

10 Questions for PT Follow-up

1: Have all measurement areas identified on the laboratory Scope been evaluated by proficiency testing in the last 4 years?

If no, when was the last PT performed for each measurement area on the scope, and why has compliance with the four year proficiency testing policy been an issue?

2: Have all current laboratory staff demonstrated proficiency in the past four years in the measurement areas identified on the laboratory Scope for which they have documented responsibility? If not, why? What is the plan to ensure compliance with the requirement for demonstrated proficiency?

3: Have there been PT failures in the past ten years? If so, was root cause analysis performed for the failures to identify the root cause of the failure? For each failure include documentation identifying the root cause, corrective action planned or performed, status of that corrective action and a description of the follow-up actions used to evaluate success with evidence of success or failure. .

4: Identify the number one cause of PT failures in your laboratory. Address “why”.

5: Has your laboratory shown consistent results when measuring multiple proficiency test artifacts of the same nominal value? This question should especially address PTs in which there are multiple like artifacts.

Are your values for like artifacts in a particular PT less than the $k=1$ uncertainty for your laboratory from the accepted reference value? If not, why?

Do values for like artifacts show a consistent bias from the accepted reference value or is the bias somewhat random?

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6: Based on your laboratory data identifying date of receipt and date of completion/shipping, has your laboratory consistently completed PT measurements in the time allotted for completion on the PT schedule? If not, what were the causes of the slow turnaround?

7: Were the uncertainties reported for the PTs in which your laboratory participated representative of your routine uncertainties for similar artifacts at that time? If not, why was the uncertainty different than the routine uncertainty?

8: Was the process used for each PT the laboratory routine process or was a better process used? If a better process was used, what was the purpose of using that better process?

9: Has your laboratory participated in PTs for measurement areas that were not represented on your scope at that time? Elaborate on the purpose of participating in that PT and the outcomes of the results in your laboratory?

10: In what measurement areas would you like to see new proficiency tests provided and what level of uncertainty would be expected for those measurements?