

**Object:**

ALGERAC, as an associate member of EA and a full member of ILAC, is committed to harmonizing its policies and practices so as to maintain its membership status of mutual recognition.

ALGERAC has made it an obligation for testing/analytical, calibration laboratories and, if appropriate, inspection bodies, to participate in interlaboratory comparisons and proficiency testing in order to demonstrate the validity of their results

Scope:

This policy applies to testing/analytical and calibration laboratories, accredited or candidate for accreditation; and, if relevant, to inspection bodies.

References:

- ISO/IEC 17011: Conformity assessment - Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting
- ISO/IEC 17025: Conformity assessment - General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories
- ISO/IEC 17043: Conformity assessment - General requirements for proficiency testing
- *ILAC- P9:06 - ILAC policy for participation in national and international proficiency testing activities*
- *EA- 4/18 : Guidelines on the level and frequency of proficiency testing participation*
- *EA-4/21 INF: Guidelines for the assessment of the appropriateness of small interlaboratory comparisons within the process of laboratory accreditation*

Terms and definitions:

The terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 17043 and document EA- 4/18 apply for this document:

- **Interlaboratory comparison** : Organization, performance and evaluation of measurements or tests on the same or similar items by two or more laboratories in accordance with predetermined conditions
- **Proficiency testing**: Evaluation of participant performance against pre-established criteria by means of interlaboratory comparisons.
- **Proficiency testing provider**: *Organisation which takes responsibility for all tasks in the development and operation a proficiency testing scheme.*
- **Frequency of participation**: The number of times a laboratory has decided to take part in a proficiency testing.

Abbreviations:

ILAC : International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation

EA : European Cooperation for Accreditation

MRA : Multilateral Recognition Agreement

CAB : Conformity Assessment Body

ILC : Interlaboratory comparison

PT : Proficiency testing



1. Policy

On the basis of the items mentioned above, and in order that the information and conclusions following the participation in its ILC/PT events may be as effective as possible, the accreditation body has embraced the following policy:

-ALGERAC promotes participation in ILC/PTs as an effective and efficient tool for determining the performance of laboratories and the continuous monitoring of their performance and, if necessary, inspection bodies.

-For inspection bodies, participation in ILC/PT may happen for testings that directly affect inspection results, or when it is required by law.

-ALGERAC informs laboratories/inspection bodies, accredited or applicant to accreditation, to take part in ILC/PT to be organised by peers when the participation is possible and relevant to the accreditation scope.

-A laboratory/inspection body shall cover all of its accredited activities in an accreditation cycle through participation in ILC/PT.

-A laboratory/inspection body must cover all its activities to be accredited through participation in ILC/PT before initial accreditation;

ALGERAC applies the cascading principle within the frame of participation in ILC/PT according to the following scheme:

- 1. National ILC/PT provider accredited to ISO/IEC 17043 by a body which is a party to mutual recognition agreement;*
- 2. International ILC/PT provider accredited to ISO/IEC 17043 by a body which is a party to mutual recognition agreement located, as far as possible, in the following regions: Maghreb, Africa, Mediterranean region, Europe, etc.) ;*
- 3. National ILC/PT provider non-accredited to ISO/IEC 17043*
- 4. International ILC/PT provider non-accredited to ISO/IEC 17043*
- 5. ILC/PT provided by laboratory/inspection body accredited or applicant for accreditation; if this is the case, the rules defined in EA-4/21 are applicable.*
- 6. In the event 1 to 5 are not available, other means aiming at ensuring the validity of the results shall be used (in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 (subparagraph 7.7.1))*

Laboratories/ inspection bodies shall ensure the following:

1. To set up Implement a procedure on the surveillance of result validity,
2. Document the frequency of participation in ILC/PT for each discipline so as to ensure the validity of their testings/analyses/calibration for all the scope under accreditation.
3. have criteria to examine the results of participation in ILC/PT according to ILAC P9, and take the necessary measures in the case of unsatisfactory results;
4. Submit to ALGERAC all the results of their participation in those ILC/PT



While documenting the frequency of participation in ILC/PT, laboratories shall take into account what follows below:

- Other measures implemented to ensure quality (as defined by *ISO/IEC 17025* (subparagraph 7.7.1))
- The risk represented by the laboratory, activity sector, methodology, and/or the decision made on the basis of testing/analysis/calibration results.

For inspection bodies, the above points shall apply, where necessary.

2. Accreditation requirements

Laboratories/(otherwise) inspection bodies shall provide evidence of successful participation in, at least, one ILC/PT for the scope, prior to initial accreditation (carried out at N-1 as the latest date).

Laboratories/(otherwise) inspection bodies shall provide evidence of continued participation in ILC/PT, according to an established scheme for the accredited scope, at least one participation in ILC/PT for the entire scope in an accreditation cycle..

If, for a technical field, PTs are not available or accessible, the laboratories involved and otherwise inspection bodies shall document and implement an approach in order to ensure the validity of testing/calibration results.

2.1 ALGERAC shall evaluate:

During an on-site visit, the evaluating team shall evaluate the following:

1. Relevance of the program of participation in ILC/PT;
2. At each evaluation, ILC/PT results are examined through reports;
3. Relevance and effectiveness of the corrective measures in the case of unsatisfactory participation in ILC/PT.
4. Methods for processing (statistically) and presenting the results (ex. Score z, En, etc.).

General Director

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