



Scope of application:

The purpose of This document is to describe ALGERAC's policy on :

- The expression of opinions and interpretations and declarations of conformity by accredited testing laboratories or candidates for accreditation according to the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017, and their communication to potential clients;
- Their assessment by ALGERAC's team of assessors.

References

- *International Standard - General Requirements - ISO-IEC 17025-2017 Accreditation of Field Testing and Field Calibration Laboratories:*
 - § 6.2 Personnel
 - § 7.1. Review of Requests, Tenders and Contracts
 - § 7.8.3 Specific requirements for test reports
 - § 7.8.6 Reporting on declarations of conformity
 - § 7.8.7 Reporting of opinions and interpretations
- EA-4/23:10/2019 the assessment and accreditation of opinions and interpretations using ISO/IEC 17025:2017
- ILAC G8: 2019 Guide lines on Decision Rules and Statements of Conformity

Terms :

Opinions and interpretation: Is the process by which the results of a test can be extended. It is assessed by a technically qualified person and/or organization and further conclusions are made based on the result produced, using the person's/organization's knowledge and professional judgment in the field of testing/calibration under consideration in charge. Opinions and interpretations must be technically sound and supported by definitive evidence.

Decision-making rule: Rule describing how measurement uncertainty is taken into account when declaring compliance with a specified requirement

Policy ALGERAC :

ISO/IEC 17025: 2017 introduces the concept of opinions and interpretations on calibration and test results "**§ 7.8.7.2 The opinions and interpretations expressed in the reports shall be based on the results obtained for the object being tested or calibrated and shall be clearly identified as such**"

"§7.8.3. In addition to the requirements listed in 7.8.2, the test reports shall include the following, where necessary for the interpretation of the results "where appropriate and necessary, opinions and interpretations (see 7.8.7)".

The accredited laboratory or applicant for accreditation must be able to state in writing the basis for the opinions and interpretations given in the reports, "§ 7.8.7

Where opinions and interpretations are given, the laboratory shall state in writing the basis for the opinions and interpretations given:

**The Staff :**

The activity of issuing opinions/interpretation must be entrusted only to duly authorised personnel, only duly qualified personnel can issue opinions and interpretations. The latter must have a satisfactory knowledge of the analytical method, measurement uncertainty and technical standards. Up-to-date job descriptions of these personnel may include: authorizations, qualifications, competence, experience in the field and training of personnel (see§6.2).

The Contracts Review:

Opinions and interpretations may be communicated to the client upon request either in writing or through direct dialogue during contract review. This dialogue should be documented.

Assessment:

ALGERAC's assessment team ensures that the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standard for advice and interpretation are met.

« §7.8.7.2 Opinions and interpretations expressed in reports shall be based on the results obtained for the test object or calibrated object and shall be clearly identified as such ».

Opinions and interpretations should be reported as such in the reports for :

- ; - *distinguish them from test results obtained according to the methods indicated*
- *to distinguish them in particular from advice and expertise, not covered by ISO/IEC 17025.*

Opinions and interpretations are an integral part of the report, and are only required if they provide the client with special insight into the meaning and use of the results reported in the report.

Opinions or interpretations may not be necessary for routine tests requested by an experienced client. Where the report shows the results of more than one determination, it should be made clear which results were used to reach the conclusion.

The scope of ALGERAC's assessment of the testing laboratory's competence necessarily covers the advice and interpretation aspect, except where a laboratory never issues advice and interpretation, for example where it performs routine tests only. It is therefore permissible for it not to develop a process for issuing opinions and interpretations, this must be documented in its quality system.

Scope of accreditation:

The laboratory's scope of accreditation in the technical annex of the accreditation certificate does not systematically mention the laboratory's capacity to issue opinions and interpretations, as this capacity is implicit; at the request of the accredited laboratory, this clarification is made in the technical annex by clearly mentioning the tests concerned by the opinion and interpretation.

**General Manager
N. BOUDISSA**