

## **Accredited laboratories – what are they accredited for?**

When talking about the ‘accreditation’ of a laboratory, many people may think that ‘if a laboratory is accredited, all tests it performs must be accredited’. However, this is not always the case. Accreditation is **test-specific** and **only refers to the specific tests listed in the scope of accreditation** of the laboratory. While an accredited laboratory may offer a wide variety of testing services, it does not necessarily mean that all tests it conducts are accredited.

For those testing services provided by a laboratory that are not listed in its scope of accreditation, HKAS has not assessed them and therefore has no information on whether the laboratory is competent to perform those tests. It could be misleading to say that a test is performed by an accredited laboratory if such a test is outside the laboratory’s scope of accreditation. You are therefore advised to be cautious when claiming the accreditation status of a laboratory for certain tests. If in doubt, please clarify with the laboratory or HKAS.