



PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM

WATERS (CHEMICAL)

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 program is to test laboratories' abilities to conduct the prescribed testing in a planned series of rounds involving the analysis of chemical and physical parameters of waters.

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 Waters (Chemical) Program is an on-going program generally consisting of 11-12 rounds per year, covering a range of chemical determinations in water.

Participants receive sample(s) and are requested to analyse the sample(s) for the prescribed analyte(s). In addition to reporting results, participants are

asked to provide an estimate of their measurement uncertainty and to indicate the methods used. The results submitted by participants for a particular test or analyte are typically pooled across all methods and robust z-scores are used to analyse the results. Generally, this involves identifying any statistical outlier results which will highlight any major variation between the individual results and the general consensus.

A final report, summarising the information submitted by all participants can be viewed on the PTA website at the conclusion of each round. Each individual participant is also sent a summary sheet, detailing their laboratory's individual performance in the program, at the conclusion of the round.

Confidentiality

Each laboratory is randomly allocated a unique code number to ensure confidentiality of results. Reference to each laboratory in all reports and publications produced by PTA is by code number only. . 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 Waters (Chemical) Program contact ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au