

CEQA

Marking Criteria and Criteria to determine poor performance.

Criteria to determine poor performance.

1. “Critical” Errors Identified In Performance

Errors and omissions are categorised as “critical” if they could have serious clinical consequences, and imply a significant lack of diagnostic skill or scientific knowledge. A zero mark is given (see Marking Criteria below).

One or more critical errors in any EQA round will normally result in a poor performance designation.

The Scheme Co-ordinator will initially contact the head of laboratory by letter when his/her laboratory has a poor performance round, to discuss the performance issue and explain the next steps in the assessment process.

2. “Non-Critical” Errors Identified In Performance

Errors and omissions are categorised as “non-critical” if they are unlikely to have serious clinical consequences, but still imply a lack of diagnostic skill or scientific knowledge.

One or more non-critical errors in any EQA round will **not normally result in a poor performance designation**; although the laboratory’s report will indicate all the errors incurred, and the Scheme Co-ordinator will monitor the extent of non-critical errors between laboratories and rounds to identify those laboratories with recurrent problems. The laboratory can appeal non-critical errors, following the procedure in 2.12.2. Any laboratory that accumulates multiple non-critical errors, or is persistently borderline in its performance, will be reviewed by the Steering Committee, and the Scheme Co-ordinator may write to that laboratory to offer help and advice.

3. Non-Participation

Non-participation in any aspect of the Scheme for which the laboratory offers a service is classed as **poor performance**. Late returns of data or materials not due to postal delay, where no reasonable explanation has been communicated **beforehand** to the Scheme Co-ordinator will also constitute **poor performance** for that distribution and the work will be returned.

4. Non-Compliance

A laboratory will be expected to respond to any recommendations given in its reports. If, after a reasonable period of time it does not act upon such recommendations, that laboratory will lose marks in future EQA rounds.

Three or more warnings for the same omission/oversight within and/or across EQA rounds within a three year rolling period will normally result in a poor performance designation.

5. Definition of Persistent Poor Performance (proposal)

This is defined as: 1) poor performance in any EQA or combination of EQAs in which the laboratory participates, over 3 or more EQA distributions, within a 3 year rolling period or 2) A poor performance within a year following a previous persistent poor performance categorisation.