



PROFICIENCY TESTING PLAN

**ZDB 2020/1 – Concrete paving blocks testing
(ZDB 1338 - This PT scheme is out of the range of accreditation of Z7008)**

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1 Basic Information about the Proficiency Testing Program

The aim of the Proficiency Testing Program (PTP) is to compare and evaluate the results of tests conducted on concrete paving blocks in compliance with selected parts of EN 1338 [1]. The program is running under cooperation with L1500. The program strives to provide objective information about the measuring skills of PTP participants. The basic criterion for participation is timely registration for the program, and the prerequisites for obtaining the Certificate of Participation and the Final Report on the Results of Interlaboratory Comparison are timely payment of the fee and adherence to the schedule.

Important dates:

Registration deadline:	7/31/2020
Distribution of samples:	10/5/2020 – 10/9/2020
Realization/initiation of testing:	10/19/2020
Results sent to the organizer:	10/31/2020
Evaluation/presentation of Certificate of Participation:	1/31/2021

Submit of test results – exclusively via <http://ptprovider.cz/OutcomesCode>. To log in, it is necessary to enter the participant's code, which is automatically sent when registering in PTP.

2 Implementation of the Proficiency Testing Program

2.1 Specifications and Characteristics

Testing laboratories and other institutions interested can register for the PTP. The minimum number of participants is 5. If the number of participants is close to the minimum, the coordinator will consider the evaluation of PTP results using Horn's procedure to determine the assigned value and measurement uncertainty. The maximum number of participants is 40. If the minimum number of participants is not reached, the PT Provider reserves the right to cancel the PTP. This takes place according to Chapter 3 of the "Cancellation and Complaint Proceedings" instructions [2] available on <http://ptprovider.cz/?lang=en>.

Parts of the PT program:

1. EN 1338 [1] – Annex E

- Characteristics: Total water absorption
- Unit: %
- Specification: Concrete paving blocks
- Testing specimens:
 - 200 mm x 165 mm x 60 mm
 - 3 specimens
- Number of observations: 3
- Instructions: Prepare samples according to Annex E [1].

2. EN 1338 [1] – Annex F

- Characteristics: Tensile splitting strength
- Unit: MPa
- Specification: Concrete paving blocks
- Testing specimens:
 - 200 mm x 165 mm x 60 mm
 - 8 specimens
- Number of observations: 8
- Instructions:
 - Prepare samples according to Annex F [1].
 - Testing procedure F.3.
 - The correction factor for a thickness of 60 mm is k 0.87.
 - Add fracture load to the results.

3. EN 1338 [1] – Annex G

- Characteristics: Abrasion resistance
- Unit: mm
- Specification: Concrete paving blocks
- Testing specimens:
 - 200 mm x 165 mm x 60 mm
 - 3 specimens
- Number of observations: 6
- Instructions:
 - The samples must be cut in half due to the specified abrasive drop height (100 mm).
 - Perform 2 determinations on each sample.

2.2 Ensuring Homogeneity and Stability

PT Provider employees and any suppliers they may utilize are aware of the significance of the homogeneity and stability of test specimens for the results of the Proficiency Testing Program. The homogeneity and stability of specimens is ensured in the following ways:

1. the samples are always taken from the same production and is of the same production date; and/or
2. by dividing the specimens produced in different batches in order to ensure specimen homogeneity during testing of physical-mechanical and durability properties,

2.3 Instructions for the Elimination of Main Error Sources

PTP participants have the obligation:

- to handle the proficiency testing materials in the same way they handle the majority of routinely tested samples,
- to follow the instructions of the PT Provider employee responsible for the PTP, especially regarding the type of testing carried out, the number of result determinations and the PT schedule,
- to state measurement uncertainties in accordance with their documented procedures, including the corresponding expansion coefficient. Participants will use expansion coefficient 2, which approximately represents the 95 % reliability level, unless stated otherwise,

- to adhere to the rules and principles of ethical conduct, as well as to regulations governing health and safety at work and fire safety, and to use exclusively electrical devices and facilities with a valid inspection report,
- to send the test results obtained during proficiency testing, including measurement uncertainties, to the PT Provider by the set deadline (see part 1).

2.4 PTP Schedule

All other information, forms and records not included in this document are accessible in updated form at ptprovider.cz.

3 Procedures used in the Statistical Analysis of Laboratory Results

Procedures used in the statistical analysis of proficiency testing programs can be found here: <http://ptprovider.cz/?lang=en>.

4 Certificate of Participation and the Final Report on the Results of Interlaboratory Comparison

The PT Provider gives expert commentary on participant efficiency evaluation in the Final Report as part of training courses the PT Provider organises. The Final Report preserves the anonymity of the PTP participants. Each participant, or the participant's test results, is represented by an ID number. The Certificate of Participation in the PT programme is part of the Final Report. The Certificate is unique to each participant and includes the participant's ID number.

5 Safeguards for Confidentiality

The identity of PTP participants is confidential and only known to persons/subjects involved with the PTP. All participant information is considered confidential by the PT Provider. The participant may renounce this confidentiality for the purposes of discussion and mutual assistance until the PTP results are obtained. The PT Provider reveals the proficiency testing results to no third party with the sole exception of a written request by a regulatory authority submitted prior to the commencement of the PTP and which has been granted a written consent by the PTP participants.

6 Related Documents

- Quality Handbook of the PT Provider at the SZK FAST
- Cancellation and Complaint Proceedings available at <http://ptprovider.cz/?lang=en> [2]
- MPA 20 – 01 - . . . for application of EN ISO/IEC 17043 Concordance Assessment – General Requirements for Proficiency Testing in the Accreditation System of the Czech Republic.

References

- [1] EN 1338. *Concrete paving blocks - Requirements and test methods*. 2004.
[2] *Cancellation and Complaint Proceedings – available at www.ptprovider.cz.*