



### ***Instructions for Handling Test Materials and Recording Results***

#### **Test Materials**

##### **Receipt and Storage**

- All samples should be stored at 18-24°C in a dry, sealed storage container (e.g. a desiccator, not under vacuum) from the time of arrival at your laboratory.

##### **Test material details**

- Test material details are available in the FIRMS application form and scheme description.

##### **Test Material analysis**

- It is recommended that for <sup>2</sup>H analysis of total <sup>2</sup>H abundance (i.e. not corrected for H exchange), the following sample preparation conditions are applied:
  - Test materials are weighed out into silver capsules, slightly crimped at the top to prevent loss of material and placed into a sample tray (e.g. 96 well-plate).
  - Test materials are dried down under vacuum for 7 days and analysed without delay after that period.
  - Analysis is preferably carried out by loading the samples onto a Costech Zero Blank autosampler.

Results should be corrected for recovery and blank, if appropriate, and if this is the normal practice in the laboratory. **If the sample is diluted as part of the analytical process, such dilutions should be corrected for.**

#### **General Information**

- All PT test materials should be treated like routine laboratory samples and all normal quality control procedures should be adopted.

##### **Recording Results**

- All results should be submitted using PORTAL, please go to <https://www.lgcpt.com/portal>
- Login using your Lab ID, username and password.
- A PORTAL user guide can be downloaded from the help section.
- Participants should carry out ten replicate measurements for each of the measurands.
- In order that additional statistical analysis can be carried out for each laboratory, the mean result of the ten measurements should be entered and nominated as the laboratory result.
- Additionally each of the ten replicates should be reported for each analyte.
- Assistance in reporting is available by contacting, [support@lgcgroup.com](mailto:support@lgcgroup.com)

##### **Precautions**

- All test materials are supplied on the understanding that the purchaser has suitably competent and qualified personnel to handle them safely.
- Test materials must only be opened in a laboratory by qualified personnel.
- Refer to the Safety Data Sheet for information on the safe handling and disposal of the test materials.



# **FIRMS**

## **Forensic Isotope Ratio Mass Spectroscopy Proficiency Scheme**

Version: 4

Issue Date: December 2015

### ***Instructions for Handling Test Materials and Recording Results***

If you need any help at all please do not hesitate to contact our support team using the details below or your local LGC representative.

Tel: +44(0)161 762 2500

Email: [support@lgcgroup.com](mailto:support@lgcgroup.com)