



MCERTS Performance Standard for Organisations Undertaking Sampling and Chemical Testing of Water – Part 1

Version 1.1, briefing note 3
November 2009

Performance characteristics of determinands not listed in Annex A

The MCERTS standard states (section 5.3.4.3):

“When the analysis of a determinand that is not listed in Annex A (Tables 1 – 3) is required, the laboratory shall request performance criteria from the Environment Agency via UKAS.”

The Environment agency has agreed with UKAS that when a laboratory requests accreditation of determinands that are not listed in Annex A of this standard, the following performance requirements shall be enforced:

Metals – 5% precision and 10% bias

Inorganics – 5% precision and 10% bias

Organics – 15% precision and 20% bias

If a laboratory is unable to meet these requirements due to matrix effects or fitness for purpose issues it shall propose alternative performance characteristics and submit them to the Environment Agency via UKAS for assessment.

Exceptions:

Where there are precision and bias targets for treated sewage and trade effluent discharges to controlled waters and none for the other matrices, the precision and bias targets for treated sewage and trade effluent discharges to controlled waters apply.

Electrical conductivity: precision and bias of not greater than 2%