



# LABORATORY SERVICES INTERNATIONAL BV

## LME LISTED SAMPLERS AND ASSAYERS

### FAQ's about ISO 17025

#### 1. What is ISO 17025

ISO/IEC 17025 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories is the most extensive ISO standard to certify testing and calibration laboratories. It is the standard that not only certifies the management systems used, but also the technical competence of the laboratory. In most countries suppliers and regulatory authorities will not accept test or calibration results from a lab that is not ISO 17025 accredited. A prerequisite for a laboratory to become accredited is to have a documented quality management system.

#### 2. What is the difference between LME listing and ISO 17025 accreditation?

LME listing is an administrative process where the only technical related checks are about physical presence of the laboratory and equipment. Once listed, there are no follow up or renewal audits. ISO 17025 certifies the technical competence of the laboratory. This is checked by external experts who have experience with the specific methods. Every single determination is subject to this extensive accreditation. There is an annual audit in order to keep the accreditation valid. Every three years there is a renewal audit covering the full scope.

#### 3. What questions do I need to ask in order to determine if a laboratory is ISO 17025 accredited for the test or assay I require?

The emphasis for this question lays on "for the test". A laboratory can be ISO 17025 accredited but it does not mean accredited for all the determination they perform. One always has to ask the question is the laboratory ISO 17025 accredited but more important - for what material and for what elements. Ask for a copy of the scope of work. This and a copy of ISO 17025 certificate, can also be downloaded from the website of the accreditation body in the country the laboratory is based.

#### 4. Are globally all laboratories subject to the same strict procedure for acquiring an ISO 17025 accreditation?

In theory: yes they are. In practice it is difficult to audit laboratories all over the world in the same manner for all kind of practical reasons (for instance availability of qualified and experienced auditors). In European countries procedures for acquiring an ISO 17025 accreditation are generally similar and it takes approximately a year to acquire the approval of the certification body and to have a documented management system. Outside Europe we have seen examples of laboratories being accredited in 3 months' time for a full scope.

#### Laboratory Services International BV is ISO 17025 accredited for the following materials and elements:

- |                                 |                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Zn Concentrates and Zn Oxides | Zn, Ag                             |
| • Mo Concentrates and Mo Oxides | Mo                                 |
| • Cu concentrates               | Cu, Au, Ag                         |
| • Pb Concentrates               | Pb, Au, Ag                         |
| • Pb metal (by diff)            | Ag, As, Bi, Cd, Cu, Ni, Sb, Sn, Zn |
| • Sn metal (by diff)            | Al, As, Bi, Cd, Cu, Fe, Pb, Sb, Zn |
| • Zn metal (by diff)            | Al, Cd, Cu, Fe, Pb, Sn             |

Our scope of accredited assays and the ISO 17025 certificate can be downloaded from the site of the Dutch accreditation body RvA : [https://www.rva.nl/system/scopes/file\\_nls/000/000/556/original/L545-scn.pdf?1441692940](https://www.rva.nl/system/scopes/file_nls/000/000/556/original/L545-scn.pdf?1441692940)

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