

## **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 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 purpose of this proficiency program is to evaluate the competency of laboratories involved with the analysis of coal to Australian Standard AS 1038; 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 Coal Program is a biannual program, i.e. consisting of two rounds per year.

Participating laboratories receive one or two 125-250 gram samples of washed coal. The types of requested analysis may include some or all of the following: Moisture, Ash, Volatile Matter, Gross Calorific Value, Total Sulfur, Pyritic Sulfur, Sulphate Sulfur, Chlorine, Carbon (total), Hydrogen, Nitrogen, Carbonate Carbon, Phosphorus in Coal, Relative Density, Fluorine, Mercury, Selenium, Arsenic and Boron.

A robust statistical approach, using z-scores, is utilised to assess laboratories' testing performance and results are presented for each of the analyses performed by each method. Participants are requested to report an estimate of their measurement uncertainty (MU).

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 laboratory 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 PTA Coal Program, contact [ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au](mailto:ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au)