

ANALYTICAL SERVICES

Proficiency Testing – What is it and what can it tell you?

Proficiency Testing (PT) schemes are a key means by which analytical service purchasers can have confidence in a laboratory's data and participation is expected if the laboratory has ISO17025 accreditation.

Each participant receives regular distributions of samples from homogenous bulk materials, prepared according to proven procedures. All participants receive identical samples that should remain stable within the timescale of the testing. Analyte concentrations are not declared until the final report is issued.

Laboratories conduct analyses according to their own analytical procedures. Although this introduces variability from differing techniques and methods, the overall picture gained is a reflection of disparities among prospective service providers. Not all laboratories are equally able to deliver quality analytical results.

So, how can PT aid analytical services purchasers in selecting a laboratory?

- Which schemes do they participate in?
- Are these appropriate for your sample



types and analytes?

- What is their scope of participation? Do they only take easily passed tests?
- Is the scheme provider accredited to ISO17043?
- Are they happy to discuss their PT performance?
- Do they monitor performance trends and act on their failures?
- What percentage of tests have they passed in the last year?

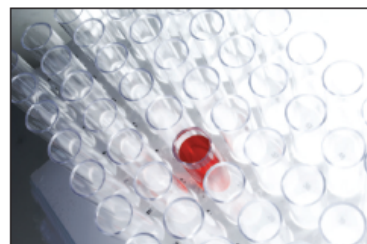
All laboratories at some time receive failing PT scores and these should be investigated via the laboratory's quality system. An individual failure does not mean the laboratory is incompetent, however a series of similar failures may indicate that perhaps

they have methodology, equipment or staff training problems.

Chemtest's PT participation covers all essential contaminated land analysis suites and it participates in the foremost UK schemes:

- * CONTEST & Aquacheck (LGC)
- * LEAP (DEFRA)
- * AIMS (HSL)
- * R T Corporation.

Chemtest is proud of its exceptional PT performance and is always eager to discuss it with customers. Can other laboratories say the same? ■



Chemtest

The **UK & Ireland's premier** contaminated land laboratory



The right chemistry to deliver results...

Analysis is undertaken for the following industry sectors:

- Environment
- Remediation
- Geotechnical
- Rail
- Construction
- Waste Management
- Asbestos
- Petrochemical

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