

Instructions to participants for the PT on Nickel Release and surface determination iis17V03

- * Please **confirm sample receipt** as soon as you have received this package and checked the contents, via www.kpmd.co.uk/sgs-iis-cts/. Please give date of receipt and press "save date" button. Please inform the Institute for Interlaboratory Studies (iis) immediately when something is wrong with the package and/or samples via iisnl@sgs.com.
- * This interlaboratory study concerns 1 sample of **6** pieces of non-coated metal plates containing Nickel, labelled #17575 and one piece of **plastic** chain, labelled #17576 for surface determination only. You can check the test scope for sample #17575 in round iis17V03 and for sample #17576 in round iis17V03 via www.kpmd.co.uk/sgs-iis-cts/.
- * Please **treat the samples as if they were routine samples** and analyse them in the way you normally do in day-to-day circumstances. **However, please use at least three plates of sample #17575 for the Nickel release determination.** You may select any three plates of sample #17575 and use the other three plates for additional determinations if needed. Please, read also how to report the test results in this letter of instructions.
- * **Reporting of test results**
Within a time frame of five weeks the test result can be entered or revised. Please **report your test result** via www.kpmd.co.uk/sgs-iis-cts/. Within the time frame you can add (or delete) the test result and/or change test result or unit. Please **do not forget** to hit the "Save/Submit" button after entering the test result. Please note that you will get a pop up to say that you have submitted your test result. You can check if your test result has been saved by logging out and logging in again. When your test result is still present it means that everything is OK and that your test result is received in good order.
- * For the determination of Nickel release method EN1811 could be used as reference test method. It is of utmost importance to know that it is **NOT mandatory** to use EN1811 as test method. Please use the method you normally (routinely) use and select in the column "Actual Method Used" the selection "Other" and write the method that you used in the comments.
- * Please report the analytical results using the indicated units. It is possible to report in the last column the analytical results rounded in accordance with the standard method that was used and in the first result column the same analytical results but less rounded. Please note that it is not mandatory to report both 'rounded' and 'unrounded' test results. The 'unrounded' test results are preferably used for our statistical evaluations. However the 'rounded' test results will be used in case the 'unrounded' test results are not reported. We suggest to report one extra significant figure in order to give more meaningful statistical calculations.
- * It was also requested not to report 'less than' results, which are above the detection limit, because such results cannot be used for meaningful statistical calculations.
- * For sample #17575 (Nickel release) it is important to report the average over the number of pieces of metal that your laboratory had used.
- * To get more background of the analytical method we asked some additional questions. Please, complete these questions as much as possible. It will help us to evaluate the results of the proficiency test. Thank you in advance.
- * **The official closing date for reporting test results for this PT is June 16, 2017**
- * After the official closing date it is no longer possible to enter or correct test results via the data entry website www.kpmd.co.uk/sgs-iis-cts/. When you cannot report via the website or for unforeseen reasons cannot report before the closing date, please inform the Institute for Interlaboratory Studies (iis).
- * **For all communication (e.g. problems with the package/samples, login details for the data entry portal, not reporting in time) or any remarks/questions please contact:**
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