

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
TESTING AUTHORITIES, AUSTRALIA**

DRIVING CREDIBILITY DELIVERING CONFIDENCE



SETTING THE STANDARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

Standards are crucial to our daily lives. They apply to the food we eat, the water we drink, the products and services we use. In today's increasingly complex world, maintaining standards is more important than ever.

The National Association of Testing Authorities Australia (NATA) is the nation's leading body assessing the competence of organisations implementing standards across a broad range of social and commercial fields, from mining and construction materials to health and pathology services.

As the basis for national and international agreements, these benchmarks are vital for trade, risk mitigation and waste reduction. As the foundations by which business, government and consumers can make informed decisions, they deliver a healthier and safer community for everyone.



WHO IS NATA?

Established in 1947, NATA is Australia's foremost organisation responsible for the accreditation of laboratories, inspection bodies, calibration services, producers of reference materials and proficiency testing scheme providers throughout Australia.

It is also Australia's compliance monitoring authority for the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) Principles of GLP (Good Laboratory Practice).

NATA provides independent assurance of technical competence through a process of accreditation, which formally recognises that these facilities produce reliable technical results. NATA's work increases community confidence and trust in a facility's services, mitigates risk, improves tendering success and facilitates trade.

Thanks to a Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Government and agreements with various state and territory governments and government departments, NATA is government's partner for accreditation and related services.





WHAT WE DO

NATA's expertise and service cover not just assessment and accreditation but also training, and advisory roles both in Australia and overseas.

Assessment and accreditation

Facilities that perform testing, inspection, calibration or related professional or technical services can apply for NATA accreditation. These facilities may range from one-person companies to multi-disciplinary organisations. Accreditation can also be granted to field operations and temporary or mobile facilities.

Development

Our programs take into account the flexible and changing nature of the Australian market. We are always open to exploring emerging areas of accreditation and 'non-accreditation' activities that are aligned with our core values.

Specialist training and advice

We offer a wide range of courses relevant to the international standards that underpin NATA accreditation, including ISO/IEC 17025, ISO 15189 the OECD Principles of GLP and lead assessor training.

NATA also provides training for staff involved in the development of accreditation bodies, laboratories and inspection bodies, both here and overseas.

HOW WE OPERATE

Independent and not-for-profit, NATA is an association owned by its accredited members. It relies on the dedication of around 3,000 technical experts who volunteer their time to evaluate the technical competence of accredited facilities.

We regularly engage with major stakeholders on policy matters and take advice on technical matters from a series of technical committees comprised of experts in their field.

CREDIBILITY AND CONFIDENCE: THE BENEFITS OF ACCREDITATION

Accreditation builds credibility. Credibility builds confidence. These two factors are critical for creating the conditions in which consumers, business and government can work together.

Opening doors for accredited organisations

Being recognised for technical competence within an internationally renowned system offers a wealth of advantages.

Accredited organisations enjoy the security of knowing they have a proven, independently assessed benchmark for performance. Accreditation is often a pre-requisite for government tendering opportunities and access to markets. It also delivers an important point of difference in a competitive environment.

Creating consumer confidence

Every day, consumers rely on the assumption that products and services meet appropriate standards.

Accreditation recognises credible and competent organisations that perform the testing and inspection activities for those products and services. It gives consumers the assurance they need to make safe, healthy and reliable choices.

Providing tools to government and regulators

Credible accreditation programs are often a more viable alternative to regulation for government and other authorities. With a broad range of responsibilities for services and activities, regulators can deliver the public confidence they need to function effectively.

Accreditation also serves to stimulate competition and support international trade.

Reducing risk for business

Accreditation is a valuable risk management tool. Businesses can reduce the possibility of product failure, help control manufacturing costs and demonstrate due diligence in the event of legal challenge.

With accreditation supporting part or all of their supply chain, businesses can create a powerful competitive advantage both here and internationally.



BUILDING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Accreditation forms a critical element of international trade agreements between Australia and other nations. As Australia's premier accreditation body, NATA plays a significant part in developing global cooperative initiatives and forming partnerships with similar organisations around the world.

These include the role as a founding and active member of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) as well as collaborations with other major international bodies.

Mutual recognition arrangements

NATA's Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs) mean that Australian test, inspection and calibration data are recognised overseas and Australian goods accepted in foreign markets.

Currently, the MRAs cover more than 60 organisations in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas. The list is expanding as the value of accreditation to international trade is recognised and NATA looks to the future and Australia's place in the global market.



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