed that security evaluation aspects of such product types must be captured sufficiently within NATA's information management systems and reflected in Scopes of Accreditation.

Reporting in relation to product standards

The Committee considered proposed additions to the Performance and Approvals Testing criteria concerning reporting in relation to product standards. The Committee agreed that since regulators have some reliance on product standards the proposed text is intended to provide greater clarity in relation to the nature of conformity assessment being provided for manufactured goods.

Reporting to adoptions of international standards

The Committee resolved that accreditation to a standard does not enable explicit reporting to international or regional variants/adoptions of that standard, unless the variants/adoptions are also listed within the Scope of Accreditation.

Periodic low range calibration of power meters

The Committee considered the implications of any company obtaining an initial and full calibration of a power meter but then neglecting periodic low range calibration of such equipment when used for standby power (low range) measurements. The Committee agreed

that the calibration regime should reflect the testing applications and that it is the responsibility of the testing facility to demonstrate appropriate equipment assurance.

Technical standards that contain guidance on measuring equipment calibration

The Committee acknowledged guidance provided in MIL-STD-461G standard that 'passive devices' such as RF current clamps, antennas and LISNs require no formal calibration after manufacture unless repairs are undertaken. However the Committee also referred to the requirements of NATA Policy Circular 11 and noted their position that the MIL standard does not override these requirements in any way.