

PT Programs needed

Requirements identified by NATA

NATA has previously published documents aimed at promoting the provision of proficiency testing (PT) in various areas of accreditation and continues to do so when a need is identified.

NOTE:

1. These documents do not apply to NATA's processes for accrediting proficiency testing providers.
2. NATA applicant and accredited facilities should not interpret these documents as criteria for the selection of a particular PT provider.

The provision of the following PT programs may be considered by PT providers:

Construction Materials Testing – Calibration of Nuclear Gauges

There are currently 10 accredited facilities providing for the calibration of nuclear/moisture gauges to AS 1289 5.8.4, three in Western Australia, two each in Queensland, Victoria and New South Wales and one in South Australia.

Program requirements

The proposed program will require each participant to calibrate a nuclear gauge in direct transmission mode at depths of 50, 150 and 300mm. One nuclear gauge is to be sent around to all calibration facilities and the resultant equations, as produced by the various facilities, will then be compared in terms of the densities derived from fixed count ratios.

The calibration equations submitted by each facility will be evaluated by statistically comparing the density values produced by each equation using fixed sets of 10 count ratios for each depth. The fixed count ratios are to cover a range of densities. The preferred statistical approach is to establish a reference set of equations and associated reference uncertainties to enable comparison of the density results derived from equations submitted by each participant using the En ratio. Details of the proposed statistical methodology should be submitted as part of the expression of interest.

PT providers are expected to comply with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043: Conformity assessment – General requirements for proficiency testing.

Preferred frequency: five years

Results and Program Report

It is recommended that the final report be published within four weeks of the submission of the final set of results.

The PT provider needs to have access to a nuclear density gauge that is in good condition and have protocols in place for ensuring prompt turnaround of the device by each participant facility.

Note: The gauges are radioactive sources and the relevant handling and transport legislation will apply.

The PT provider is responsible for all costs associated with running the program, arranging suitable equipment and transport to each facility, including the invoicing of participant facilities and the collection of all fees owing.

Mechanical Testing: Lifting Gear - Slings

Slings - Proof Loading

PT provider is expected to provide single leg chain sling with a working load limit of xyz (selected to be within the scope of the bulk of the lifting gear labs) incorporating a load cell and datalogger with a sampling rate of at least 1KHz with sufficient storage capacity to enable plotting of results from zero through the entire loading process (including hold time) and back to zero at 1KHz.

Instructions must specify the final load, loading rate and a hold time of 10 seconds.

Preferred frequency: biennial

PT providers are expected to comply with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043: Conformity assessment – General requirements for proficiency testing.

Results and Program Report

The program should provide for electronic (web-based) entry of results by participants to assist in the timely return of results.

It is recommended that the final report be published within four weeks of result submission.

The PT provider is responsible for all costs associated with running the program, including the invoicing of participant facilities and the collection of all fees owing.

Veterinary Testing: Parasitology, Microbiology

Parasitology

- Quantitative detection of liver fluke eggs
(expansion of program to include wider range of fluke egg numbers)
- Detection of Fasciola hepatica eggs at limit of test sensitivity
- Correct identification of eggs as Fasciola hepatica
(spiking of samples with similar eggs such as Paramphistomes and mite eggs)
- Liver fluke ELISA (naturally infected animal samples)

Preferred frequency: six monthly

Preferred sample matrix: Faecal samples spiked with known numbers of eggs.

- Quantitative detection of strongylid eggs in faeces

Preferred frequency: six monthly

Preferred sample matrix: Faecal samples spiked with known numbers of eggs.

- Larval differentiation (quantitative differentiation of strongylid worm larvae)

Preferred frequency: 12 monthly

Preferred sample matrix: Known mixture of larvae (Trichostrongylus sp., Teladorsagia sp, Haemonchus sp., Chabertia sp.) derived from monospecific infections in sheep

Microbiology

Bacterial and fungal isolates from the following species (focussing on common bacterial infections):

Aquatic animal isolates
Native and exotic Australian wildlife
Bees

Antimicrobial susceptibility testing of bacterial isolates from all categories above

Preferred frequency: three monthly

PT providers are expected to comply with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043: Conformity assessment – General requirements for proficiency testing.

Results and Program Report:

The program should provide for electronic (web-based) entry of results by participants to assist in the timely return of results.

It is recommended that the final report be published within four weeks of result submission.

Compliance with IATA Requirements (where applicable): Sample packaging must meet IATA requirements.

The PT provider is responsible for all costs associated with running the program, including the invoicing of participant facilities and the collection of all fees owing.

Contact Details

For any information related to this document, please contact

Ms Edita Grujic
Proficiency Testing and Professional Development Coordinator
National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)
7 Leeds Street, Rhodes NSW 2138

Phone: +61 2 9736 8381

Fax: +61 2 9743 5311

E-mail: Edita.Grujic@nata.com.au