



PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM

SOILS (CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS)

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 main aim of the program is to assess the competency of participating laboratories in performing the prescribed analyses (relevant standard AS1289: 1998 *Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes*) 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

The Soils Program is a biannual program consisting of two rounds per year.

Participants are provided with one ~13-16kg soil sample for testing. Laboratories may be requested to perform a selection of the following tests:

Dry Density, Moisture Content, Liquid Limit, Plastic Limit, Plasticity Index, Linear Shrinkage, California Bearing Ratio.

The main aim of the program is to assess the competence of laboratories to undertake this testing. Statistical outliers are identified using a robust z-score technique to detect excessively large variations the individual laboratory's results and the overall consensus values.

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. 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 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 Soils Program, contact ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au