



QUARTZ – Forensic blood toxicology proficiency scheme

Our QUARTZ scheme is aimed at laboratories undertaking forensic toxicology and coroners work.

The scheme offers the choice of a number of test materials comprising blood and urine spiked with drugs and metabolites. Case scenarios covered include sudden and suspicious deaths, drug facilitated sexual assaults (DFSA), suspected sexual assaults, impaired driving and other relevant cases.

In addition, there is an Alcohol Technical Defence (ATD) case available aimed at

demonstrating competency in performing these types of calculations.

Test material constituents and case scenarios included in the scheme are discussed regularly with the Advisory Group.

Participation in the scheme will provide independent performance assessment, confidence that results produced are meaningful and accurate.

Consistent good performance will allow laboratories to demonstrate to third parties, customers, regulators and accreditation bodies the quality of their results.



Scheme operation

Our QUARTZ scheme year operates from April to March and test materials are despatched five times per annum. Round despatch dates and reporting deadlines are available on our current QUARTZ application form, and further information can be found in our QUARTZ scheme description. These documents can be downloaded from our website www.lgcstandards.com

Test material	Analytes
Blood.	Forensic drug identification/quantification and case study Anaesthetics, Anticholinergics, Anticonvulsants, Antidepressants, Antihistamines, Antipsychotics, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Cannabinoids, Carboxyhaemoglobin, Cardiovascular drugs, Erectile dysfunction, Hypnotic drugs, Non steroidal anti-Inflammatory analgesics, Opioid analgesics, Stimulants.
Blood.	Abuse and prescribed drugs quantification Commonly encountered drugs (alternate rounds of drugs of abuse and prescription drugs).
Blood.	*New psychoactive substances (NPS) quantification A range (up to 4) new psychoactive substances.
Blood.	Alcohol in blood quantification Ethanol and fluoride.
Blood.	*Alcohol technical defence (ATD) Interpretation of a case study (with analytical data, and a scenario or witness statement) to determine the potential blood alcohol level in a given time.
Blood.	*Identification Identify one of the most common synthetic cannabinoids.
Urine.	*Identification Identify (up to 4) drugs or metabolites relevant to forensic toxicology.

*Not included in our scope of accreditation.

For further information contact LGC Standards:



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