

P403 Air Sampling & Fibre Counting (PCM)

Explanation & Candidate Feedback for Practical Examination

Information for Candidate

Candidate Name:		Date:	
Overall Result:			

	Results & Error Codes
Total Number of Slides in A Range	
Total Number of Slides in B Range	
Total Number of Slides outside B Range	
Number outside B Range Graded <<63.7	
Number outside B Range Graded <63.7	
Number outside B Range Graded >63.7	
Number outside B Range Graded >>63.7	
Supercritical Errors *	
* These will include such supercritical errors as wrong sample number, analysis of same sample twice etc.	

Slide sets for examination purposes will normally contain 2 slides from each of the 4 categories. [<<63.7, <63.7, >63.7 and >>63.7]

The Calculation of Limits of Satisfactory Performance [band width] for each slide are based on the formulae published by HSL for the RICE scheme.

The counts are assessed as being in band A, band B or outside band B.

To give candidates more information the outside band B results are classified as below:

- CE 1 - Count above maximum of band B for that slide
- CE 2 - Count below minimum of band B for that slide

Supercritical Errors

Recording the sample number erroneously, analysing the same sample twice, not analysing a sample at all, fibre density not calculated, breakage of a slide or breach of safety protocol, are all regarded as analytically unacceptable and could have serious consequences if committed in reality. These are therefore scored as critical errors equivalent to an outside band B result.

SC 10 - Sample number wrongly recorded

SC 11 - Same sample analysed twice

SC 12 - Sample not attempted or result reported

SC 13 - Fibre density not calculated

SC 14 - Breakage of a slide or breach of safety protocol

Candidates must achieve 7 out of the 8 samples in band B or better to gain a satisfactory performance rating. A failure is where two or more results are outside band B or equivalent.