



Colorado Bureau of Investigation

2021 - 17025T - Surveillance Assessment + Scope Extension

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Data collected on 2021-04-06

ANSI National Accreditation Board

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Colorado, United States

This assessment report summarizes the outcome of the recent accreditation activity. A separate document, the assessment plan, provides information on the type of activity (*e.g.*, reassessment, surveillance activity, scope extension), the date(s) of the activity, the assessment team members, the requirement documents and the scope by discipline that was assessed for each location. The assessment plan, together with this report, provides a complete picture of the accreditation activity.

The ANSI National Accreditation Board (ANAB) evaluated the competence of the forensic service provider and conformance with all applicable accreditation requirements for the scope of accreditation listed in the assessment plan. Objective evidence of implementation was assessed. The results of an assessment activity are based on a sample of records, locations, and personnel that were available at the time of the activity. Witnessing is an additional technique used in on-site activities.

REQUIREMENTS:

ISO/IEC 17025:2017 General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories & ANAB ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Forensic Science Testing and Calibration Laboratories Accreditation Requirements (AR 3125) evaluated over the accreditation cycle are summarized in the following broad categories:

General requirements related to the forensic service provider's commitment to impartiality and confidentiality in its activities.

Structural requirements related to the range of activities, management structure, the authority, roles and responsibilities of personnel. Documented procedures which ensure a consistent application of activities and the validity of results.

Resource requirements related to the impartiality of personnel. Requirements for a training program, competency testing, authorizations and ongoing monitoring to ensure the competence of personnel. Facility and security suitability for activities. Records and procedures for equipment to ensure proper functioning and where applicable, establishment of metrological traceability. Requirements for externally provided products and services.

Process requirements related to the handling of test and calibration items in a manner to maintain the integrity of the item. Requirements for chain-of-custody of items to be tested and appropriate methods and procedures. Ensuring the required performance of the methods along with monitoring the validity of the results. Requirements to ensure results are supported by sufficient technical records and are reported accurately, clearly, unambiguously and objectively. Procedures for nonconforming work and a documented process for handling complaints. Requirements related to the laboratory information management system protection and integrity of data and information.

Management system requirements related to policies and objectives appropriate for the scope of activities. Requirements to control internal and external documents and records. Requirements to address risks and opportunities and timely, well-documented corrective actions. Requirements for an internal audit program and management reviews.

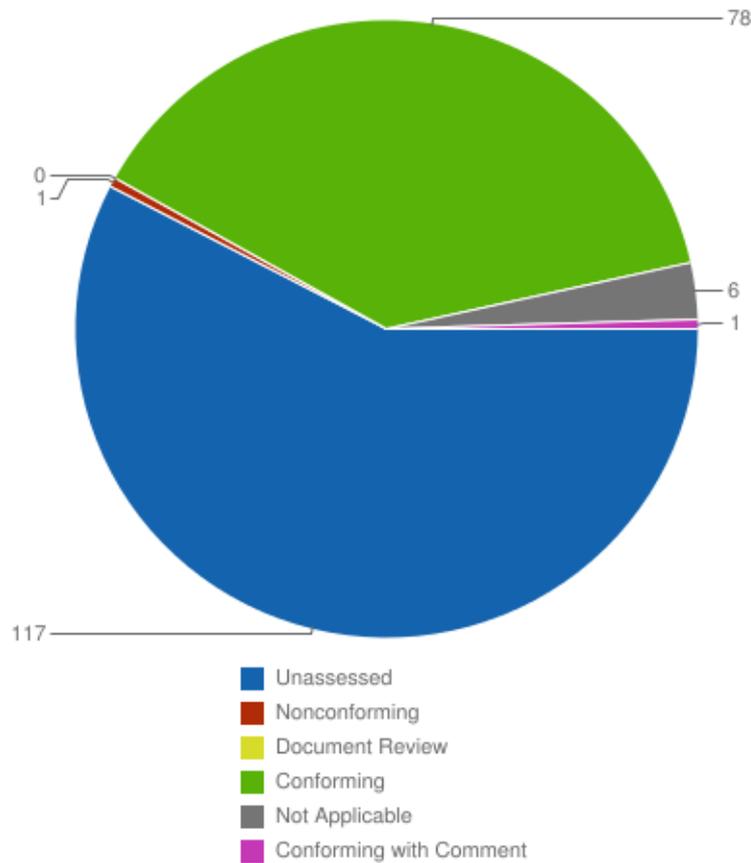
The accreditation activity also evaluates forensic science provider's conformance with their own management system requirements.

ASSESSMENT RESULT:

Based on the assessment techniques and sampling reviewed during the assessment activity, the assessment team found that the forensic service provider demonstrated competence to operate a management system that fulfills all applicable accreditation requirements, including those specified within their management system.

Any comments (opportunities for improvement) or nonconformities identified during this assessment activity are noted below. All nonconformities will be resolved prior to an accreditation decision by ANAB and a summary provided in a subsequent assessment activity report.

Summary of Comments



Audit Comments

7.2.1 Selection and verification of methods

7.2.1.1 ISO/IEC 17025:2017

Conforming with Comment : 0

Requirement

Does the laboratory use appropriate methods and procedures for all laboratory activities and, where appropriate, for evaluation of the measurement uncertainty as well as statistical techniques for analysis of data?

NOTE “Method” as used in this document can be considered synonymous with the term “measurement procedure” as defined in ISO/IEC Guide 99.

Comments

The Firearms and Toolmarks laboratory would benefit from clearly defining in its procedures when a verification review is required and when it is not in Distance Determination cases to ensure the consistent application of verifications. Additionally, the Firearms and Toolmarks laboratory would benefit from clearly defining and implementing its procedures for creating leads in NIBIN.

7.7 Ensuring the validity of results

7.7.7 ANAB Accreditation Requirement

Nonconforming

Requirement

To satisfy the proficiency test requirements in clauses 7.7.2.1.a) and b), did the forensic service provider:

a) where available and appropriate for the work conducted, use a proficiency test provider that is accredited to ISO/IEC 17043 by an accreditation body that is a signatory to the APAC MRA or IAAC MLA and has the applicable proficiency test(s) on its scope of accreditation? or

b) where not available or not appropriate for the work conducted, gain approval from ANAB for alternative means by which the laboratory's performance can be assessed? and

c) submit results to the proficiency test provider, if applicable, on or before the agreed upon due date?

Comments

QP25 Proficiency Testing, Section B.

Add Nonconformity Resolution Workflow

b) Currently, there are no available or existing NIBIN proficiency tests from accredited proficiency providers. The Pueblo Regional Forensic Laboratory Firearms and Toolmarks discipline did not gain approval from ANAB for the use of an alternative means by which the Firearms and Toolmarks laboratory's performance was assessed in 2020 to satisfy the proficiency test requirements of 7.7.2.1.b.

Due Date & Responsible Party : Gina Murphy until 2021-06-07 (Add Nonconformity Resolution Workflow not completed)