



The Technological Laboratory of Uruguay was created as a "Analysis and Testing Laboratory" (LAE) on April 1st of 1965 by the Uruguayan law number 13318. Later on August 1975, the law number 14416, extended its original scope and changed the name to the present. The law defines LATU as an institute for the quality control of national export and related products, with the objective of assure its quality and positioning the national production in international markets. The objective of the Analysis and Testing services of LATU is to offer high level analytical methods, to give technical attendance to the industry with the aim of improving its yields and competitiveness of public and private organizations. The institution is ISO 9001 certified by SQS and has more than 200 ISO 17025 accredited tests by UKAS (United Kingdom Accreditation Service) and mass and temperature calibrations services accredited by DKD. LATU is the National Metrology Laboratory of Uruguay, and is signatory in the "Mutual Recognition Arrangement of the General Conference of Weights and Measurement (CGPM)", with the measurement capabilities reviewed and recognized by the main institutes of Metrology in the world (Key Comparisons Data Base) through the International Office of Weights and Measurement (BIPM).



The Continuous Improvement of the Internal Audits Process assure the effective compliance of ISO 17025 requirements

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Sum of four or more type III nonconformities related to the same requirement

Large deviation of an specific internal quality requirement

Small deviation of an specific internal quality requirement

TYPE I

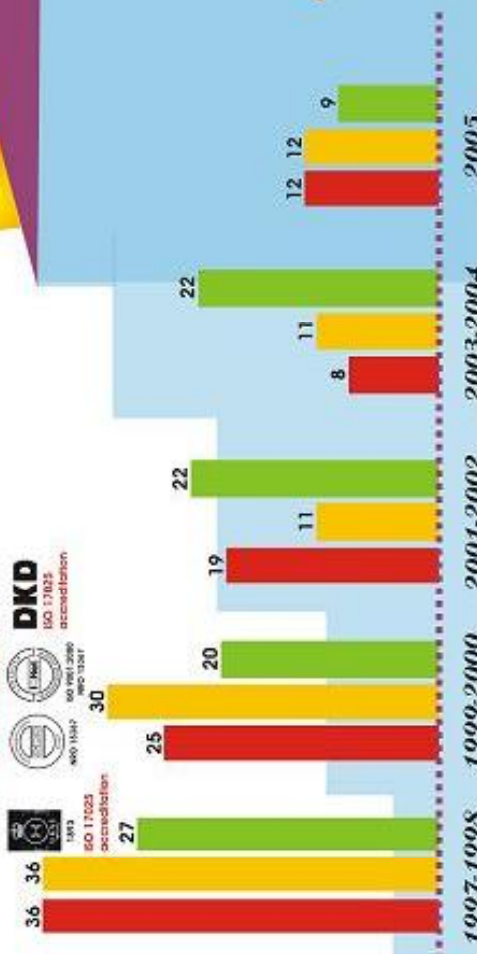
TYPE II

TYPE III

ISO 17025 accreditation

ISO 9001:2000 certification

DKD ISO 17025 accreditation



During this period the audit process has been improved (based on ISO 9001:2000 and ISO 17025) per year for each laboratory and support are with planned, based on a four-year cycle internal audit program and the frequency of the tests. A list of Qualified Auditors and audit checklist are made. The audit are established, when improvement opportunities are identified and implemented and the frequency of improved resources. The audit characteristics are classified according to their seriousness as Type I, II or III and time schedule are established for their resolution. Each laboratory is support and support are managed in the audit nonconformities in the computerized database.

The internal audit program is updated in a periodic basis and planned in sampling mode in LATU processes.

The audit checklist are reviewed and improved with the calibration results and auditor evaluations are made. Objectives and indicators for the internal audit process are established.

Additional audits activities are added as well as the audit process objectives and resources. A three-year internal audit program and four-year test self-program are made. The internal audit program management is studied, audit variables are done to address and cooperate, nonconformities located in the computer system by the Quality Department.

IMPROVEMENT MEASURED AS DECREASE OF % NONCONFORMITIES TYPE

The nonconformities decrease obtained, shows that the continuous improvement of the internal audit process in addition with internal communication are important tools to assure the 17025 requirements compliance. As a result we can find, among other things: an increase of the auditors and staff competence, improvements of the calibration and maintenance programs and improvement of the internal trainings planning, and the creation of a quality assurance team to improve the tests controls.

INTERNAL AUDITS PROCESS - 2006

