



## PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM

### PAINT

#### **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 Paint Program has been designed to provide participating laboratories an external means of monitoring the "accuracy" and reliability of results produced, thus improving the overall standard of work carried out in the area of paint analysis.

#### **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 Paint Program is an annual program consisting of two rounds per year. The rounds are usually scheduled for March / April and October / November of each year.

Participants receive two 500ml tins of water based paint. Samples are to be analysed for a wide scope of tests which vary with each round. The types of requested analysis may include (but not limited to) the following: Consistency, Density, Non-Volatiles by Mass, Non-Volatiles by Volume, Contrast Ratio, Specular Gloss.

Participants are asked to analyse the samples by their routine method. As one aim of the program is to determine 'within-laboratory variation' the determinations on samples A and B for each separate test must be performed by a single operator using the same method and the same apparatus in as short a time interval as possible.

Laboratories results are assessed for the number of outlier results that are reported. Statistical outliers are identified using a robust z-score technique to detect excessively large variations between the individual laboratory and the overall consensus.

A summary sheet is sent to each individual participant at the conclusion of the program. This summary sheet details the performance of that laboratory in the program. 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](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](http://www.pta.asn.au/pta_Schedules))

### **Further Information**

For further information on the Paint Program contact [ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au](mailto:ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au)