



2010 GAUTENG ASSESSOR CONCLAVE

PROFICIENCY TESTING

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DEFINITION OF PROFICIENCY

- Ability
- Skill
- Competence
- Knowledge



- Proficient: Expert, Practical knowledge especially in relation to a task i.e., method or measurement



WHY PARTICIPATE? WHY ASSESS?

- **ILAC Policy – ILAC –P9**
- **AB's seeking to sign or seeking to maintain the status as signatory to the ILAC MRA need to demonstrate the technical competence of their calibration and testing laboratories.**
- **Minimum amount of PT activities: activity prior to gaining accreditation and activity relating to each major sub-discipline of a laboratory's scope of accreditation.**
- **Accreditation bodies needs to fully document their policies and procedures in relation to PT activities**



WHAT IS PROFICIENCY TESTING?

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 - PT participation is a valuable continuous improvement tool to assist AB's to assess technical competence
 - PT Scheme is the determination of the laboratory's performance by means of comparing and evaluating calibration or tests on the same or similar items or materials by two or more laboratories in accordance with pre-determined conditions



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN PT SCHEMES

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 - **Comparing methods and procedures**
 - **Determining method precision and accuracy**
 - **Providing laboratories with additional risk management**
 - **Identify process improvement opportunities**
 - **Determines the performance of individual laboratories for specific tests or measurement**
 - **Comparing operator ability**



HOW ARE PT RESULTS EVALUATED?

- Most organisers of PT schemes present the participants results in the form of “Z-score”
- Actual accuracy achieved : difference between the participant’s result and the accepted true value
- Organiser’s judgement of what degree of accuracy is fit for purpose
- Score of zero means a perfect result
- If a laboratory complies with the schemes criteria for fitness of purpose the score obtained is likely to fall between -2 and 2.
- Score outside the range of -3 and 3 indicates an unusual score and requires immediate investigation



IMPLEMENTATION OF SANAS R80?

- Purpose: policy and specific requirements for participation in PT activities by Testing Laboratories
- Compliance to requirements: 5 year PT plan (does it cover full scope within a cycle?)
- No formal PT - Interlaboratory activities
- PT plan should contain minimum information as per item 4.7 of SANAS R80
- Technical issues that requires common solution needs to be brought forward to the relevant STC



WHAT SHOULD BE IN THE PT PLAN?

- List of Accredited methods
- Parameters for which PT is done relative to parameters not done and reasons for not doing them
- Proficiency Testing Type: ILC, Intra lab, Use of Reference Materials , PT Scheme
- Name of PT scheme, Name of participating labs for where ILC, Name and make of reference material used, type of intra lab (i.e. two similar samples tested by one sample, one sample split for two analyst), Frequency of participation (i.e. 4 times/year)
- No. of samples tested per year using particular method





Thank You For Your Attention!

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