

The rules for participation in interlaboratory comparisons on the determination of the content of free crystalline silica, iron and manganese in the welding dust – 1st round, July 2012

1. Coordinator of interlaboratory comparisons is the Environmental Protection Group of the Gdansk Shiprepairyard "REMONTOWA".
2. Comparisons are organized in accordance with the principles given in ISO/IEC 17043:2010. The results will be evaluated by statistical methods given in Annex B of the ISO/IEC 17043:2010. The criterion for acceptance of the results will be value of z-scores.
3. Comparisons are designed for laboratories which conduct tests of content of free crystalline silica, iron and manganese in the dusts collected in the work environment. The expected participants are laboratories performing routine tests and measurements of free crystalline silica and / or iron and / or manganese in industrial dusts occurring in the work environment.
4. To participate in the comparisons is enough to perform tests on one of these factors.
5. The test methods should be based on validated standards or their own procedures.
6. The object of the comparisons will be welding dust called REM 2012 prepared by the Environmental Protection Team. Dust was collected from industrial dust filters, is characterized by small sized particles and it was homogenized by repeated mixing and sieving using a vibrating shaker and a set of sieves.
7. Participants will receive approximately 10 g of dust for tests and further use as reference material. Participants will perform tests to determine the content:
 - free crystalline silica, measured value will be expressed as a percentage,
 - iron, measured value will be expressed in mg Fe/g of material,
 - manganese, measured value will be expressed in mg Mn/g of material.
8. The scope of the expected content of free crystalline silica, iron and manganese determined by tests in several independent accredited laboratories will be given to participants before they start of comparisons (in the program of comparisons attached to sample of dust).
9. After the ending of interlaboratory comparison, the participants will get comparisons report and additional table which will contain information about the contents of the particular substances determined by all participants which take part in comparisons.
10. For more information about interlaboratory comparisons, contact with Coordinator of comparisons, Artur Kozdra, e-mail:artur.kozdra@remontowa.com.pl (in English or Polish).



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