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## **The Progress of Proficiency Testing Accreditation**

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# The Progress of PT Accreditation

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## Overview

- Evolution of NATA's PT Scheme Providers Accreditation
- Accreditation criteria
- Assessment process
- NATA Accredited PT Providers
- Other issues for consideration

## Evolution of NATA's PT Scheme Providers Accreditation Program

In 2002, NATA converted its Proficiency Testing Approval Scheme to an accreditation program – NATA Proficiency Testing Scheme Providers (PTSP).

By 2006 there were 17 accreditations with 50 technical units.

Today, there are 13 accreditations with 45 technical units.

NATA has applied for its PTSP program to be included under its signatory status to the APLAC MRA.

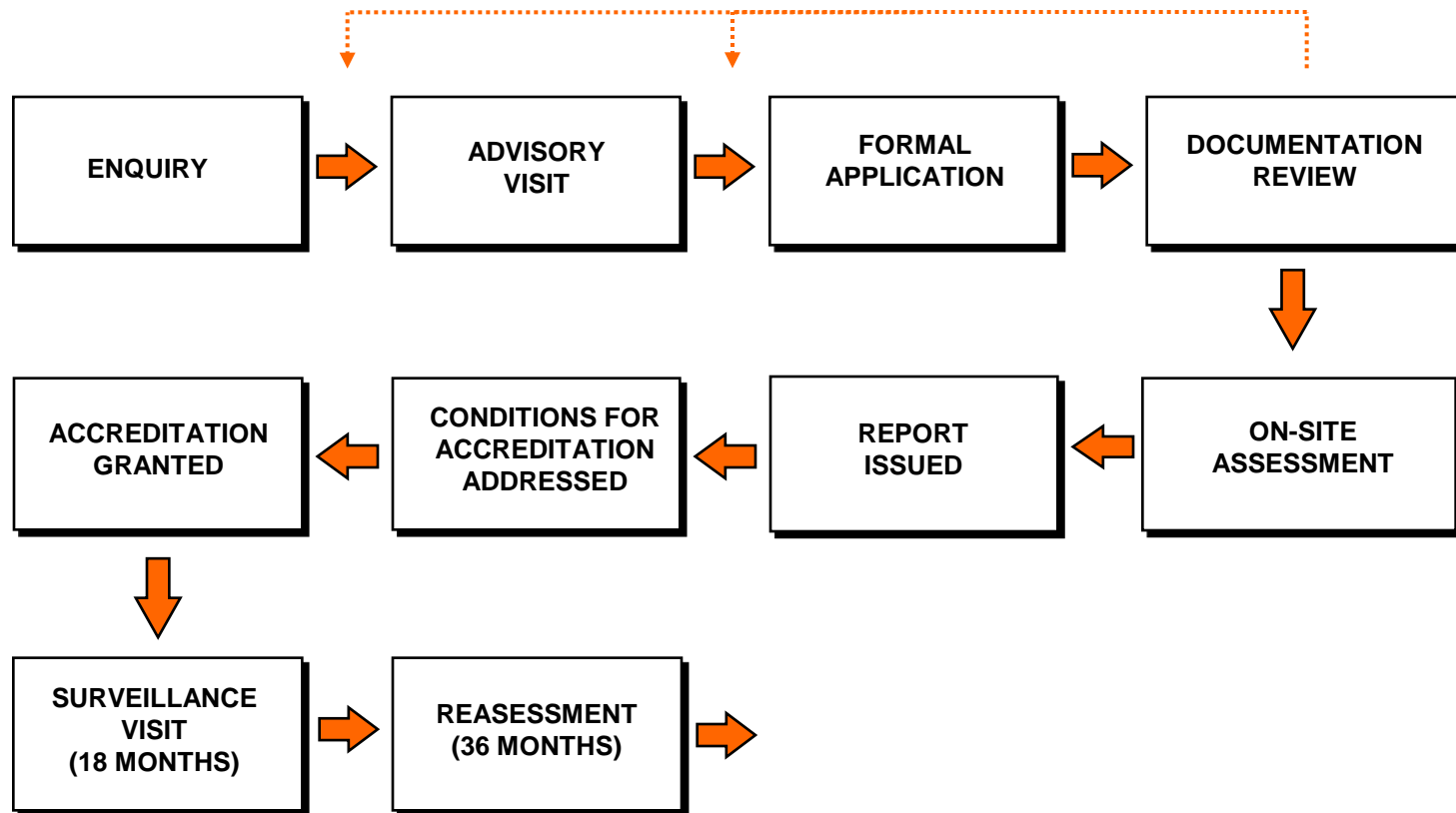
## Accreditation criteria

Previously, NATA applicant or accredited PT providers were assessed against ILAC Guide 13 *Guidelines for the Requirements for the Competence of Providers of Proficiency Testing Schemes*.

In 2010, a new standard for PT providers was established ISO/IEC 17043:2010 *Conformity assessment – General requirements for proficiency testing*.

NATA adopted ISO/IEC 17043:2010 as part of its accreditation criteria for PTSP from 1 January 2011.

# Accreditation Process



## NATA Accredited PT Providers

Today, there are 13 accreditations supporting the following industries:

- Environment (2);
- Agriculture, Food and Beverages (3);
- Health and Community Services (8);
- Materials Testing and Industrial Products (1).

NATA has recently updated its categories of PT schemes for the scopes of accreditation to reflect an industry classification.

## NATA Accredited PT Providers

Scopes of PTSP accreditations will be updated to include:

- The industry group or discipline for which the scheme is targeted;
- The testing service group or testing activity which the scheme supports;
- The artefact, test item, equipment, matrix, or material which is distributed to the participants;
- The determination, test result, or measurement for which the proficiency testing participants report.

Providers may also choose to list the testing techniques for which the scheme is based and the statistical methods each scheme uses.



## NATA Accredited PT Providers

Example of how a PTSP scope of accreditation may be expressed:

Agriculture, Foods and Beverages

Biological Composition and Contaminants

Meat and Meat Products

*Detection of Salmonella*

## Other issues for consideration

In 2006, there were:

**17** NATA accredited PT providers with **50** technical units

Today, there are:

**13** NATA accredited PT providers with **45** technical units

**NO GROWTH**

**WHY?**

## Acknowledgements

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**Thank you for your time**