

Algae

Aim of the Program

The Algae program aims to assess laboratories' capability in the enumeration and identification of selected Phytoplankton; 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 Algae program is scheduled every one to two years depending on the availability of suitable samples.

Samples – One set of three to five water samples.

Tests – Participants are asked to identify, enumerate and determine cell biovolume of genera and species from various nominated groups that are dominant in the test samples. These can include, but are not limited to, a selected number of the following: green non-motile algae, unicellular motile algae, centric diatoms, desmids, phytoflagellates, filamentous green algae and cyanobacteria.

Statistical Analysis:

A robust z-score technique is used to assess performance.

Reporting:

At the conclusion of each round, each participant receives a confidential individual summary sheet, detailing its performance in the program, and a final program report summarising all participant data.

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