



PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM

NATIONAL ASBESTOS PROGRAM

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 PTA National Asbestos Program has been designed to provide participating laboratories an external means of monitoring the "accuracy" and reliability of results produced by individual counters within their laboratory, thus improving the overall standard of work carried out in the area of estimation of airborne asbestos dust.

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 NAP is a biennial program consisting of two rounds per cycle. Each round is conducted over a calendar year, with each participant receiving 6 slides once per round. A follow up set of six slides is also sent shortly

afterwards to counters whose performance is categorised as 'unsatisfactory' for the initial round.

Participants are required to count fibres on prepared slides according to the procedure described in the "Guidance Note on the Membrane Filter Method for Estimating Airborne Asbestos Fibres" prepared by the National Occupational Health & Safety Commission 2nd Edition, [NOHSC:3003(2005)].

Performance is assessed as "satisfactory," "questionable" or "unsatisfactory" by comparing participants' counts with established reference values.

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 National Asbestos Program contact ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au