



DENR Environmental Laboratory Recognition (ELR) Scheme

Level 3: Proficiency Testing

Based on the DAO, all applicant laboratories to the ELR scheme shall participate in proficiency testing (PT) exercises organized or recommended by the DENR for the relevant parameters included in their desired scope of recognition.

PT is a monitoring tool to ensure quality and uniformity of tests and measurements of laboratories. PT supplements internal quality control procedures of laboratories by providing an additional external audit of their testing capability. Good performance in PT programs provides independent evidence and hence reassurance to laboratory clients that procedures, methods and other operations are under control. PT also provides laboratories with a sound basis for continuous improvement and enables laboratories to compare their performance with those of other laboratories by analyzing the same samples using their routine analytical methods.

DENR ELR applicant laboratories should be able to demonstrate successful participation prior to receiving DENR recognition. DAO 98-63 stipulates a reduction in the scope of recognition of a laboratory if it has three consecutive unsatisfactory performances in PT studies.

During assessment, the assessors check the laboratory's compliance to these sections of the DAO and their performance is evaluated.