



MODULE 6C

PROFICIENCY TESTING (PT) FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LEAD LABORATORIES

6C.1 PARTICIPATION

Participation in AIHA Proficiency Analytical Testing Programs (AIHA-PAT Programs), LLC Environmental Lead Proficiency Analytical Testing (ELPAT) program is a prerequisite to qualification under the American Industrial Hygiene Association Laboratory Accreditation Programs (AIHA-LAP), LLC Environmental Lead Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELLAP). This program has adopted the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Proficiency Analytical Testing Statistical Protocol as the ELLAP Standard. Laboratories in the ELLAP are required to analyze ELPAT samples for those Fields of Testing (FoT)/Method(s) for which accreditation is sought (see *Appendix B - ELLAP Scope/PT Table* maintained on the AIHA-LAP, LLC web site, www.aihaaccreditedlabs.org). ELPAT is conducted on a quarterly basis.

Environmental lead sample analysis may be performed by any combination of preparation method, analysis method and instrumentation. ELPAT samples must be analyzed using the same preparation method, analysis method and instrumentation combination used by the laboratory for actual customer sample analysis.

Laboratories participating in the ELPAT program shall conform to all proficiency testing requirements as outlined in this module and Module 6A.

6C.2 PROFICIENCY

FoT/Method proficiency is based upon laboratory performance in analyzing the corresponding ELPAT program sample, as listed in the *Appendix B - ELLAP Scope/PT Table*.

6C.2.1 Outliers

A result that is outside the statistical control limits determined for an ELPAT round is classified as an outlier. An unreported result is classified as an outlier unless the AIHA-PAT Programs, LLC has pre-approved nonparticipation. In the event a laboratory submits results and the results are lost in transit (i.e., no official AIHA-PAT Programs, LLC record of results submittal), then a written request may be submitted to the AIHA-PAT Programs, LLC for exemption from penalty for nonparticipation provided the laboratory is able to document that results were submitted on time. AIHA-PAT Programs, LLC shall review the exemption request and make a determination as appropriate.

6C.2.2 Establishing Proficiency

A laboratory is rated proficient for the applicable FoT/Method(s) if there are no more than twenty-five (25) percent cumulative outliers reported in the last four (4) consecutive ELPAT rounds in which the laboratory has participated at the time of accreditation, or there are no outliers reported in the last two (2) consecutive ELPAT rounds.

6C.2.3 Maintaining Proficiency

A laboratory is rated proficient for the applicable FoT/Method(s) if there are no more than twenty-five (25) percent cumulative outliers reported in the last four (4) consecutive ELPAT rounds or there are no outliers reported in the last two (2) consecutive ELPAT rounds.



Laboratories that become non-proficient for any FoT/Method(s) shall adhere to the procedures outlined in Module 3, Section 3.8.2.

6C.2.4 AIHA PAT Programs, LLC Reporting Frequency

AIHA PAT Programs, LLC sends reports to AIHA-LAP, LLC on a quarterly basis after each round has closed.

6C.3 NLLAP RECOGNITION

Analyses conducted by a laboratory in a non-proficient FoT/Method are not recognized under the NLLAP until a proficient rating is achieved. A laboratory shall not be recognized under the NLLAP for a FoT/Method for which accreditation has been suspended. When a laboratory is suspended or rated non-proficient in a FoT/Method, AIHA-LAP, LLC shall notify the laboratory that analysis conducted by that laboratory for the non-proficient or suspended FoT/Method are not recognized by NLLAP.