

Policy

PL - 59

POLICY AND PROCEDURE OF SNAS IN ASSESSMENT OF PROFICIENCY TESTING PROVIDER ACCORDING TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE STANDARD ISO/IEC 17043: 2023

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Director SNAS

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SCOPE: This regulation determines the policy and procedure of SNAS when transitioning to the accreditation of proficiency testing providers according to the requirements of the revised ISO/IEC 17043: 2023 standard published in May 2023.

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Date of elaboration: 09.09.2023

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1 POLICY

SNAS assesses the competence of proficiency testing (PT) providers, if they request it, according to the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17043 standard.

In May 2023, a revised version of the ISO/IEC 17043: 2023 standard was published, bringing a more comprehensive revision compared to its previous version, ISO/IEC 17043: 2010. The standard is applicable to all types of Proficiency testing providers.

SNAS, in accordance with the resolution adopted at the ILAC General Assembly: "Resolution GA 26.08" dated 15.11.2022 regarding the transition period for the implementation of the new standard and the assessment of compliance with its requirements for proficiency testing providers, recommended a three-year transition period for the implementation of the revised standard from its editions. The deadline for the end of the transitional period is set at **31.05.2026**. By this deadline, all accredited PT providers must meet the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17043: 2023 standard, which SNAS will check during planned or unplanned assessments and, in case of their fulfilment, grant accreditation with a reference to meeting the new version of the standard. In the event of a change in the date of the transition period by ILAC, SNAS reserves the right to modify the dates specified in this policy.

2 ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE AND DEADLINES

Applications for accreditation, reaccreditation and extension according to the ISO/IEC 17043: 2010 standard will be accepted by SNAS **no later than 30.04.2024**. (From May 1. 2024, SNAS only accepts requests for accreditation, reaccreditation and extension according to the ISO/IEC 17043: 2023 standard).

SNAS will accept applications for the granting of accreditation, applications for re-accreditation or applications for extension of PT according to the standard, **at the earliest from 01.05.2024**.

Accredited PT providers meeting the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17043: 2010 standard shall notify SNAS in writing by **01.05.2024 at the latest**, whether they have implemented the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17043: 2023 standard in their management system, or by what date they will implement these requirements, but this deadline **may not exceed 31.07.2025**. SNAS, during the planned assessments, will check the fulfilment of the requirements of the standard. PT organizers can request an assessment of the fulfilment of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043: 2023, even outside of the planned assessments, which SNAS will carry out in the form of an extraordinary assessment. All assessments on site, remotely, or in a combined form with the aim of verifying the fulfilment of requirements will be carried out **by 31.01.2026 at the latest**.

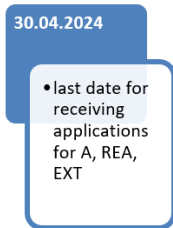
Accredited PT providers according to the ISO/IEC 17043: 2010 standard shall demonstrate compliance with all requirements of the ISO/IEC 17043: 2023 standard **by 31.03.2026**, and SNAS will grant accreditation to these PT providers **by 31.05.2026 at**

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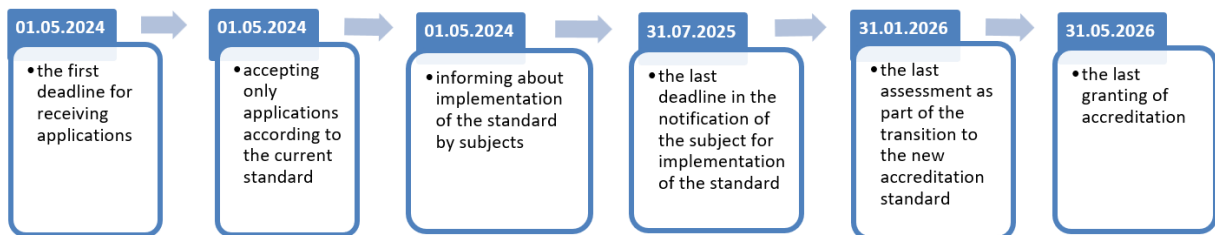
the latest with a decision and accreditation certificate, in which it will be listed reference to meeting the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17043: 2023 standard (the period of validity of the accreditation will remain).

For the implementation of the requirements of the updated version of the ISO/IEC 17043: 2023 standard, a sufficiently long period of time is set. Since the ISO/IEC 17043: 2023 standard also includes unchanged or reformulated requirements of the previous version of the standard published in 2010, the assessment findings will be classified in accordance with MSA-04. Disagreements must be eliminated within the period specified in Act No. 53/2023 Coll. on the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies and on the amendment of certain laws.

ISO/IEC 17043: 2010:



ISO/IEC 17043: 2023:



3 RELATED DOCUMENTATION

ISO/IEC 17043: 2023	Conformity assessment — General requirements for the competence of proficiency testing providers
ISO/IEC 17011	Conformity assessment - Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting conformity assessment bodies.
MSA-04	Accreditation procedure
Act No. 53/2023 Z. z.	Act on Accreditation of Conformity Assessment Bodies

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4 ANNEXES

Annex 1 Plan of the implementation of the ISO/IEC 17043: 2023 standard into the practice of assessing SNAS performed by PT providers.

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ANNEX 1

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN OF THE ISO/IEC 17043: 2023 STANDARD INTO ASSESSMENT PRACTICE
PERFORMED BY SNAS AT PT PROVIDERS.**

No.	Phase	Term
1	Analysis of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043: 2023	June - August 2023
2	Discussion within the SNAS on the interpretation of the requirements of the ISO standard ISO/IEC 17043: 2023	September - October 2023
3	Standard harmonization	European Commission
4	EA training on ISO/IEC 17043: 2023 requirements	February 2024 (date determined by EA)
5	Creation of the Working Group for the implementation of ISO/IEC 17043: 2023 into SNAS practice; Training for SNAS workers	January/February 2024
6	Update of the SNAS documentation, including control questions for assessing compliance with the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17043: 2023 standard	February- April 2024
7	Improvement training of VP/ P/E SNAS aimed at interpreting the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17043: 2023 standard and the updated SNAS documentation, informing the VP and P about the training outputs (if necessary)	May 2024
8	Information in the accreditation board about the provision of services according to the requirements of the ISO/IEC 17043: 2023 standard	May/June 2024
9	Informative seminar for PT providers accredited by SNAS	May 2023 – information about the release of a new standard, May 2024 – Slovak, English
10	Start of accepting applications for accreditation according to ISO/IEC 17043: 2023	May 2024

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