

 NAB-MALTA		<b>NAB-MALTA POLICY</b>		<b>ATG 14</b>
Page No.	1	of	1	<b>Handling of Deviating Samples</b> <b>The Policy of the NAB-MALTA</b>
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## **1. PURPOSE**

1.1 This publication outlines the policy of the NAB-MALTA for the handling of deviating samples.

## **2. RELATED DOCUMENTS**

EA Document EA/LC(07)60

Test Report: ISO17025:2005 – Clauses 5.7.2; 5.10.2 (f) and(g); 5.10.3.1(a) and (b)

Handling of Test/Calibration Items: Clause 5.8.3 and 5.8.4

## **3. INTRODUCTION**

3.1 In general it is clearly recognized that, in order to obtain valid test results, the quality within the whole chain *sampling – sample pre-conservation and logistics – analysis – reporting* shall be ensured.

3.2 Deviating samples are samples which are not (correctly) preserved, e.g. have exceeded their maximum preservation time, lack the date and time of sampling, are not cooled, etc, or otherwise in a condition contrary to the receiving laboratory's acceptance policy. As a result, deviating samples may jeopardize the validity of the reported test result.

## **4. NAB-MALTA POLICY**

4.1 Upon receipt of each sample, an accredited laboratory shall assess whether the sample is suitable with regard to the requested test(s).

4.2 When the sample is deviating, an accredited laboratory shall contact the customer for further instructions, in line with the requirements of ISO17025:2005 Clause.5.8.3.

4.3 When the customer wants the deviating sample to be analysed, an accredited laboratory shall include a disclaimer in the report or certificate, clearly stating that the sample was deviating and that, as a result, the test result(s) may be invalid.

4.4 The report or certificate shall include:

- the date of receipt of the sample by the laboratory,
- where sampling is carried out by the client and sampling is critical to the validity of the test result, then this fact will be clearly referenced in the report or certificate.

**END**