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IMS Network QA/QC programme

The Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) runs a radionuclide network QA/QC programme for samples measured by the International Monitoring System (IMS) radionuclide particulate stations on a periodic and continuous basis. The purpose of the radionuclide network QA/QC programme is to verify station performance (by ensuring that produced data are of acceptable quality, the station poses requested sample handling and shipment capability and that the station is working within its certified operational specifications), to initiate corrective actions if non-conformities are found and to take preventive actions to avoid possible non-conformities. To check the performance of a station, a randomly selected sample (Manual, RASA and Cinderella) is dispatched every quarter from the station to a radionuclide laboratory. The obtained results are compared by the PTS using a 7Be metric. The evaluation criteria are based on the percentage difference (%D) between radionuclide laboratory and radionuclide station results and zeta (ζ) score of the two results according to the ISO 13528 requirements. A global overview of the radionuclide network QA/QC programme during the 2020-2024 period is presented in this paper, with the emphasis on actions taken following the comparison of results between radionuclide laboratories and stations.

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