

FACTSHEET

WHY NATA ACCREDITATION IS IMPORTANT

Whether it's in the courtroom or conclave, in mediation or settlement, you rely on the integrity of the laboratory results. Using a NATA accredited laboratory eliminates any questions about sample handling or testing processes as all procedures have been independently certified.

The National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) is the authority that provides independent assurance of a laboratory's technical competence.

GKA Analytical Services is accredited to AS/ISO/IEC 17025 (General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories) and follows internationally-accepted forensic standards when carrying out tests.

The accreditation process is rigorous. Using very specific criteria and internationally-recognised standards, specialist technical assessors conduct a thorough evaluation of all facets of a laboratory, its processes and ability to produce precise, accurate test results.

CHAIN OF CUSTODY

Many forensic samples assessed constitute court evidence and it is crucial that stringent processes and standards are consistently adhered to ensure integrity. Our chain of custody procedures and our capability to explain our findings in court testimony have been vetted and approved as best practice.

KEY FACTORS

Competency depends on a number of factors:

- The training and expertise of staff
- Appropriate testing procedures and valid test methods
- Traceability of measurements to national standards
- Properly calibrated and maintained equipment
- Suitable testing facility
- Sampling and handling practices
- Quality assurance procedures
- Accurate recording and reporting

Accreditation provides an ongoing assurance of quality and GKA Analytical Services is very proud to have achieved this standard.

ACCREDITATION CHECKS

To ensure ongoing compliance, NATA accredited laboratories are regularly re-examined to check that they are maintaining their standards of technical expertise. They may also be required to undertake proficiency testing programs as an on-going demonstration of competence.

EXCELLENCE

With accreditation of our specialist in-house forensic laboratory, clients can be confident that we provide an unrivalled level of expertise in all aspects of the forensic examination process.

All our laboratory staff are professionals, specifically trained in fire debris analysis and forensic processes. As part of the accreditation process they were assessed by independent industry leaders, providing reassurance and confidence in our standards, processes and results.

Using a NATA accredited facility ensures that the service provided will be of an exceptional standard and minimise the risk of error or need for re-testing.

GKA Analytical Services' Fire Debris Analysis processes are accredited by NATA, providing an assurance of technical competence and expertise in all aspects of forensic examination and laboratory management.

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