



6th PT/EQA Workshop – Rome 2008

Report from WG1



How frequently should laboratories participate in PT/EQA?

- Convenors:
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- Objectives:
 - Consider the factors that influence the frequency of participation in PT/EQA



Q1: What are the key factors in determining frequency of participation?

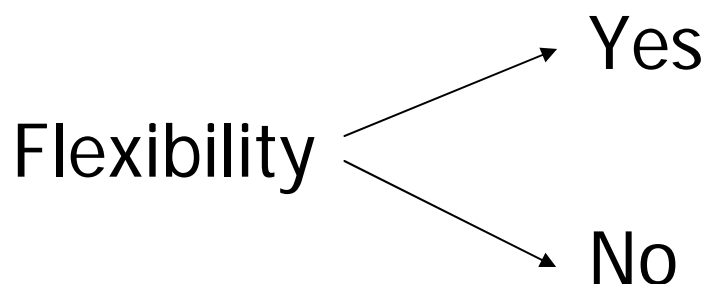
- Risk
- Price
- Availability of samples
- Availability of parameters
- Sector effects
- Laboratory throughput

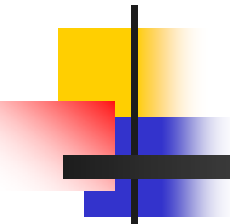


Q2: Should accreditation bodies specify a frequency of participation?

- NO
- However: minimum requirements
- ILAC – Benchmark but not a recommendation

Q3: Should PT/EQA providers allow for complete flexibility in the frequency of participation in a specific PT/EQA scheme or should they establish a minimum level of participation?





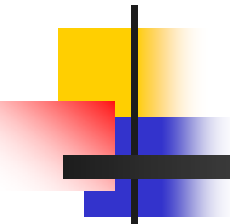
Q4: Do you think more frequent participation in PT/EQA improves performance over time or does it just create more work?

Yes-better performance with more frequent PT

PT - Monitoring improvement and harmonisation

Education as part of PT

No comment on creation of more work



Q5: Should more frequent participation in PT/EQA reduce the number of surveillance visits from accreditation bodies?

NO – indication of performance for the assessors.

Scope could be modified based on PT / EQA on successful participation.