



PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM

GRAVIMETRIC

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 proficiency program is to evaluate the competency of laboratories to use five or six place balances to determine inhalable/respirable dust, welding fumes and gases; and to provide laboratories with additional external quality assurance and thus improve overall performance.

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

Each participating laboratory will be provided with two aluminium artefacts/weights: nominally 5 mg and 20 mg respectively. The participating laboratories are to measure the weight of the provided artefacts according to the instructions provided using five or six place balances.

The participants will be instructed to test according to the following Australian Standards: AS2985-2009 *Workplace atmospheres - Method for sampling and gravimetric determination of respirable dust*, AS3640-2009 *Workplace atmospheres – Method for sampling and gravimetric determination of inhalable dust*, AS3853.1-2006 *Health and safety in welding and allied processes - Sampling of airborne particles and gases in the operator’s breathing zone – Part 1: Sampling of airborne particles*.

A final report, summarising the information submitted by all of the participants can be viewed on the PTA website at the conclusion of the program. A summary sheet is also sent to each individual participant at the conclusion of the program. This summary sheet details the performance of that laboratory or operator in the program.

Confidentiality

Each participating counter 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 Gravimetric Program contact ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au