



*Joint ILAC-ISO Communiqué on the
recognition of ISO/IEC 17025 during a Three-Year Transition**

Laboratories wishing to demonstrate their technical competence can do so via conformity with the international standard ISO/IEC 17025 'General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories'. Conformity with this standard also means that the laboratory operates a management system generally in accordance with the principles of ISO 9001.

In 2017, ISO published a revision to ISO/IEC 17025 (previously published in 2005) to ensure that requirements continue to meet the demands of the modern market place. As a consequence, it has been agreed that laboratories that demonstrate conformity through third-party accreditation will need to transition their processes to the new version within a defined timeframe. ILAC, in consultation with ISO, agreed that a three year period* from the date of publication shall be allowed for this transition.

During this transition period, it is important to note that both ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and ISO/IEC 17025:2017 are equally valid and applicable. Accreditation to either version of the standard granted by an accreditation body that is a signatory to the ILAC Arrangement should be recognised by the market place, and it is therefore strongly recommended that specifiers recognise both versions until after the 3-year transition period* has closed.

**June 2020 revision: The end of the transition period has been extended from November 2020 to 1 June 2021. ILAC and ISO have agreed to this extension to ensure all laboratories are able to be transitioned following the restrictions imposed as a result of the global coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak.*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Etty Feller'.

ILAC Chair

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'RZF'.

ISO/CASCO Chair