General Information

1.0 Introduction

GPTC is an ISO/IEC 17043 accredited PT provider based in Ajman, United Arab Emirates, and offer PT schemes to laboratories worldwide in various disciplines e.g. Construction Materials, Calibration, Microbiology, Chemical Testing, Fire Testing, Air Quality Monitoring, Water / Environmental testing etc.

2.0 Objectives and relevant details of the PT schemes;

General objectives of the PT scheme are defined as below, for information of participants prior to commencement and participation.

a) Evaluation of Laboratory Performance
To objectively assess the performance of participating laboratories by comparing reported results against assigned values and predefined performance criteria using statistically valid methods (e.g. z-score, z'-score, En number), in accordance with ISO 13528: 2022 where applicable.

b) Monitoring of Ongoing Competence
To support continual monitoring of laboratory competence over time by providing independent evidence of consistent technical performance in testing or calibration activities within the defined scope.

c) Support to Accreditation, Regulatory, and Contractual Requirements
To provide objective evidence of competence for accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025, regulatory compliance, or fulfillment of contractual and customer requirements, as required by accreditation bodies and regulators.

d) Identification of Measurement and Method-Related Issues
To identify potential problems related to measurement processes, test or calibration methods, equipment, reference standards, environmental conditions, or operator competence, enabling corrective and preventive actions.

e) Comparison of Test or Calibration Methods
To compare the performance and equivalence of different standardized or validated methods (e.g. ISO, ASTM, BS, AASHTO) applied by participants for the same measurand and matrix, where permitted by the PT design.

f) Support to Method Validation, Uncertainty Evaluation, and Training
To contribute data for method validation or verification, evaluation of measurement uncertainty, and identification of training needs for technical staff, without compromising the primary objective of performance evaluation.

2.0 Criteria to be met for participation;

Any laboratory facility registered as independent laboratory (First, second- or third-party laboratory), or a section of any organization having established facilities and resources for conducting required analysis. It is not requirement of GPTC's PT schemes that all participants should be accredited, candidate for accreditation or those who want to ensure their capability of measurement can participate in it's schemes.

3.0 Criteria for determining the assigned value and the evaluation of performance;

Depending on the nature and specific requirements of each PT scheme GPTC use one of the various methods for determination of assigned values (e.g. reference value, consensus value from participant's results, Certified Reference Materials etc.) Associated uncertainty of assigned values, where applicable, depending on the requirement of the PT scheme is determined as applicable standards and accreditation requirements. Performance evaluation criteria (e.g. z-scores, z'-scores, En scores, qualitative assessment) Statistical methods are applied in accordance with the requirements of ISO 13528: 2022 and ISO/IEC 17043: 2023.

4.0 Confidentiality arrangements;

Global Proficiency testing company is committed to confidentiality as per ISO/IEC 17043: 2023. In order to maintain confidentiality, each participant is assigned a code number to protect its identity. Each participant gets their related code number separately in a "Certificate of participation", once the final report of PT round is released. It is ensured that each participant receives only 'code number' which is related to them.
Final PT report can be made public without revealing identification of the participants. If a regulatory authority request information about participants, it will be notified to participant by official email as well, unless prohibited by the law.
GPTC strictly control the access to the identification of participants. Only PT Coordinator, Analyst and General Manager can have access to the company software producing the participant's codes and the identification of PT participants.
All communication related to PT program is requested only through official company email info@gptc.ae and participants were requested to send the final test reports related to PT program to info@gptc.ae
Participants are expected not to contact any staff of GPTC personally for confidentiality reasons.

5.0 Critical timelines;

Usually, each participant is given about 1 to 3 weeks depending for their testing and further 1 week for reporting thereafter to complete, verify and issue the final test results for inclusion in final PT report.

6.0 Fee for Participation;

GPTS operates on a fixed price basis. The prices are advertised on the company's website and in the registration form. Same base price is maintained all over the world. However, depending on the location shipment charges or value added tax is added in the price and it may look different. The prices of various schemes may range from AED 700.00 to AED 9,000.00

7.0 Details, how to apply.

To participate in GPTC PT schemes, an email can be sent to info@gotc.ae asking for the registration form related to the desired discipline. If the scheme currently available. GPTC will send the registration form, including details of matrix, measurand, related standards and applicable participation fees etc. which can be filled and sent back to GPTC for registration in the scheme. At present GPTC use a registration form to receive information from participants, however soon a fully functional online portal will be available for participants to register in desired PT scheme.

8.0 General Information

If a participant requires samples for more than one branch, they have to fill in a separate form for each branch with the complete address for sample delivery etc.

Participant can fill directly in the pdf form provided for registration. Participants can sign / stamp digitally or can print on paper then sign, stamp and scan to send back to us.

By filling & signing the registration form, participants confirm that they are authorizing GPTC to generate an invoice for selected PT schemes and participants will be responsible to clear the invoice.

Upon receipt of the filled-in form back from participant, an invoice will be generated and sent to participants.

Participants will have to pay additional courier charges for shipment of samples. Shipment charges will be added in the total amount of invoice.

For calibration PT schemes, artefact return shipment (two way) charges are applicable.

Detailed "Instructions to participants" will be sent to all registered participants for each test / calibration.

Upon completion of a PT round each participant will receive a "Detailed final PT report" and "Certificate of Participation"

*Out of UAE customers are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that they have met all local Customs and Health regulations relating to the importation of proficiency testing items / artefacts. This includes providing requested information to local authorities, obtaining import permits where required, and payment of all importation-related fees, duties and charges. GPTC will make every effort to provide information to assist with importation, however, takes no direct responsibility for any delays in importation or importation failures.

9.0 General guidance for elimination of main error sources

PTP participants have the obligation:

a) to handle the artefact carefully in the same way as they handle most of their routinely calibration items,

b) to follow the standard method's requirements properly and use equipment with valid calibrations traceable back to international standards.

c) to follow the instructions of the PT Provider's employee responsible for the PTP, especially regarding the type of calibration carried out, the number of result determinations and the PT schedule,

d) to state expanded measurement uncertainties in accordance with their documented procedures, including the corresponding expansion coefficient. Participants will use expansion coefficient 2, which approximately represents the 95% reliability level, unless stated otherwise,

e) to adhere to the rules of accrediting body and principles of ethical conduct, as well as to regulations governing health and safety at work and fire safety, and to use exclusively electrical devices and facilities with a valid inspection / safety label.

f) to send the calibration results obtained during this round of PT scheme, including measurement uncertainties, to the PT Provider by the set deadline as mentioned above.

g) not to disclose / share calibration results with anyone, except PT provider.

h) Participant agrees to abide by all instructions as a condition of their participation in this PT Program. Failure to follow all instructions will result in participant being responsible for any replacement costs caused by failure to stick on to instructions, including but not limited to damage to artifact, loss of artifact and/ or delay in measurement process.