

## **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.

PTA 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. PTA has offices in Sydney and Brisbane, so our services and support are readily accessible.

PTA is accredited as a Proficiency Testing Provider by International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ). The accreditation covers the specific proficiency testing programs types listed on the agreed scope of accreditation. The accreditation meets the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043:2010 *Conformity assessment - general requirements for proficiency testing*.

## **Aim of the Program**

The main aim of the program is to evaluate the "accuracy" and reliability of results produced by individual identifiers from participating laboratories in the area of asbestos analysis in soils (relevant standard AS 4964).

## **Application of program to accreditation**

Participation in proficiency testing programs would satisfy requirements of ISO/IEC17025:2005 *General requirements for competence of testing and calibration laboratories*.

## **Program Details**

The Asbestos in Soils program is an annual program, consisting of one round per year. Each round is conducted from March through to August. Two rounds of the program constitute a "cycle".

Each identifier receives a set of five soil (or similar) samples containing asbestos or other fibres.

Participants are scheduled to a month in each round, during which they will receive five samples. Participants are requested to analyse independently the five samples provided, for the presence (including trace asbestos if detected)

of chrysotile, amosite, crocidolite asbestos AND the presence of synthetic mineral fibres (SMF) and organic fibres, according to their laboratory's documented method.

The results obtained by each identifier are compared with the reference results. The identifier is then assigned a score for each sample.

Letters detailing the results of identifiers in the program are submitted to individual participants once results have been analysed. A final report, summarising the information submitted by all of the participants can be viewed on the PTA website at the conclusion of a cycle.

### **Confidentiality**

Each participating identifier 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/index.php/programs/confidentiality>) for more information.

### **Fees**

Please contact PTA for information on fees for this program.

### **Further Information**

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