

**Matrix Diagnostics Limited (“Matrix”)** operates an ISO/IEC 17025:2017-accredited laboratory for workplace drug and alcohol testing.

ISO/IEC 17025 requires laboratories to apply defined and consistent processes when interpreting analytical results and, where applicable, issuing conclusions such as positive or negative findings. These processes must be documented, applied consistently, and agreed with customers as part of contract review.

This note explains how Matrix interprets results and issues outcome statements within that framework.

## **1. Result Interpretation Framework**

1.1 Where laboratory results are compared against an external specification or testing scheme, ISO/IEC 17025 requires the laboratory to apply a documented decision-making approach to determine how results are classified.

1.2 In workplace drug and alcohol testing, this framework is based on:

1.2.1 the applicable workplace testing guideline or scheme; and

1.2.2 the laboratory's validated analytical methods, including established measurement uncertainty.

1.3 Matrix applies this framework consistently across all relevant testing.

## **2. Decision Rules**

2.1 A decision rule describes how analytical results are evaluated against a defined threshold in order to determine the reported outcome.

2.2 Matrix applies standard, accredited decision rules and functional cut-off levels derived from validated methods and established uncertainty budgets, unless alternative requirements are expressly agreed with the customer during contract review.

2.3 Unless a different approach is agreed in advance, Matrix applies a decision rule based on the functional cut-off level defined within the applicable workplace testing scheme. This approach takes account of analytical variability and measurement uncertainty in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025.

2.4 Using this approach:

2.4.1 results exceeding the applicable functional cut-off are reported as positive; and

2.4.2 results below the functional cut-off are reported as negative.

## **3. Outcome Statements**

3.1 Where required, Matrix issues an outcome statement to confirm whether a result meets or does not meet the applicable testing criteria.

3.2 Such statements are issued in line with:

3.2.1 the applicable testing guideline or standard in force at the time of analysis (see 4 below); and

3.2.2 the decision rule applied as part of the laboratory's accredited method or as otherwise agreed during contract review.

## **4. Technical Information**

4.1 Details of the substances analysed, analytical methods used, and the thresholds applied are contained within Matrix's controlled technical documentation - see [Matrix Technical Specifications](#) (Note: Password required. Customers should refer to their contract or speak to their Matrix contact for further information).

**4.2** These documents are maintained in line with accreditation requirements and may be updated to reflect changes to external standards, guidance, or regulatory expectations. Current information is available to customers on request.

## **5. Further Enquiries**

**5.1** If you require further information regarding result interpretation, decision rules, or outcome statements, please contact us via your usual point of contact or through our website.