

ISO 17025 Audit Findings Closure Playbook

Small-lab worksheet for finding classification, 5C root cause, and evidence closure

Finding Intake

- Record finding statement exactly as written by auditor.
- Map to clause area (records, process, competence, CAPA, etc.).
- Classify risk/impact and recurrence potential.
- Assign finding owner and closure due date.

5C Root-Cause Structure

- Condition: what was observed and where.
- Criteria: requirement or procedure not met.
- Cause: systemic root cause, not only human error.
- Correction: immediate fix for affected records/work.
- Corrective action: system-level prevention change.

Corrective Action Playbook

- Define action steps with owners and due dates.
- Update procedures/templates where control failed.
- Train affected roles and capture completion evidence.
- Set effectiveness metric and review date.

Evidence Pack for Next Audit

- Before/after procedure versions with approval history.
- Closed action log with owner accountability trail.
- Sampled records showing control now works.
- Effectiveness check results with management review note.

Recurrence Prevention Checks

- Has the same issue appeared before in any wording?
- Were upstream process triggers addressed?
- Are backup owners defined for critical actions?
- Is monitoring cadence defined and scheduled?