

DEFICIENCIES ENCOUNTERED IN THE ASSESSMENT OF PROFICIENCY TESTING PROVIDER

4.4.1.3 PLANNING

Plan of PT Scheme is not prepared adequately w.r.t the following:

- a) Information on methods or procedures which participants need to use to prepare the test material and perform the tests or measurements – TEST METHOD TO BE USED BY PARTICIPANTS IS NOT INCLUDED
- b) Test or measurement methods to be used for the homogeneity and stability testing of proficiency test items - TEST METHOD TO BE USED BY PT PROVIDER FOR HOMOGENEITY / STABILITY TESTING IS NOT INCLUDED

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2

4.4.3 HOMOGENEITY & STABILITY

- a) Homogeneity assessment is not conducted using the SDPA used for performance evaluation; Only preliminary assessment is done using estimated SDPA.
- b) Homogeneity assessment is not conducted for critical test parameter(s) in a PT Scheme covering more than one test for the particular PT Item.
- c) Stability assessment is not conducted on or after the last date for the receipt of the results from the participants; It is done before this date.
- d) Mistakes observed in the statistical analysis while assessing homogeneity.

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3

4.4.4 STATISTICAL DESIGN

- a) Odd values (obvious blunder) reported by the participant(s) not removed while determining assigned value and/or SDPA.
- b) SDPA determined using participants' results is too high.
- c) Z prime score is not calculated when the number of participants is less than 18, while using consensus value approach for determining assigned value and/or SDPA.
- d) Minimum number of participants needed to make meaningful statistical analysis of the participants results is not fixed/considered.

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4.4.4 STATISTICAL DESIGN

- d) Validation of the assigned value is not done. There is considerable deviation between assigned value fixed and homogeneity average.
- e) Bi-modal distribution of the Participants' results is observed due to the use of non-equivalent test methods/ techniques. All the values of the participants is pooled and evaluation is conducted.

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4.6.1 instructions to participants

Reporting format for participants to report test results has specified less number of significant figures which has resulted in inadequate evaluation of participants' performance

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4.7.1.5 DATA ANALYSIS

a) Criteria for for dealing with test results that are inappropriate for statistical evaluation is not documented

b) Mistakes noticed in the statistical analysis of assigned value determination using Algorithm A

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7
