



ISO/IEC 17043:2023: General requirements for the competence of Proficiency Testing Providers

Overview

The ISO/IEC 17043 standard contains all the managerial and technical requirements for effective design and operation of a Proficiency Test Scheme for laboratories. This is achieved through formal control over managerial and technical activities, processes and systems involved in the scheme's design, management, and operation.

Effective design of the preparation of PT samples; ensuring stability and homogeneity the samples; the statistical approach to assigning reference values; and the control of distribution of samples and reporting of results in a standardized manner is critical to the continued success of any PT scheme.

Quality Africa's approach to training PT coordinators is to first place emphasis on the technical requirements of:

Resource Requirements

- Personnel
- Facilities
- Products & Services

Design and planning of a PT scheme

- Statistical design
- Determination of assigned values
- Production and distribution of PT items

Production of PT items

- Homogeneity and stability assessment of PT items
- Handling and storage of PT items
- Packaging, labelling and distribution of PT items
- Instructions for participants

Evaluation and reporting of PT scheme results

- Data analysis
- Evaluation of performance
- PT reports

Control of the PT scheme process

- Technical records
 - Control of data and information management
 - Surveillance of the processes
 - Nonconforming work
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Materials

The Workshop is interspersed with individual and group exercises that entrench specific core principles, which allow the delegates to apply the principles to their own work environment. Some exercises require calculations and delegates should bring calculators or laptops.

Outcomes

Understanding of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043-2023.

Ability to apply the requirements within the delegates' respective work environment.

Ability to initiate and achieve readiness for accreditation through a project approach.

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These are the fundamental technical building blocks for design and development of the scheme and which form the basis of success or failure of the scheme at its outset. Then the management requirements, which ensure the establishment of a robust system, are addressed ultimately resulting in the establishment of a well-documented quality system that is self-sustainable through:

- Document Control.
- Complaints Handling.
- Risks and Opportunities
- Improvement
- Corrective Action.
- Continual Improvement.
- Internal Audits.
- Management Review.

Duration

The training is designed as a four-day highly interactive workshop.

Objectives

The course is designed to ensure that delegates leave with a clear understanding on

- how to interpret the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043;
- how to design and develop a PT Scheme; and
- how to initiate and achieve readiness for accreditation by an ILAC registered accreditation body.

Evaluation

An individual 1-hour examination to evaluate the delegates' understanding of the principles involved in the implementation of the requirements of the standard will be conducted.

Certificates

Attendance certificates are issued, and certificates of successful completion are awarded to delegates who score greater than 60% in the end of course knowledge assessment.
