

Consistent proficiency: the foundation of accreditation

EPPO Workshop: April 2023

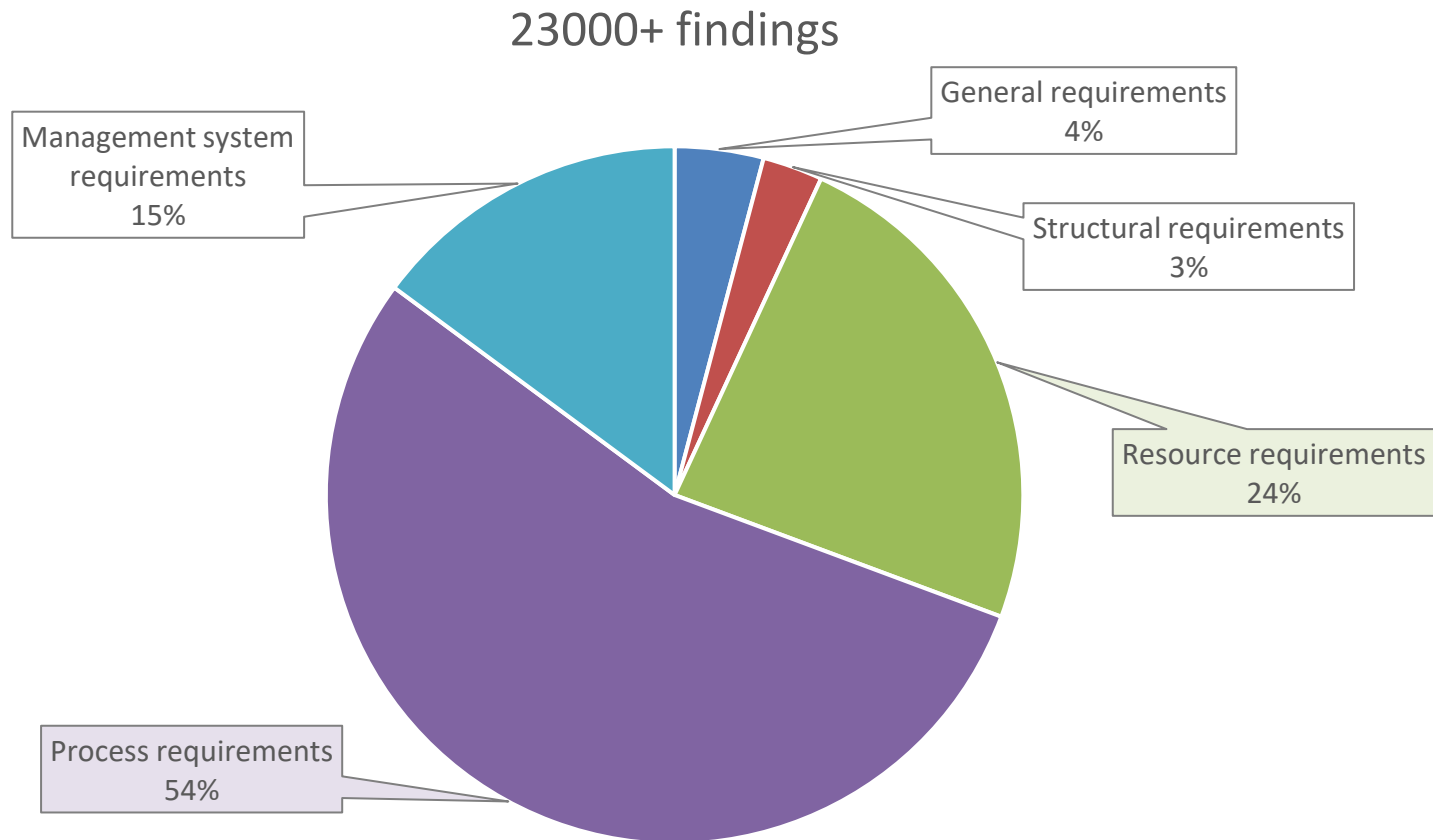
Background

- Definition
 - third-party *attestation* (7.3) related to a *conformity assessment body* (4.6), conveying formal demonstration of its competence, consistent operation and impartiality (5.3) in performing specific conformity assessment activities
- Some interested parties, including regulators, appear to still understand accreditation as a mere attestation of conformity of a ‘quality’ management system
- Accreditation – at least at the laboratories’ level – is driven by the motivation to involve technical peers
 - An efficient management system is vital to provide competence continuously i.e. for knowledge to be transferred to the organisation itself and not be merely circumstantial

Tools 1: EN ISO/IEC 17025

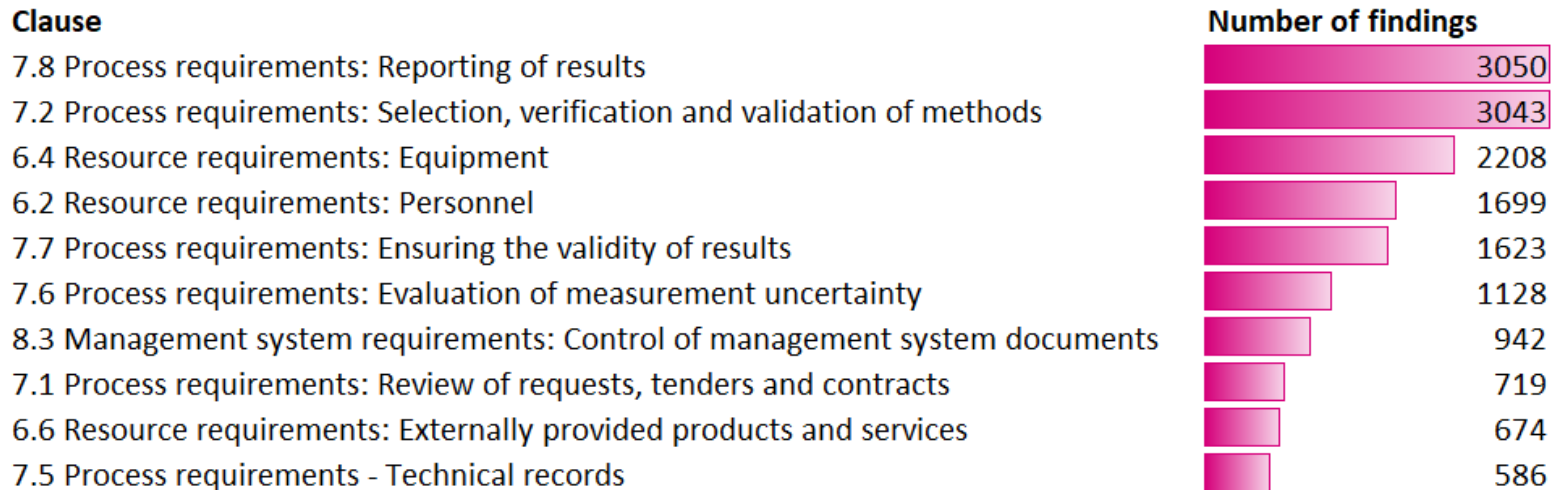
- General requirements
 - Impartiality; Confidentiality
- Structural requirements
- Resource requirements
 - Personnel; Facilities and environmental conditions; Equipment; Metrological traceability; Externally provided products and services
- Process requirements
 - Review of requests, tenders and contracts; Selection, verification and validation of methods; Sampling; Handling of test or calibration items; Technical records; Evaluation of measurement uncertainty; Ensuring the validity of results; Reporting of results; Complaints; Nonconforming work; Control of data and information management
- Management system requirements

Some statistics from IPAC activities



ISO/IEC 17025 assessments from
January 2019 until February
2023: 23201 non conformities

Some statistics from IPAC activities



Proficiency testing

- EN ISO/IEC 17025, clause 7.7.2

The laboratory shall monitor its performance by comparison with results of other laboratories, where available and appropriate. This monitoring shall be planned and reviewed and shall include, but not be limited to, either or both of the following:

- a) participation in **proficiency testing**;

NOTE ISO/IEC 17043 contains additional information on proficiency tests and proficiency testing providers. Proficiency testing providers that meet the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 are considered to be competent.

- b) Participation in **interlaboratory comparisons other than proficiency testing**.

- ILAC P9:06/2014 ILAC Policy for Participation in Proficiency Testing Activities
 - **Under revision**

Tools 2: EN ISO/IEC 17043

- EN ISO/IEC 17043
 - Conformity assessment — General requirements for proficiency testing
- Accreditation of PT Providers is achieving maturity
- Currently: soft requirements regarding the accreditation of PT Providers (as used by accredited labs)
 - It would take some years, but a clear push towards accreditation would not be a surprise
- Role of sectorial representatives (as associations)
 - Also as PT Providers

Thank you