

Industrial Hygiene Proficiency Analytical Testing Program Summary

Industrial hygiene is the science of anticipating, recognizing, evaluating, and controlling workplace conditions that may cause workers' injury or illness. Industrial hygienists use environmental monitoring methods and occupational health laboratories use analytical methods to determine the extent of worker exposures and potential health impacts. The **Industrial Hygiene Proficiency Analytical Testing (IHPAT) Program** is designed to assist occupational health laboratories demonstrate competency and improve their analytical performance in support of industrial hygiene programs. Administered by AIHA Proficiency Analytical Testing Programs (AIHA PAT Programs), IHPAT provides vital assurance of competence to its participants' clients, potential customers, accreditation bodies, and other external entities.

Participation in proficiency testing activities also provides invaluable feedback in the internal monitoring of a laboratory's quality system. Through these activities, a laboratory can verify its competence to perform specific calibrations or tests. In addition to regulatory compliance, participating in a proficiency testing program can help a laboratory determine the reliability of its analytical protocols, laboratory personnel, and equipment. RTI's support of AIHA PAT Programs provides participants with opportunities to improve and refine the analytical skills of their staff while training different analysts or testing new procedures.

Based on decades of experience in the analysis of industrial hygiene analytes (lead and trace metals in all media, beryllium, bulk and airborne asbestos, and trace organic compounds), RTI is well suited to provide the highest-quality PT materials for the entire suite of analytes in the IHPAT Program. RTI has international logistics and shipping capabilities to serve the global participants in the IHPAT program, and the experience and facilities to maintain an archive of IHPAT samples. RTI laboratories are expertly equipped for the generation, analysis and archiving of PT materials. RTI provides rigorous training of laboratory staff, and a comprehensive Quality Assurance/Quality Control programs to oversee data quality and regulatory compliance.