

The PTA team would like to wish all of our participants, Technical Advisers and Suppliers a Happy New Year!

PTA Staff

Yvette Christie, Program Co-ordinator will return from maternity leave in March 2015.

Did you know?

PTA can create customised proficiency testing programs for industry organisations. Please contact PTA for further information.

Introducing PTA's Forensic Proficiency Testing Programs

PTA have partnered with Forensic Foundations to plan the provision of proficiency testing services in the forensics field. The first programs planned is an Automotive Paint Analysis program and a DNA Typing program which will be suitable for forensic laboratories in Australia and the Asia-Pacific region. These programs will be available later in 2015, and PTA will provide further information shortly.

For any other information, please email ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au.

PTA conducts PT course in Kingdom of Bahrain

PTA recently conducted a course on Proficiency Testing and Inter-Laboratory studies in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Philip Briggs, PTA General Manager conducted the course on 26-27 October 2014 as one of four available pre-conference courses for the 3rd Interlaboratory Conference & Exhibition on Laboratory Technology.

The Middle East region is now rapidly adopting laboratory accreditation to the requirements of ISO 17025 with a number of accreditation agencies are now being established in the region to service this demand. It is important to highlight that one of the requirements of accreditation is to demonstrate quality assurance of results and measurements by participation in proficiency testing programs or interlaboratory comparisons.

One of the Middle East region new accreditation bodies is the Gulf Accreditation Centre (GAC). This agency provides accreditation services to laboratories in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kingdom of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Yemen. GAC has recently been accepted as a member of the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) hence there are now direct links to the Asia-Pacific region.

There is much interest in laboratory accreditation and proficiency testing in the Middle East. Therefore the established PTA services currently established and operating in in the Asia-Pacific region are now expected to show growth in the Middle East region in the future.

PTA appoints agent in United Arab Emirates

PTA recently appointed an agent in United Arab Emirates. Abu Dhabi Environmental Services will be responsible for the participation of laboratories in the Middle East in PTA programs.

Abu Dhabi Environmental Services joins the existing PTA agents operating in Iran, Pakistan and Uruguay.

Upcoming Programs January – June 2015

Chemical Programs	Determinations
Waters/175	Organochlorine Pesticides
Waters/176	Minerals (Total Alkalinity as CaCO ₃ , Chloride, Fluoride, Potassium, Sodium, Conductivity, Sulphate, Total Dissolved Solids, Total Solids)
Waters/177	Nitrate, Ammonia, Orthophosphate
Waters/178	Hardness
Waters/179	Metals (Chromium, Copper, Iron, Lead, Nickel, Thallium, Zinc)
Waters/180	Sulphate, Conductivity, pH, Colour
Waters/181	Biochemical Oxygen Demand, Chemical Oxygen Demand, Total Organic Carbon
Waters/182	Total Solids, Total Suspended Solids, Total Dissolved Solids
CFR	Correlated Fuel Research (MON, RON and AVGAS)
Asbestos/34	Slide fibre count
Asbestos in Soil/6	Sample identification in soil
Asbestos ID/13	Bulk sample identification
Paint/22	Liquid Paint - tests to be determined
Metal Alloys/28	Ferrous
Soils (Chemical)/11	To be determined
Air & Emissions/6	Particular matter on filter paper
Biological Programs	
Waters/52	Effluent - E. coli, Faecal & Total Coliforms, Plate, Strep.
Waters/53	Potable - E. coli, Faecal & Total Coliforms, Plate, Strep.
Pathogens in Food/31	Salmonella & Listeria
Legionella/50	Enumeration & identification
Non-Pathogens in Food/18	E. coli, Total plate count, Thermophiles
Algae/17	Enumeration & identification
Crypto & Giardia/35	Enumeration & identification

Construction Materials Programs	
Soils/19	Classification
Concrete/19	Compressive strength, dimensions
Concrete/20	Compressive strength, dimensions
Aggregates/13	Particle size distribution, particle shape, particle density, bulk density, wet/dry strength
Aggregates/14	Particle size distribution, particle shape, particle density, water absorption
Asphalt/6	Bitumen content, density, gradings
Mechanical Programs	
Hardness Testing of Metals/8	Hardness testing of metal
Tensile Testing of Metals/8	Tensile testing of metal
NDT Programs	
Magnetic Particle Inspection/2	Steel pipe, plate and tee and Y
Radiography	Steel pipe, plate and tee
Ultrasonics	Steel pipe and plate
Calibration Programs	
Digital Multimeter/3	HP 34401A Digital Multimeter - DC Voltage (0.1 ~ 1000 V), AC Voltage (0.1 ~ 750 V), DC Current (0.01 ~ 3 A), AC Current (1 ~ 3 A), and Resistance (1 Ohm ~ 10 Meg Ohm)
Mass/2	10mg, 1g, 10g, 200g
Temperature/2	Digital Temperature Indicator System - 0°C to 420°C in 20°C steps
Gauge Blocks/1	Nominal lengths - 2mm, 8mm, 20mm and 100mm
Gravimetric/4	Five or six point balance to determine inhalable/respirable dust, welding fumes and gases

Note: Various Calibration and Measurement Audits may be conducted upon request.

More information can be found on these and other PTA programs on the PTA website at http://www.pta.asn.au/pta_Schedules.html

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