

Environment Agency Policy		
Chemical Test Data on Contaminated Soils - Qualification Requirements		
Policy Number: 307_03		
<p>Policy Statement: The MCERTS 'Performance Standard for Laboratories Undertaking the Chemical Testing of Soil (Version 2)' has been published, and provides an application of the European and international standard BS EN ISO/IEC 17025:2000 (accredited by United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS)) specifically for the chemical testing of soil.</p> <p>The performance standard is applicable to all laboratories and procurers of analytical services where results generated for the chemical testing of soil are submitted to the Environment Agency for regulatory purposes. The Environment Agency will only accept data from methods that have been accredited to the MCERTS standard.</p> <p>The use of in situ testing to complement MCERTS laboratory analysis can significantly improve the quality of site investigation and can reduce the cost of both site investigation and remediation. It can be used for improved targeting of conventional sampling, better spatial delineation of contaminated areas, and the development of conceptual site models. Although only MCERTS accredited data can be used to support regulatory decisions the Environment Agency recognises that insitu testing has an important supporting role to play.</p> <p>Objectives: MCERTS for the chemical testing of soils will provide assurance to laboratories, local authorities, consultants and members of the public of the reliability of data from tests.</p>		
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Policy Sponsor: Tricia Henton		
Signature of Authorisation by Policy Sponsor:		
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If you have any queries on the content of this document or suggestions for improvement, refer to the Primary Contact named above.

If any term or acronym used in this document is unfamiliar you might find the definition in the Glossary on Easinet: Information Resources > [Glossary of Terms and Acronyms](#).

New text since the last version is highlighted in yellow [example].

Explanatory Note

CHEMICAL TEST DATA ON CONTAMINATED SOILS - QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS Policy Number: 307_03

Background

The Environment Agency has extended its Monitoring Certification Scheme (MCERTS) to cover the chemical testing of soils where test results are to be submitted to the Environment Agency for regulatory purposes.

Chemical test data on soils is used by the Agency to support its regulatory activities under a number of regimes, including Part IIA of EPA 1990; Pollution, Prevention and Control (England and Wales Regulations) 2000, and Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994.

The Environment Agency has to assess measurements presented to it by others, including Local Authorities, and also commissions measurements and makes some itself. It needs to define what quality of measurement is required to support regulatory decisions and to have an effective and efficient means to establish the quality of testing data presented to it. Sound measurements of contaminants in soils are needed to inform the assessment and management of risks and hazards that these contaminants may pose to the environment and human health.

Desired Outcomes

- Testing data used to support regulatory decisions on soils will be fit for purpose.
- Staff will have an effective and efficient means of confirming the quality of testing data.

Audience

Internally it is relevant to:

Area Managers, Area Environment Managers, Groundwater and Contaminated Land Team Leaders and Technical Officers, Environment Management Team Leaders and Environment Officers, National Operations Process and Technical Services Managers, Contaminated Land Capital Projects and Geoscience teams, Science Group Managers and teams, Waste Regulatory and Strategic Permitting Group Team Leaders and their teams.

Externally it is relevant to:

Local Authorities, Environmental Consultants, landowners and laboratories

References

- MCERTS Performance Standard for Laboratories Undertaking Chemical Testing of Soil, Environment Agency, February 2003
- BS EN ISO/IEC 17025:2000 Standard for Testing Laboratories

Policy Implementation Plan

Chemical Test Data on Contaminated Soils - Qualification Requirements

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<p>1. Who are the target audiences, and do they require awareness, training or education?</p>	<p>The policy is targeted at both internal and external audiences, who require awareness.</p> <p>Internally it is relevant to: Area Managers, Area Environment Managers, Groundwater and Contaminated Land Team Leaders and Technical Officers, Environment Management Team Leaders and Environment Officers, National Operations Process Technical Services Managers, Contaminated Land Capital Projects and Geoscience teams, Science Group Managers and teams, Waste Regulatory and Strategic Permitting Group Team Leaders and officers.</p> <p>Externally it is relevant to: Local Authorities, Environmental Consultants, landowners and laboratories who need to be aware of the requirement for accreditation</p>
<p>2. What do they need to know?</p>	<p>They need to know that no laboratory soil test results should be accepted unless they have MCERTS accreditation. This revision of the policy is primarily to clarify the Environment Agency view of in situ testing.</p>
<p>3. When do they need to know it?</p>	<p>Now</p>
<p>4. How will they be told?</p>	<p>Area Managers and Environment Managers have been informed in writing. Environment Managers will have cascaded the information to Environment Protection Team Leaders and team members. They will also have provided details of where to find the policy on Easinet.</p> <p>Environment Agency officers who are responsible for Part IIA of EPA 1990 have been told of the policy via the regular "process update" memo. They have also been told where to obtain a copy via the Easinet. They in turn have informed Local Authorities as the nominated Environment Agency "key contact officers" as set up under the Environment Agency/Local Government Association "Working Better Together" Protocol.</p> <p>Environmental consultants, laboratories and landowners have been told via communication with Environment Agency officers during the course of consultations, and directly via respective professional/trade associations. A copy of the policy has been placed on the Environment Agency website.</p> <p>This revision of the policy will be disseminated by similar means.</p>
<p>5. Who will tell them?</p>	<p>See above</p>
<p>6. Monitoring of Progress</p> <p>Method(s):</p> <p>Success Criteria:</p> <p>Date(s) Undertaken:</p>	<p>Monitoring of the number of laboratories applying for accreditation. All laboratories submitting results to the Environment Agency will be accredited.</p>

Comments:		
7. Authorisation	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Policy Sponsor</u></p> <p>Sign: _____</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Title: _____</p> <p>Date: _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Chair Approval Body</u></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
8. Review Due	31/05/2007	