

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 aim of the Pathogens in Food program is to test each participant's ability to detect the presence or absence of a range of pathogens in food samples.

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 Pathogens in Food program is a biannual program consisting of two rounds per year.

Participants receive a set of five food samples and are asked to test these samples for a range of pathogens. The pathogens tested for include *Salmonella*, *Listeria*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Bacillus cereus* and coagulase positive staphylococci. Other "typical" microflora may be included in the samples.

Participants are asked to analyse the samples by their routine laboratory methods and indicate whether a particular pathogen is present or absent in

each of the samples. All method information is also required to be reported by each participant. All results submitted by participants are examined for laboratories reporting false positive and false negative results.

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 Pathogens in Food Program contact ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au