Proficiency Testing Program

Information Sheet

Compaction Proficiency Program

Program recognition

LabSmart Services are accredited by NATA to ISO/IEC 17043, Conformity assessment — General requirements for proficiency testing. An endorsed report is issued at the completion of the program to all participants. Participation in LabSmart Services proficiency programs is accepted by NATA as meeting a laboratory's proficiency testing requirements as detailed in ISO/IEC 17025.

Program aim

The aim of the proficiency program is to provide feedback to laboratories regarding test competency relative to other peer laboratories in the construction materials testing industry. This provides valuable assurance that testing is at a satisfactory level as well as providing opportunities for improvement. Assessment of performance is based on statistically comparing each participant's results against all other participants in the program.

Sample provided

Each participant receives a carefully packed box containing one compaction sample.

Also included is a set of detailed instructions and a log sheet on which to record the results from testing.

Test method covered

This program requires participants to satisfy the requirements of AS 1289.5.1.1; determination of dry density and moisture content using standard compactive effort.

Equivalent test methods may be used but it is the responsibility of participants to determine if the method they use is equivalent.

Confidentiality

Each participant in the program is assigned a unique code which is used in the proficiency testing program report. This ensures that participant's results remain confidential.

Z − score summary

A z-score summary is provided on the LabSmart Services website after participant's results have been processed. The summary contains only z-score results and is meant as an early indication of performance prior to the release of the proficiency testing program report.

Proficiency program report

At the completion of the program, a proficiency testing report is issued providing an assessment of the performance of each participant as well as other technical information useful for better understanding the testing process and for improving laboratory performance. An electronic copy of the report (pdf) is sent to all participants between 4 to 8 weeks after the results due date. The report is also available for downloading from the LabSmart Services website. A hard copy of the final report is available on request.

Fees

The proficiency program fees are generally significantly less than the cost of similar programs. Fees are based on a per site basis (i.e. Laboratory, Annex Laboratory, Mobile Laboratory etc). All fees are detailed on the application form and include GST.

Additional samples per site may be requested at a discounted fee.

A further discount is offered for organisations with multiple laboratories providing payment is via a single invoice (see next page).

2 to 4 laboratories	5 % Discount
5 to 8 laboratories	10 % Discount
>9 laboratories	15 % Discount

Payment options

Laboratories are invoiced once samples are approved and ready for sending.
Prompt payment is appreciated as it helps us offer low fees.

There are a number of payment options:

- EFT
- Purchase Order
- Payment by credit card is available.
  (Please note these payments are subject to a 2.5 % finance and administration fee.)

Enrolment

Completion of an order form is needed to ensure we have your current and correct contact details. Orders are welcome from both accredited and non-accredited laboratories.

Please complete a "Single Site" application form or if you wish to enter multiple sites (including Annex Laboratories) then use the "Multi-Site" application form. An order form may be obtained directly from LabSmart Services or from our website.

Prior to the commencement of the program, laboratories are sent an invitation to participate which gives details on fees and dates applicable to the current program. If you have not received an invitation, please contact us for fee and program details.

Program Coordinator

Every program has assigned a staff member who is dedicated to handling any questions or requests you have regarding this program. The name of the program coordinator may be found on the program invitation that is sent prior to conducting the proficiency program.

Additional information

Further information about how LabSmart Services proficiency programs are conducted, and the statistics used is contained in our publication "Participants Guide" downloadable from the LabSmart Services Website.

www.labsmartservices.com.au