



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Institute of Standards and Technology**  
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899

March 29, 2018

Dear NIST Measurement Services Customer,

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), U.S. Department of Commerce, is the Federal agency responsible for developing, maintaining and disseminating national metrology standards – realizations of the International System of Units (SI) - for the basic measurement quantities, and for many derived measurement quantities. Measurement results throughout the U.S., and indeed the world, are traceable to NIST's realizations of the SI. In turn, NIST establishes the traceability of its own measurement results and the values of its own standards while operating in accordance with the [NIST Quality System](#). The NIST Quality System is based on ISO/IEC 17025:2005 for its measurement and calibration functions. ISO 8000 is used as the relevant standard for functions specific to the development and availability of NIST Standard Reference Data. ISO REMCO Guide 34 is used as the relevant standard for functions specific to the development and production of Certified Reference Materials, called NIST Standard Reference Materials (SRMs). The Quality System for the delivery of measurement services is based on ISO 9001. Conformance to these standards for the NIST laboratories and divisions performing and delivering measurement services has been verified using an assessment process administered by NIST's Quality Manager as described in the quality manual [NIST QM-I](#).

As the primary agency for U.S. measurement standards, NIST does not employ third-party audits. In general, NIST will not sign or complete any affidavits, acknowledgment forms, surveys, questionnaires, or other documents that may be required by any domestic or foreign entity for their policy governing procurement of goods and services. Such documents generally contain provisions that conflict with U.S. statutes and/or ask NIST to document how NIST fulfills the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025 with regard to traceability to itself.

It is intended that this information along with the descriptions of policies, terms and conditions of the NIST's provision of [Calibration Services](#), [Standard Reference Data](#) and/or [Standard Reference Materials](#), will serve the goals of your inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally D. Bruce".

Sally Bruce

NIST Quality Manager

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100 Bureau Drive, Stop 2100  
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-2100  
Phone (301) 975-2323, email: <mailto:sally.bruce@nist.gov>



*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 generally operates a management system 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. Formal accreditation to either standard granted by an accreditation body that is a signatory to the ILAC Arrangement should be recognised by the market place, and it is strongly recommended that specifiers equally recognise both versions until after the 3-year transition period has closed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Mats Walmqvist Nilsson'.

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ILAC Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. J. ...'.

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ISO/CASCO Chair