

Policy for Proficiency Test

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1. Scope

This document describes a guidance for VLAC accredited laboratories to plan, select, and consider to participate proficiency test programs, with reference to Annex C of ISO / IEC 17043: 2010 (JIS Q 17043: 2011).

2. Selection of proficiency test program

Laboratories should have a policy of participation proficiency test programs to evaluate their performance.

However, at present, not all tests conducted by the laboratory have a proficiency test program, so the laboratory overlaps with the frequency (work volume) of the test, the difficulty of the test, and the comparison between other laboratories. It is desirable to plan participation in the proficiency test in consideration of such factors.

3. Consideration of proficiency test results and performance evaluation

The laboratory should consider the results of the proficiency test and evaluate the performance. For example, Z score judgment by statistical processing of measurement results ("satisfied" when the absolute value of Z score is 2 or less, "suspicious" when it is more than 2 and less than 3, and "dissatisfied" when it is 3 or more. If the proficiency test provider does not feed back the performance evaluation results to the laboratory, the laboratory shall set and evaluate the performance evaluation criteria by itself.

As a caveat in performance evaluation, the evaluation result of "satisfaction" may be reliable evidence of the laboratory's testing and measurement ability at that time, but it does not always indicate continuous performance ability. Similarly, a dissatisfied performance evaluation may have occurred accidentally and does not necessarily indicate a problem with the ability of the daily laboratory. For electromagnetic compatibility emission measurement, where the measurement result is uncertain, it is necessary to consider not only the numerical value of statistical processing but also the whole data from a bird's-eye view.

4. References (Information)

Following are the providers they provide proficiency test programs in VLAC accreditation area.

- (1) KEC Electronic Industry Development Center <https://www.kec.jp/>

KEC provides PT for EMC radiated emission tests.

- (2) IFM Quality Services Pty Ltd <http://www.ifmqs.com.au/>

Refer to the “Electrical Proficiency Test Program Order Form” on the internet web site.

(example) EMC conducted emission, leakage current, IP test etc.