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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2011 No. 238**

**The Chemical Analysis of Water Status (Technical Specifications) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011**

**Quality assurance and control**

7. The Department shall ensure that—
- (a) it or a party contracted by it apply quality management system practices in accordance with EN ISO/IEC-17025 standard or other equivalent standard accepted at international level;
  - (b) it or a party contracted by it demonstrate their competence in analysing relevant physico-chemical or chemical measurands by:
    - (i) participation in proficiency testing programmes covering the methods of analysis referred to in regulation 4 of measurands at levels of concentrations that are representative of monitoring programmes carried out under regulation 9 of the 2003 regulations, and
    - (ii) analysis of available reference materials that are representative of collected samples which contain appropriate levels of concentrations in relation to relevant environmental quality standards referred to in regulation 5;
  - (c) the proficiency testing programme referred to in paragraph (b) subparagraph (i) shall be organised by accredited organisations or internationally or nationally recognised organisations which meet the requirements of ISO/IEC guide 43-1(1) or of other equivalent standard accepted at international level; and
  - (d) the results of participation in the proficiency testing programmes referred to in paragraph (b) subparagraph (i) shall be evaluated on the basis of the scoring systems set out in ISO/IEC guide 43-1 or in the ISO-13528 standard(2) or in other equivalent standard accepted at international level.

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(1) ISO/IEC Guide 43-1 Proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparison Part 1: Development and operation of proficiency testing schemes. Published by the International Organisation for Standardisation ([www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)).

(2) ISO 13528:2005. Statistical methods for use in proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparisons. Published by the International Organisation for Standardisation ([www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)).