



**POLLUTECH'S ECOTOXICITY LABORATORY ACHIEVES
RENEWED ACCREDITATION**



Pollutech's ecotoxicity testing laboratory has successfully renewed its accreditation to the standard of ISO/IEC 17025:2005 with the Canadian Association for Laboratory Accreditation Inc. (CALA) for specific aquatic, sediment and soil ecotoxicity testing procedures. Accreditation is limited to those ecotoxicity tests associated with Pollutech's current scope of testing. Pollutech's accreditation to the standard of ISO/IEC 17025:2005 means that Pollutech's ecotoxicity testing laboratory quality assurance program also meets the principles of ISO 9001:2008.

The quality assurance program sets Pollutech on a track of continual improvement. Key components of the quality assurance program are the written policies and procedures, the appropriate training of personnel in the procedures, and a feedback mechanism to measure success in following procedures. The written portions of the program are continually reviewed and revised as necessary, to ensure policies and methods are adequate and accurate. Training of new staff and refreshing existing staff is measured appropriately and documented in training records. One kind of feedback is the frequent reference toxicity tests (testing organisms with a known toxicant), and by the controls which are started with every toxicity test. Pollutech is also a participant in the CALA Proficiency Testing (PT) Program. In this program, Pollutech receives toxicants which are tested as routine samples. The results are reported to CALA, and a PT report is generated, where the results of Pollutech are compared to the consensus of results calculated from all participants from across Canada.

Accreditation is maintained by consistently adhering to our quality policy. Since 1997, the first year CALA accreditation was offered and first year it was received by Pollutech, and every other year thereafter, Pollutech is visited by a team of CALA assessors. The assessors determine the level of compliance of our quality system with ISO17025:2005, and our laboratory methods with current Environment Canada toxicity testing methods. This assessment is very detailed and includes interviews with key laboratory staff, meetings with the management, and an item-by-item evaluation of each ISO/IEC 17025:2005 requirement. In the interim years, completion of a surveillance questionnaire is required by CALA.

The maintenance of the quality management system (and Pollutech's accreditation) requires commitment from top management, and continual vigilance from every employee. The energy and time expended are well worth the result of providing consistently reliable and technically valid results to our clients.

CALA accreditation has become an integral component of validation for acceptance by clientele and has been incorporated as a requirement of regulations by various levels of government. information regarding the CALA program and Pollutech's accreditation can be found at www.cala.ca.

bringing clarity to your environment

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