

Gravimetric

Aim of the Program

This proficiency testing program aims to evaluate the competency of laboratories to use five or six place balances to test the gravimetric component (i.e. the use of calibrated weights and balances), relating to the determination of inhalable/respirable dust as per Australian Standards: AS2985-2009 and AS3640-2009; and to provide participants with external quality assurance to enhance accuracy and reliability.

Application of the Program to Accreditation

Participation in this proficiency testing program satisfies the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 – *General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories* for monitoring performance by comparing results with other laboratories.

Program Details

The Gravimetric program is scheduled annually. Each participating laboratory will be provided with two stainless steel test items/weights: nominally 5 mg and 20 mg respectively. The participating laboratories are required to measure the weight of the test items provided 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*; and AS 3640-2009 *Workplace atmospheres – Method for sampling and gravimetric determination of inhalable dust*.

A final report, summarising the information submitted by all participants will be issued to participating laboratories, together with an individual summary sheet at the conclusion of the program. This summary sheet details the performance of that laboratory or operator in the program.

Confidentiality

Each participant is assigned a unique code number, keeping all results anonymous in all PTA reports and publications.

Fees and Further Information

For information on program fees or other enquiries, please contact PTA directly:

Email: ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au