



LGC Standards Proficiency Testing

Technical Changes April Start Schemes 2016-2017

ENVIRONMENTAL and WATER PT Schemes

AIR PT (Workplace Air, Ambient Air, and Stack Emissions) Scheme 2016-2017

Technical Changes to the Scheme

We introduced three new samples:

- 1A Metals on 37mm capsules, which will be supplied as four 37mm diameter cellulose acetate "cassette capsules" spiked with metal solutions and two blank capsules. Use of such capsules meets US NIOSH and OSHA requirements for including "wall deposits" as part of the sample.
- 12A VOCs for fenceline monitoring according to the new EPA 325B oil refinery monitoring method using Carbopack X filled thermal desorption tubes.
- 22 Qualitative determination of VOCs on Tenax sorbent tubes by Thermal Desorption.

For sample 6, Aldehydes, we have increased the number of blank filters supplied to three, in order to meet US EPA requirements for laboratories to spike a proportion of blank filters for internal QC purposes.

Please note that samples 1A, 9, 10A, 10B, 10C, 12A, 13, 14, 15, 22, 38, 39, 40 and 41 are not currently within the scope of our accreditation.

AQUACHECK (Water and Waste Water Chemistry) Scheme 2016-2017

Technical Changes to the Scheme

A number of changes have been made to the main scheme for the 2016-17 year.

- Inclusion of 1,2,4-trimethylbenzene and MTBE in sample 6C.

Further to successful trials, the following samples have been introduced into the main scheme:

- 35 BOD/COD at high concentration - two rounds
- 36 Taste and odour – two rounds
- 37 Acrylamide – three rounds
- 38 UV Absorbing Organic Constituents (254nm) – two rounds
- 39 Geosmin and MIB – two rounds
- 40 Fungicides – two rounds

The following changes have also been made to the trial samples:

- New samples added: chelating agents, inorganic and organic fertilizer and low Level CIP2 contaminants
- Process waters split into two groups: sulfuric/tartaric acid and chloride
- Removal of EDTA from pharmaceuticals trial, as it is now part of the chelating agents sample.

Please note that the trial samples and samples 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39 and 40 are not currently within our UKAS scope of accreditation, as well as certain analytes within samples 6B, 7A, 8, 8B, 9, 12, 18B, 19A, 20, 20B and 21 (for further details, please see the Aquacheck Scheme Description).

CONTEST (Water and Waste Water Chemistry) Scheme 2016-2017

Technical Changes to the Scheme

- increased the number of rounds available for sample E WAC to 5 due to increasing demand from participants. This sample will now be available with moderate contamination in rounds CN101, CN103 and CN105; high contamination in round CN102 and low contamination in round CN104.



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- Reduced number of rounds for sample D Leachate to 3.
- A new analyte has been added to sample 21: Dry Matter Content Ratio.
- Amended ranges for sample 12 Easily liberated sulphide, sample 15 Toluene and Ethylbenzene and sample 3 PAHs.
- Changed sample size of samples 25 and 26 to 1ml in order to facilitate shipping worldwide.

Please note that samples 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 are not currently within the scope of our accreditation.

CLINICAL PT Schemes

DAH (Drugs of Abuse in Hair) Scheme 2016-2017

Technical Changes to the Scheme

There have been no technical changes for the 2016-17 scheme year.

The reporting thresholds have been updated with reference to the EWDTS updated guidelines.

DAU (Drugs of Abuse in Urine) Scheme 2016-2017

Technical Changes to the Scheme

There have been no sample changes for the 2016-17 scheme year.

The reporting thresholds have been updated with reference to the EWDTS updated guidelines.

Whereas participants were previously requested to indicate their reporting threshold preference at the point of order registration, this will now be configured during the results entry process. This will allow the benefit of having differing thresholds per analyte, as per participant requirements. LGC will apply reporting thresholds based on your 2015 order; if required, you can update your preference through the screening profile, accessed via the 'Your account' section of the PORTAL website.

DOF (Drugs of Abuse in Oral Fluids) Scheme 2016-2017

Technical Changes to the Scheme

There have been no technical changes for the 2016-17 scheme year.

The reporting thresholds have been updated with reference to the EWDTS updated guidelines.

TOX (Drugs of Abuse in Hair) Scheme 2016-2017

Technical Changes to the Scheme

Samples BRB (Barbiturate Mix) and FEN (Fentanyl) will not be offered in 2016-17 due to a very low number of participants performing this analysis.

Please note that samples BNZ and ZMIX are not currently within the scope of our accreditation.



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CONSUMER SAFETY PT Schemes

COSMETICS (Cosmetics and Toiletries) Scheme 2016-2017

Technical Changes to the Scheme

Chemistry samples:

- New trial sample 27 introduced for the determination of preservatives in cosmetics.

Microbiology samples:

Further to participant feedback, we have added extra analytes to the microbiology samples. In order to accommodate the additional analytes we will provide two individual samples for each matrix type, which may be purchased separately:

- 10A; 13A; 16A: Detection and/or enumeration of aerobic mesophilic bacteria, *Staphylococcus aureus*, enumeration of Enterobacteriaceae and detection of *E.coli*.
- 10B; 13B; 16B: Enumeration of yeast & mould (total count), detection of *Candida albicans*, detection and/or enumeration of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, detection of *Burkholderia cepacia*.

Please note that samples 24, 25, 26 and 27 are not currently within the scope of our UKAS accreditation, as well as the analytes arsenic and mercury within samples 19, 20 and 21.

PHARMASSURE (Pharmaceutical Analysis) Scheme 2016-2017

Chemistry samples:

- New analytes have been added to sample 2B Trace elements: Chromium; Copper; Zinc
- New trial sample 2E introduced for residual solvents, available twice year in the September 2016 (PH058) and March 2017 (PH060) rounds.

We have also separated samples with tests that change every round into individual sample numbers, in order to clarify the sample structure and make it easier to order the required samples:

- Sample 2 for advanced testing has been separated into samples 6A-6J. This change will allow all participants to select their test materials individually, and enable them to meet their requirements according to the specific techniques used.
- Sample 2C has been re-numbered as 7A (dissolution testing) and 7B (tablet testing).
- Sample 2D has been re-numbered as 8A for Low level conductivity (<50 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$) and 8B for particulate contamination.

Microbiology samples:

Further to participant feedback, we have added extra analytes to the microbiology sample 4. In order to accommodate the additional analytes we will provide two individual samples which may be purchased separately:

- 4A: Enumeration of TAMC and indicator organisms. New analyte added for bile-tolerant gram-negative bacteria.
- 4B: Enumeration of yeast, mould and *Pseudomonas*. New analyte added for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* detection.

The new structure should allow participants to choose the samples that closely suit their requirements.

Please note that samples 2B, 2E, 7A, 7B, 8A and 8B are not currently within the scope of our UKAS accreditation.



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FORENSIC PT Schemes

QUARTZ (Forensic Blood Toxicology) Scheme 2016-2017

Technical Changes to the Scheme

We have introduced two new samples, both available twice a year in the June (QZ065) and November (QZ067) rounds:

- Sample 7 for the identification of synthetic cannabinoids in blood
- Sample 8 for the identification of toxicology drugs/metabolites in urine

Please note that samples 5, 6 and 7 are not currently within the scope of LGC Standards' accreditation.

FAE (Forensic Analysis of Explosives) Scheme 2016

Technical Changes to the Scheme

Laboratories will again be provided with samples of unknown materials to identify. 2 samples will be provided for identification purposes. Please note that participants are not required to submit an interpretation for the samples provided in this scheme year.