



PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM

CRYPTOSPORIDIUM AND GIARDIA

Company Background

Proficiency Testing Australia (PTA) is one of Australia's largest and most experienced proficiency testing providers. We have a reputation for providing friendly, customer-focussed service using qualified, experienced staff and specialists.

Proficiency Testing Australia is able to service a very broad range of industries, and many of our clients come to use our services based on the recommendation of colleagues. Proficiency Testing Australia has offices in Sydney and Brisbane, so our services and support are readily accessible.

Proficiency Testing Australia is accredited as a Proficiency Testing Provider by The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation. The accreditation covers the specific proficiency testing sample/artefact types listed on the agreed scope of accreditation. The accreditation meets the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043 *Conformity assessment - general requirements for proficiency testing*.

Aim of the Program

The purpose of this program is to test the laboratories' capability in the identification and enumeration of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* from water samples.

Application of program to accreditation

Participation in proficiency testing programs would satisfy requirements of ISO/IEC 17025: 2005 *General requirements for competence of testing and calibration laboratories*.

Program Details

The *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* Program is a biannual program consisting of two rounds per year. The rounds are usually scheduled for March / April and September / October of each year.

Participants receive a set of five concentrate water samples. The samples are designed to simulate environmental water, spiked with a mixture of various combinations of *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*.

Participants are asked to analyse the samples by their routine method and to report both total counts and confirmed counts. Only the total counts will be used for analysis by PTA. Laboratories also need to specify the method(s) used for concentration, purification, enumeration and confirmation.

Percentage recovery rates are determined by comparing the laboratory's reported results with the known value for each sample. The percentage recovery rates must lie between 10% and 110%.

Confidentiality

Each participating laboratory is assigned a code number to allow for confidential treatment of results in all reports and publications produced by PTA. Please refer to the PTA website (http://www.pta.asn.au/pta_Confidentiality) for more information.

Fees

Refer to the current PTA fee schedule available on the PTA website (www.pta.asn.au/pta_Schedules)

Further Information

For further information on the PTA *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* Program contact ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au