



RESULTS ISSUED UNDER ACCREDITATION PROVIDE ADDITIONAL GUARANTEES

- For manufacturers and suppliers, they minimize the risks to produce or supply a defective product ;
- They strengthen the confidence of markets and consumers : thanks to the laboratory's assessment by a third party, the validity of the results is ensured ;
- They can avoid the cost of an additional supplier assessment : confidence in the technical competence of the accredited laboratory limits additional suppliers audits by customers.

ACCREDITATION AGAINST NF EN ISO/IEC 17025 STANDARD CREATES CONFIDENCE. WHY ?

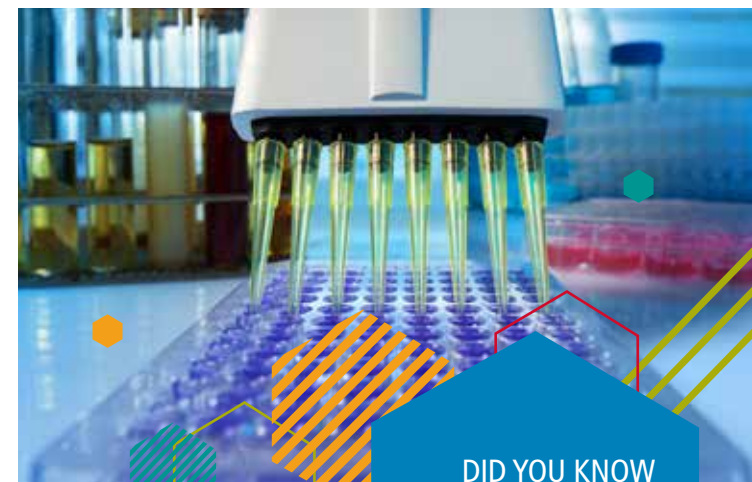
- The impartiality of the laboratory carrying out tests or analysis and the appropriateness of the laboratory's operation in relation to its activities and the level of service offered are verified ;
- Staff skills/expertise is demonstrated ;
- The adequacy and proper maintenance of the facilities and equipments used is demonstrated ;
- Traceability of measurement results to the International System of Units or another appropriate reference is ensured ;
- The sampling, testing or analysis methods are approved and comply with normative, regulatory or contractual requirements ;
- The assessment of the measurement uncertainty is confirmed ;
- When the laboratory is responsible for the collections, the handling and transport of the samples are under control ;
- The validity of test or analysis results is ensured ;
- The Information management system is under control ;
- The integrity of the management system and its efficiency are guaranteed ;
- The management system takes into account the risks and opportunities related to the laboratory's activities.

These elements are necessary to get complete and trustworthy test or analysis reports.

To ensure the **respect of the applicable requirements**, the **maintenance of competence** and proper functioning over time, the accredited laboratories are regularly assessed.

ACCREDITATION : A PROOF OF TECHNICAL COMPETENCE

NF EN ISO/IEC 17025 standard – General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories – is the accreditation standard on which Cofrac (The French Accreditation Committee) relies to accredit laboratories and demonstrate their ability to produce valid tests or analysis results in an impartial manner.



DID YOU KNOW THAT ?

The report of results issued by a testing or analysis laboratory accredited by an accreditation body that is a signatory to the international recognition agreements is equal as the one issued by a laboratory accredited by another signatory.

Thus, any user in the world can have confidence in the results produced.

Cofrac allows the bodies it accredits to benefit from the recognition agreements to which it is a signatory, promoting trade and competitiveness of French companies in over 90 countries.

Accreditation of laboratories is a tool to demonstrate their competence and impartiality to carry out specific tests (with sampling if necessary).

It creates confidence in the services they provide.



Created on the initiative of the public authorities, the French Accreditation Committee, Cofrac, is a non-profit organization. Its mission is to ensure the competence and impartiality of conformity assessment bodies including testing laboratories. Cofrac has been designated as the sole national accreditation body in France. For more information on Cofrac and accreditation, visit our website www.cofrac.fr

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If you need the services of a testing laboratory...

WHY USE AN ACCREDITED LABORATORY ?

