



PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM

WATERS (BIOLOGICAL)

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 program is to test the laboratories' capability in the identification and enumeration of a mixture of organisms from water 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 Waters Program is an annual program consisting of three rounds per year. The rounds are usually scheduled for March, July and September of each year.

Participants receive two freeze dried water samples which are re-hydrated to represent either sewage effluent or drinking water supply reservoir samples. The samples are to be tested for *E.coli*, Faecal Coliforms, Total Coliforms, Faecal Enterococci and 37°C (or 35°C) Plate Count. Participants are asked to analyse the sample by MF technique, MPN, Colilert and Plate Count using the laboratory's routine method.

Participants are requested to report an estimate of their measurement uncertainty (MU). Laboratories results are assessed for the number of outlier results that are reported. Statistical outliers are identified using a robust z-score technique to detect excessively large variations between the individual laboratory and the overall consensus.

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 Waters (Biological) Program contact ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au