

Proficiency Testing

Water & Environment

ISO/IEC 17043



CONTEST Contaminated Land

The LGC CONTEST scheme offers a comprehensive range of analytes in soils, soil extracts and standards solutions for the analysis of metals, inorganic contaminants, organics, soil leachates and solid waste.

Land contamination can pose both environmental and human health risks. The main causes of contamination are the direct discharge of industrial wastes, domestic pollution, over-usage of pesticides, oil and fuel dumping, leaching of wastes from landfills and leaking underground storage tanks which corrode over time releasing toxic substances into previously clean soils.

Participation in a proficiency testing scheme for soil, such as CONTEST, is a requirement of the UK Environment Agency's Monitoring Certification Scheme (MCERTS) 'Performance Standard for Laboratories Undertaking Chemical Testing of Soil'.



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Test material*	Analyte*
Soil, acid extract of soil, standard solution	Chromium (VI), Metals, Toxic metals.
Soil and/or standard solution	Ammonia, Cyanide (complex, free, total), Dry matter, Easily liberated sulfide, Fluoride (total), Loss on ignition, pH, Sulfate (total), Sulfur (total), Thiocyanate, Water soluble (boron, chloride, fluoride, sulfate), BTEX, Distillable phenolic substances, Elemental sulfur, Phenols, PAHs, PCBs, TOC, TPHs, VOCs.
Soil, standard solution	BTEX, TPH, VOCs, OC pesticides.
Soil leachate	COD, Conductivity, Cyanide (complex, free), Major ions, Metals, pH, PI,Thiocyanide, TOC/DOC, Toxic metals.
Soil waste and leachate (Waste acceptance criteria)	DOC, Dry matter content ratio, Major ions, Metals, PI, TDS, Toxic metals.
Standard solution	Qualitative test of SVOCs.
Trommel fines	Loss on ignition (FINES).

* The full range and availability of test materials and analytes is determined on an annual basis and may be added or removed. For accredited and non-accredited status please see current application form/scheme description.



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