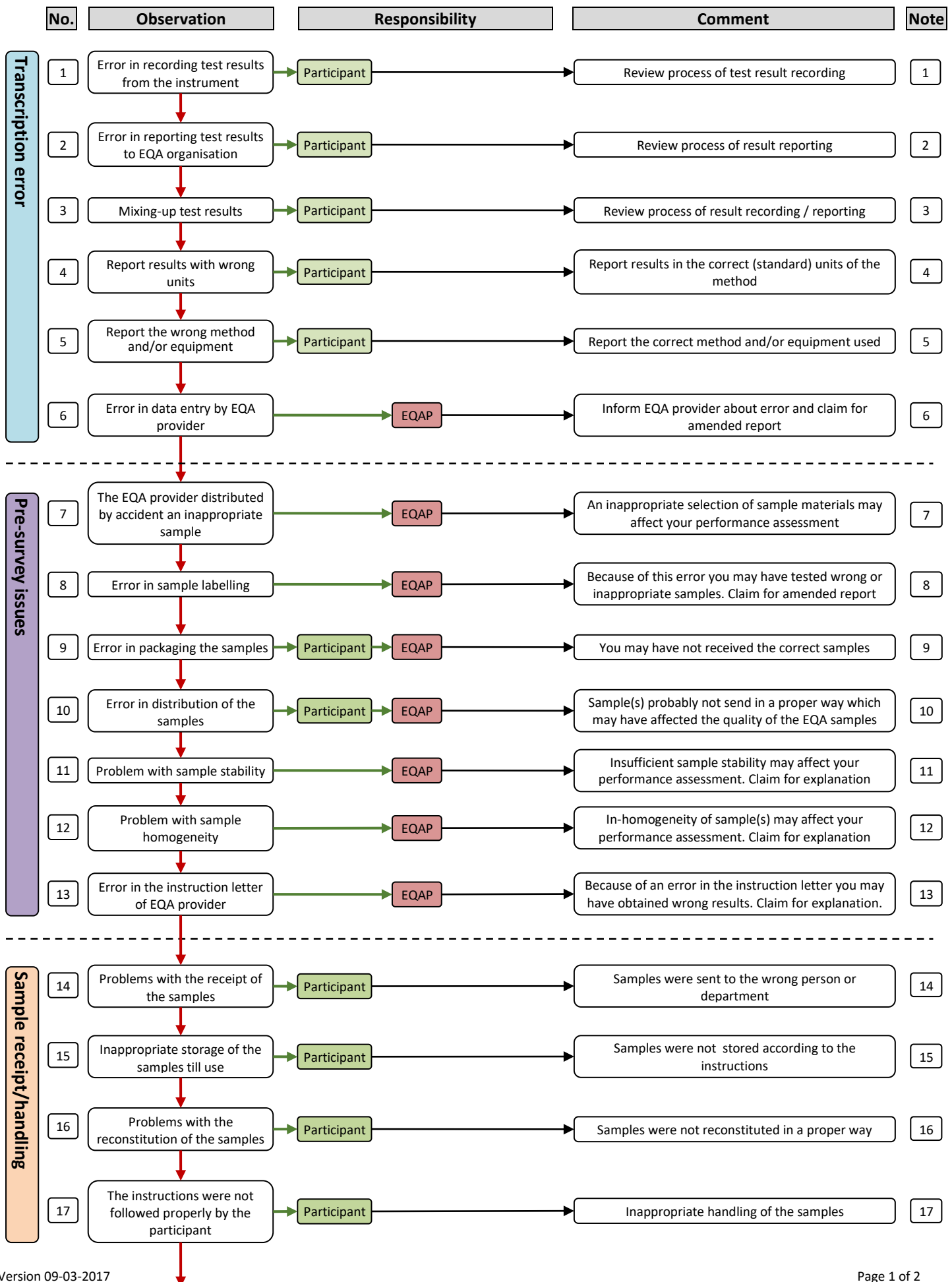


FLOWCHART FOR HANDLING DEVIATING EQA RESULTS

Introduction

Before you start evaluating the potential cause for a deviating result, please read carefully the report and/or comment letter for a possible explanation for deviating results (see pre-note). If no explanation is given please use the flowchart below to reveal the potential cause(s).



No.	Observation	Responsibility	Comment	Note	
Test Performance	18	Change in the instructions of the manufacturer	Participant → EQAP → Manufacturer	Review the most recent test procedure of the manufacturer	18
	19	Was there a problem with the equipment	Participant	Review the operation status of the equipment at the time the EQA samples were measured	19
	20	Was there a problem with the reagents	Participant → Manufacturer	Review the quality of the reagents used	20
	21	Was there a problem with the test performance	Participant	Review all aspects of the test performance	21
	22	Was there a problem with the internal quality control samples	Participant	Review the internal quality control results at the time the EQA samples were measured	22
Data Handling EQA Provider	23	The statistical procedure used is probably not appropriate for the distribution of test	EQAP	Review if the statistical procedure used is appropriate for the evaluation of this data set	23
	24	Error in establishment of assigned value (AV)	EQAP	Evaluate whether the EQA provider had used the proper manner for establishment of the AV	24
	25	Error in presentation of results	EQAP	Inform EQA provider about error and claim for amended report	25
Report and Interpretation	26	Deviation in accordance with previous EQA results	Participant → EQAP → Manufacturer	Review whether the deviation is caused by an internal or external source.	26
	27	Large variation in EQA results for the method used	EQAP → Manufacturer	Review whether the deviation is caused by inappropriate sample material and/or the method itself.	27
	28	Deviation is systematic for all EQA samples	Participant → EQAP → Manufacturer	Review whether the deviation is caused by an internal or external source.	28
	29	Repeated analysis showed similar deviation	Participant → EQAP → Manufacturer	Review whether the deviation is caused by an internal or external source.	29
	30	Acceptance limit is not relevant	Participant → EQAP	Review whether the acceptance limits for the parameter under investigation is relevant	30
		Source for the deviation is unknown		No clear explanation for the deviation could be revealed. When the error persists in future EQA surveys a new cause analysis should be performed.	