

QA/QC

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Sieves

- Natural reference sediment sample (created in-house)
 - covers full range of sieves
 - tests all sieve shakers are giving the same result
 - tests competence of analyst
- Balances calibrated annually
- Sample weighed before, (during), and after. All these weights compared and some initial limits have been set to determine whether sample needs re-sieving.

Laser

- Natural reference sediment sample (created in-house)
sand (for manual SOPs) and mud (for autosampler SOP)
run in-house at start and end of analyses
Defined limits set and start chart created to show
instrument drift, etc.
- Certified reference materials – glass run in autosampler and
manually once a month.
- Laser data checked for-
background (channel 1 <140, channel 20 <20) and smooth
curve from channel 1 to channel 52
obscuration (5-20%)
weighted residual and residual
- Laser diffraction proficiency testing scheme (PACQs)

Whole method

Whole sample

NMBAQC PSA ring test

2 samples a year

- sandy sediment
- muddy sediment

Test the PSA method used for monitoring samples

Advantages

- Gives confidence in results
- Proves method repeatable and accurate

Disadvantages

- Adds time to analysis