

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) in Oil

Aim of the Program

The aim of the PCBs in Oil program is to test each participant's ability to competently perform the prescribed chemical analysis to meet regulatory requirements for waste classification of PCB-containing oils; 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 Coal program is a bi-annual program, i.e. consists of two rounds per year, usually scheduled during April and October.

The PCBs in Oil program is an annual program, consisting of one round per year usually scheduled during August.

Participants receive one or more oil samples (containing PCBs) and are requested to test each sample for a range of tests including:

Total PCBs, Aroclor 1016, 1221, 1232, 1242, 1248, 1254 and 1260.

Participants are requested to analyse the samples, provide an estimate of their measurement uncertainty (MU) and to indicate the methods they used. The results submitted by participants for a particular test are typically pooled across all methods and robust z-scores are used to analyse the results.

Summary sheets detailing the performance of that laboratory in the program are submitted to individual participants once results have been analysed. A final report, summarising the information submitted by all of the participants will be emailed to participants at the conclusion of each round of 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