

## **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 to use five or six place balances to determine inhalable/respirable dust, welding fumes and gases; 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 Gravimetric program is scheduled every two years. Each participating laboratory will be provided with two aluminium test items/weights: nominally 5 mg and 20 mg respectively. The participating laboratories are required to measure the weight of the provided test items according to the instructions provided using five or six place balances. Participants are requested to report an estimate of their measurement uncertainty (MU) at the 95% confidence level.

The participants will be instructed to test according to the following Australian

Standards: AS 2985-2009 *Workplace atmospheres - Method for sampling and gravimetric determination of respirable dust*; AS 3640-2009 *Workplace atmospheres – Method for sampling and gravimetric determination of inhalable dust*; AS 3853.1-2006 *Health and safety in welding and allied processes - Sampling of airborne particles and gases in the operator's breathing zone – Part 1: Sampling of airborne particles*.

A final report, summarising the information submitted by all of the participants can be viewed on the PTA website at the conclusion 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 or operator 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 Gravimetric Program contact [ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au](mailto:ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au)