

Attention: Valued Customer

Examination of ISO 9001-2008, AS9100 and ISO/IEC 17025-2005 and ANSI Z-540-1-1994 suggests that ISO 9001 and AS9100 certified organizations should select their calibration laboratories carefully and ensure that the laboratories they use are properly accredited for the services they provide. Organizations certified to ISO 9001 are required to calibrate all measurement equipment used to verify or control quality, and all such calibrations are required to be traceable to national or international standards (ISO 9001 1994 section 4.11, ISO 9001 2008 section 7.6).

While effective management evaluation tools, ISO 9001 and AS9100 do not evaluate the technical competence of a supplier. This means that the evaluation of a supplier against ISO 9001 and/or AS9100 does not assure you or your customers that the test, inspection, or calibration data are accurate and reliable.

Throughout the world, many countries now rely on Laboratory Accreditation as a means of independently evaluating laboratory competence. Unlike ISO 9001/AS9100 certification, laboratory accreditation uses criteria and procedures specifically developed to determine technical competency. Technical assessors conduct a thorough evaluation of all factors in a facility that affect the accuracy and repeatability of measurement data. They use criteria based on the international standard ISO/IEC 17025-2005 and ANSI/NCSL Z540-1-1994, which are used for evaluating laboratories throughout the world. ISO/IEC 17025-2005 and ANSI/NCSL Z540-1-1994 specifically address factors relevant to a laboratory's ability to produce precise, accurate test and calibration data. Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025-2005 and ANSI/NCSL Z540-1-1994 also covers quality system elements addressed in ISO 9001/AS9100 certification that are specifically relevant to laboratories, including flow-down of requirements to suppliers.

Global Calibration Services, LLC, (Global) utilizes the independent American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) as it's assessor of record. Global has determined that in keeping with calibration and testing laboratory industry practices, we will no longer maintain certification to ISO 9001/AS9100. Global will remain in total compliance with all elements of ISO 9001/AS9100, but those standards have created unnecessary redundancy with our Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025-2005 and ANSI/NCSL Z540-1-1994. We hope this information along with the important attachments explain the reasons why Global chose the more comprehensive ISO/IEC 17025-2005 and ANSI/NCSL Z540-1-1994 over ISO 9001/AS9100.

For laboratories concerned with demonstrating technical competence and vigorous quality management underlined by a quality system, ISO/IEC 17025-2005 and ANSI/NCSL Z540-1-1994 are the appropriate standards. Similarly, suppliers seeking competent testing facilities should ensure that those facilities are accredited to ISO/IEC 17025-2005 and ANSI/NCSL Z540-1-1994, with a scope of accreditation appropriate for the testing or calibration required. ISO/IEC 17025-2005 accreditations are recognized worldwide as stipulated in the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) system. The attached ILAC documents clearly explain why Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025-2005 is the preferable ISO standard for calibration laboratory compliance.

Global's Quality Management



*Joint IAF-ILAC-ISO Communiqué
on the
Management Systems Requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2005,
General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration
laboratories*

A laboratory's fulfilment of the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2005 means the laboratory meets both the technical competence requirements and **management system requirements** that are necessary for it to consistently deliver technically valid test results and calibrations. The **management system requirements** in ISO/IEC 17025:2005 (Section 4) are written in language relevant to laboratory operations and meet the principles of ISO 9001:2008 **Quality Management Systems — Requirements** and are aligned with its pertinent requirements.

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IAF Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Wang".

ILAC Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Steele".

ISO Secretary General