PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in Oil

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.*

Please note: This program is currently not accredited. An application will be made for its inclusion within PTA's Scope of Accreditation.

Aim of the Program

The aim of the PCBs in Oil program is to test each participant's ability to competently perform the prescribed chemical analysis to meet regulatory requirements for waste classification of PCB-containing oils.

Application of program to accreditation

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

Program Details

The PCBs in Oil program is an annual program, consisting of one round per year.

Participants receive a set of two oil samples (containing PCBs) and are requested to test each sample for a range of tests including:

Arochlor 1016, 1221, 1232, 1242, 1248, 1254, 1260, 1262, 1268.
Participants are requested to analyse the samples, provide an estimate of their measurement uncertainty and to indicate the methods they used. The results submitted by participants for a particular test are typically pooled across all methods and robust z-scores are used to analyse the results.

Summary sheets detailing the performance of that laboratory in the program are submitted to individual participants once results have been analysed. A final report, summarising the information submitted by all of the participants can be viewed on the PTA website at the conclusion of each round of the program.

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 PCBs in Oil Program contact ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au