



## Overview

In this brochure you will find new matrices that will be provided as free trial on this 14<sup>TH</sup> ROUND EAC PT Scheme in 2019.

EAC PT Scheme has extended its scope on PT provision and added cosmetics, paints, solar panels, electric cables, roofing sheets, steel bars and textiles PT.

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More information may be found from the Below contact details.

Participation is open to all interested laboratories in and outside EAC region

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## EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY PROFICIENCY TESTING SCHEME (EAC PT SCHEME)

NEW MATRICES TO BE  
PROVIDED AS FREE TRIAL IN  
14<sup>TH</sup> ROUND EAC PT 2019

[Information brochure](#)

## What is Proficiency testing?

Proficiency Testing is evaluation of participant performance against pre-established criteria by means of interlaboratory comparisons (ISO/IEC 17043:2010)

### Why proficiency testing?

The demand for independent proof of competence from the regulatory bodies and customers means that proficiency testing (PT) is relevant to all testing laboratories in all countries. Hence, it is a requirement of accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025 that the laboratories take part in a proficiency testing scheme, if suitable scheme exists. Thus, together with the use of validated methods, PT is an essential element of laboratory quality assurance.

Regular participation in a proficiency testing scheme provides independent verification of the analytical competence of a laboratory and shows a commitment to a maintenance and improvement of its performance. It demonstrates to the public, customers, accreditation bodies, regulators and management that analytical procedures are under control, and gives analysts confidence that the service which they render withstands scrutiny.

The cost of participation in a PT scheme gives good value for money compared with the consequences of producing inaccurate results which might put the public health at risk, damages a company's reputation, loss of profit, or contravene national regulations.

### How does a Proficiency Testing Scheme operate?

Proficiency Testing (PT) schemes operate by providing participating laboratories with similar samples for concurrent testing. The laboratory analyses the samples, preferably as part of its normal routine and reports the result to the provider. The laboratory is then provided with the report showing how closely their results agree with the accepted values and where necessary, can then take appropriate actions to improve performance.

All participating laboratories are **coded for confidentiality** purposes.

## Why EAC proficiency testing scheme?

The primary aim of the EAC Proficiency testing scheme is to provide a quality assurance tool to laboratories in the region and to compare performance and take remedial action where necessary to facilitate improvement.

Participation in this PT should therefore lead to a higher standard of performance for these types of measurements. This scheme focuses on improving laboratory-testing capabilities with an aim of producing accurate and reliable results that can be respected and trusted within and beyond the borders of the EAC region. This will help the region to become competitive in trade.

### New Extended Scopes in the scheme

Currently the scheme design comprises of Edible salts, Fertilizer, Wheat, maize flour, edible vegetable oil, sugar, honey, fruit juice, black tea, animal feed, gin, and UHT milk, microbiological parameters in skim milk powder, meat, fish chunks and black tea.

**EAC has extended its scopes to new matrices from Building materials, electrical devices, textiles, paints and cosmetics as mentioned below;**

#### Roofing sheets

**Analytes:** Tensile strength, Top color + primer, Bottom color, Base metal thickness, Bottom substrate and Top substrate.

**Provider:** Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS)

#### Steel Bars

**Analytes:** Mass per unit length, nominal cross-sectional area, Upper Yield Stress, Tensile Strength and Elongation at fracture.

**Provider:** Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS)

#### Electrical cables

**Analytes:** Conductor resistance and Insulation thickness

**Provider:** Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS)

#### Solar Panels

**Analytes:** Maximum Power output

**Provider:** Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS)

#### Paints

**Analytes:** Non-volatile matter, pH and Fineness of grind.

**Provider:** Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)

#### Textiles

**Analytes:** Breaking strength and elongation at break, mass per unit area, 'fibre composition & proportion' and construction-threads per unit length.

**Provider:** Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)

#### Cosmetic Lotion

**Analytes:** Hydroquinone, Thermalstability, pH, Total Fatty Substance content, Lead as Pb, Arsenic as As and Mercury as Hg

**Provider:** Rwanda Standards Board (RSB)



### Reporting and Assessment

The test results are transformed into performance statistics to interpretation and allow comparison. These will involve static analysis of results, using robust statistical method according to ISO 13528. The z-score for each result is tabulated and then summarized for each laboratory.