

Flexible Scopes of Accreditation

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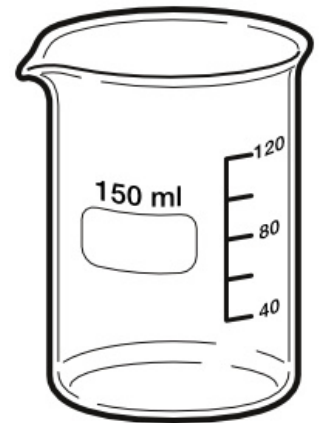
Some National Accreditation Bodies, including UK and Ireland, make provision for flexible scopes of accreditation in their regulations for ISO 17025:2005 accreditation. **Savant Technologies** can provide guidance in the development and adaption of existing accredited laboratory management systems to include flexible scopes and generic procedures.

Flexible scopes enable laboratories to quickly add new tests that lie within their established areas of competence tests to their schedules of accreditation without immediate submission of information to the accreditation body. This enables an organisation to respond quickly to requests from customers.

The areas of competence within which flexible scopes must operate are defined by existing accreditation in terms of analyte, sample type and analytical technique. The specific procedures for managing the flexible scopes will make reference to existing quality procedures covering aspects such as customer contract review, method validation, estimation of measurement uncertainty, quality control, staff authorisation and training, reporting and record keeping. Some of these may need to be expanded to incorporate the requirements of the flexible processes.

It may also be possible to include on the scope of accreditation generic test procedures that cover ranges of similar analytes, similar matrices and similar techniques.

Accreditation bodies have different processes for adding tests to the schedule of accreditation but all require a degree of record keeping that will be inspected in detail during surveillance visits



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