



Assured Biosolids Limited  
Biosolids Assurance Scheme

# LABORATORY PROTOCOL AND APPLICATION FORM

Issue number: 1

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019



## FOREWORD

These Laboratory Protocols provide the basis of an Assured Biosolids Ltd (ABL) Approved Laboratories List, which will be periodically updated as a controlled document. Laboratories are required to complete the enclosed application form to be considered for inclusion or to maintain their status as an ABL Approved Laboratory.

The BAS Standard refers in various sections where analysis is required; *“For methods of analysis refer to the Standing Committee of Analysts (SCA) blue books”*. This is only a reference and is not a requirement of the Standard. However, the Standard (section 8.7) requires *“Laboratories used for sample analysis must be approved by Assured Biosolids Ltd”*. Assured Biosolids Ltd will issue an Approved Laboratories List. The Certification Body auditor will check that analysis has been done by a laboratory on the ABL Approved Laboratories List.

## ABL APPROVED LABORATORY LIST PROTOCOLS

### **1. ABL requires the following of its approved laboratories:**

- 1.1. Laboratories that want to provide analytical services to BAS Applicants and Members relating to sludge treatment and biosolids recycling to agricultural land must be able to meet the approval requirements of these protocols to enable the BAS Applicant or Member to achieve or retain certification.
- 1.2. The testing laboratory must hold and maintain ISO 17025 (*general requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories*) Quality Management System (QMS) accreditation (usually provided by UKAS). This is an overall QMS accreditation, ensuring the management and oversight functions of the laboratory are functioning correctly.
- 1.3. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, the laboratory must participate in a recognised proficiency testing scheme for all methods (in the relevant matrices) used by BAS Members relating to sludge treatment and biosolids recycling to agricultural land. This will allow laboratories time to join appropriate testing schemes (for those not already doing so). ISO 17025 accreditation would not be required for individual methods.
- 1.4. ISO 17025 accreditation is not required for individual methods, however, if these are held by a laboratory, this supersedes the requirement to provide evidence of proficiency testing as this is already a requirement of individual methods accreditation.
- 1.5. If an approved laboratory loses ISO 17025 accreditation or does not continue to appropriately participate in a proficiency testing scheme, they must declare this to ABL and they will be removed from the approved list.

### **2. Evidence of meeting these requirements (accreditation and participation in a proficiency testing scheme) should be submitted by the laboratory annually to ABL to maintain approval listing using an ABL Laboratory Application/Renewal Form.**

- 2.1. Laboratories must apply or re-apply for approval using the ABL Laboratory Application/Renewal Form contained in Appendix I.
- 2.2. Laboratories can apply for approval listing at any time using an ABL Laboratory Application/Renewal Form.
- 2.3. ABL will confirm approval to the laboratory and update the approved list.
- 2.4. ABL will perform an annual review of the approved list and can also amend the list on an interim basis at any time.
- 2.5. ABL may choose to request applications for approval at intervals of less than 12 months to reduce the frequency of approved list changes.
- 2.6. The approved list will be publicly available on the BAS website and changes will be notified to scheme Applicants and Members and the Certification Body. The

Certification Body (auditor) would have access to the same list and use this to verify that approved laboratories had been used by BAS Applicants and Members.

**3. Applicant and Member protocols:**

- 3.1. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, where tests have been done by laboratories not on the approved list (and therefore potentially not accredited to ISO 17025) at the time of testing, minor non-conformances may be raised. Test results prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 are not required to be performed by an ISO 17025 accredited laboratory.
- 3.2. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, for soil extractable P analysis, Scheme Applicants and Members may rely upon analysis provided by third parties that does not have to be provided by an ABL approved laboratory.
- 3.3. From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, the requirement for ABL approved laboratories to participate in and have completed proficiency testing scheme(s), means that at this point, only ABL approved laboratories can be used, meaning third-party data for soil extractable P analysis can only be sourced from an ABL approved laboratory. Test results prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 are not required to be performed by an ISO 17025 accredited laboratory.



**Assured Biosolids Limited  
Biosolids Assurance Scheme  
Laboratory Application/Renewal Form**

**Section 1 – Contact details**

Laboratory/Company Name:			
Head Office Address:			
Main contact:		Position:	
Telephone Number:		Mobile:	
Email Address:			
Laboratory Address (if different from above):			



## **Section 2 – Analysis methods**

Please tick all methods that you offer (Analysed for) and tick if the method is subject to a proficiency test (PT scheme) and/or is accredited (Accredited method) (see Section 4 for more details).

<b>Biosolids methods</b>			
<b><i>Determinand</i></b>	<b><i>Analysed for</i></b>	<b><i>PT scheme</i></b>	<b><i>Accredited method or reference number</i></b>
E.coli			
Salmonella			
pH			
Dry matter			
Organic matter			
Nitrogen			
Phosphorus			
Arsenic			
Cadmium			
Chromium			
Copper			
Fluoride			
Lead			
Mercury			
Molybdenum			
Nickel			
Selenium			
Zinc			
<b>Soil methods</b>			
<b><i>Determinand</i></b>	<b><i>Analysed for</i></b>	<b><i>PT scheme</i></b>	<b><i>Accredited method or reference number</i></b>
pH			
Arsenic			
Cadmium			
Chromium			
Copper			
Fluoride			
Lead			
Mercury			
Molybdenum			
Nickel			
Selenium			



Zinc			
Soil extractable P			

### **Section 3 – Accreditation details**

ISO 17025 Accrediting body:	
Accreditation number:	
Issue number:	
Issue date:	

### **Section 4 – Proficiency testing details**

<p>Please provide details of the proficiency testing scheme in which you participate:</p> <p><i>Please note: if the method is accredited (as detailed in Section 2), there is no need to provide proficiency testing details</i></p>	
--	--

*Notes: Participation in a recognised proficiency testing scheme is only mandatory from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020*



**Section 5 – Declaration and Review**

By signing this form your laboratory agrees to:

- Maintain ISO 17025 accreditation and maintain membership of a proficiency testing scheme where required.
- Inform ABL immediately (within 3 working days):
  - If their accreditation status changes
  - If their membership of a proficiency testing scheme changes
  - Any other change which could determinately affect their ability to reliably and accurately analyse samples
- Having their company name, address and accreditation number published on the BAS website and circulated to interested parties

Name (Print):	
Signature:	
Position:	
Date:	

By signing this form your laboratory is reaffirming the information previously submitted and the laboratory agrees to:

- Maintain ISO 17025 accreditation and maintain membership of a proficiency testing scheme where required.
- Inform ABL immediately (within 3 working days):
  - If their accreditation status changes
  - If their membership of a proficiency testing scheme changes
  - Any other change which could determinately affect their ability to reliably and accurately analyse samples

Having their company name, address and accreditation number published on the BAS website and circulated to interested parties

Date reviewed:	
Signature:	
Position:	
Date:	





Assured Biosolids Limited  
Biosolids Assurance Scheme

