



Eurachem

A Focus for Analytical Chemistry in Europe

9th PT/EQA Workshop - Portoroz 2017

Report from WG 3



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Implementing ISO/IEC 17043 for sampling PT/EQA schemes

- Convenors:
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Delegates' statistics

- 44 participants
 - 32 PT Providers
 - of which 6 provide sampling PTs, 2 of them accredited
 - 8 Accreditation Bodies
 - 3 Regulators
 - 5 PT end users
 - of which none have taken part in sampling PTs yet



1. What is understood to be a sampling PT/EQA scheme

- Types of schemes
 - Practical sampling (physically taking samples)
 - Strategy of sampling (e.g., virtual PT)
- Types of sectors
 - Environmental (water, air, emissions, soil)
 - Health and Safety (e.g., workplace air)
 - Consumer products testing (toys, textiles)
 - Blood
 - Mechanical testing
 - Coal sampling



1. What is understood to be a sampling PT/EQA scheme

- Why are they important?
 - Requirement in legislation (certification of personnel)
 - Increases confidence in decision making
 - Picture of quality of the whole chain
 - Sampling is a key component of whole testing process
 - Training
 - Check if requirements of standards are fulfilled



3. Is the demand for sampling PT/EQA schemes likely to change in the future?

Yes.

- New ISO 17025 driver for new demand
 - Recognises sampling as a work activity of a laboratory
 - Emphasis on risk assessment (peer pressure)
- Official bodies are increasingly interested in sampling (e.g. FDA)
- New environmental directives putting more emphasis on sampling



2. What are the challenges for implementing ISO/IEC 17043 for sampling PT/EQA schemes?

What are the difficult requirements of the Standard to implement?

- Homogeneity
- Stability
- Assigned values
- Collusion
- Confidentiality
- Logistics and expense



2. What are the challenges for implementing ISO/IEC 17043 for sampling PT/EQA schemes?

How can such requirements be addressed for these schemes?

- Virtual PT
- Regulatory funding
- Small scale, local PTs
- Tell participants in advance, that PT is not confidential



4. How is traceability and uncertainty addressed in such schemes?

- Trackability of samples to be ensured
- Metrological traceability difficult ??
 - More standardised methods
 - More guidance
- Calibration of sampling devices – theoretical uncertainty of mechanical sampling
- Uncertainty estimation could be improved by professional statistical input
 - Sector specific advice