

Call for participation

International Proficiency Test for the Estimation of Shooting Distance by Chemographical Coloring – SDD2023

10 July 2023

Dear SDD expert,

We are delighted to announce the creation of a new PT scheme for the determination of shooting distance (SDD) [1]. This new PT scheme is organized, conducted, evaluated and authorized by quo data Gesellschaft für Qualitätsmanagement und Statistik mbH (referred to as QuoData in the following). The first round will take place in October/November 2023, and you are hereby invited to participate.

The SDD PT scheme has been developed with the support of the ENFSI Working Group Firearms/GSR [2] and the European Union by the Forensic Science Institute of the Bundeskriminalamt (BKA), Germany [3] and QuoData over the course of the last 10 years. As a result of this preparation phase, this scheme distinguishes itself by

- samples optimized for chemographic methods
- the fact that all the participants receive *identical* samples (patented technique for screen printing lead GSR patterns)
- the evaluation of both *distance* and *range* results by means of *z* scores

Each participant will receive one case shot and a series of test shots (typically 10 to 12 shots). Participants are required to indicate during enrollment which transfer method will be used (filter paper method or photo paper method).

The main purpose of the SDD PT scheme is to help laboratories improve and maintain their level of performance and correct any inaccuracies in their reported findings. The SDD PT scheme also enables laboratories to demonstrate the quality of their measurements to accreditation bodies and other relevant authorities.

Background information

The preparatory phase took place between 2012 and 2021. In this preparatory phase, three PT rounds were conducted. The first preparatory PT round was conducted in 2015 with screen-printed lead patterns (49 participants from 22 different countries). Two further preparatory PT rounds were conducted in 2020 and 2021, again with screen-printed lead patterns.

Currently, preparations for SDD2023 are in progress and the samples are expected to be ready for dispatch in October 2023.

QuoData is active worldwide as a service provider and software developer in the area of external quality assurance and proficiency testing. More generally, QuoData develops innovative tools and approaches and offers consulting in many different areas, ranging from food safety (both microbiological and chemical analysis) and authenticity, forensics, cosmetics, to environmental analytics, etc. QuoData's customers include many governmental agencies such as FDA, BVL, ANSES etc. Furthermore, since 2022, QuoData is a PT provider accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17043:2010 [4] by DAkkS for the international proficiency testing scheme for the detection and classification of gunshot residues by SEM/EDS.

A dedicated PT portal is available for participants of QuoData's two forensics PT schemes (GSR and SDD):

<https://forensics-pt.quodata.de>

Test sample description

The sample material was designed according to the requirements of the ENFSI Expert Working Group Firearms/GSR [2] and QuoData and produced by the institute INM (Leibniz Institute for New Materials) in Saarbrücken, Germany [5], using a patented screen-printing method, developed by the BKA [3], and optimized for chemographic methods. The test items for the SDD2023 PT round will thus consist of specially prepared, identical samples in accordance with DIN EN ISO/IEC 17043:2010 [4].

Quality control will be performed on behalf of QuoData and the ENFSI Expert Working Group Firearms/GSR [2] by a laboratory accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025:2018 [6]. Homogeneity and stability testing of test items will be conducted in an ENFSI laboratory accredited according to DIN EN ISO/IEC 17025:2018 [6] or by a member of the Advisory Board, on behalf of QuoData and the ENFSI Expert Working Group Firearms/GSR [2].

Timetable of the SDD2023 PT round

Date	Action	Responsibility
3 September 2023	Deadline for enrollment	Laboratories register for participation in the SDD2023 PT round in the PT portal https://forensics-pt.quodata.de
18 October 2023	Sample dispatch	QuoData GmbH sends the samples to the participants
15 November 2023	Deadline for submitting test results	Participants submit test results on the PT portal https://forensics-pt.quodata.de
15 December 2023	Publication of the final report of results and providing the individual certificates	QuoData GmbH publishes the final report of results and the individual certificates, which are made available in the PT portal https://forensics-pt.quodata.de

The **deadline for enrollment** is **3 September 2023**. You can login and enroll here:

<https://forensics-pt.quodata.de/pt-participant/enrollment>

Prior registration in the PT portal is required. This can be done here:

https://forensics-pt.quodata.de/pt-participant/lab_applicant/add

Sample dispatch is scheduled for **18 October 2023**. Each laboratory will receive a series of 10-12 test shots along with one case shot and instructions. Participants will enter their test results and will fill out an online questionnaire on instrumental and procedural conditions in the PT portal

<https://forensics-pt.quodata.de>

– a website provided by QuoData.

The **deadline for submitting test results** along with the online questionnaire is **15 November 2023**, four weeks after sample dispatch.

The **final report of results and the individual certificate of participation** will be made available for the participating laboratories in the PT portal (<https://forensics-pt.quodata.de>) on **15 December 2023**.

Participation fee

A participation fee will be charged to the laboratories covering the costs arising from the production of suitable sample material, the statistical evaluation, and the preparation of the final report of results and the individual certificates. The fee is **550 €** per participant (plus 19% VAT for German participants) plus 45 € for shipping and packing.

Payment and shipping

For participants from EU-countries other than Germany, the declaration of a VAT registration number is necessary; otherwise, they will be charged German VAT.

Payment and sample shipping will proceed as follows:

1. The laboratory accepts the conditions for participation by filling in the enrollment form provided in the PT portal (<https://forensics-pt.quodata.de>). In doing so, the laboratory specifies whether payment will be carried out by bank transfer or by credit card (MasterCard, Visa or JCB). Please note that we have to charge a 3% fee for payment by credit card.
2. Additionally, 45 € will be charged for shipping and packaging.
3. After successful payment, sample shipping will be carried out by FedEx Corporation.

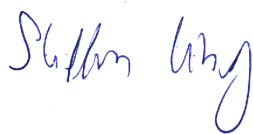
Any additional costs, e.g. due to customs duties, will be covered by the participating laboratory.

Binding enrollment for participation

The statement of participation is binding and cannot be cancelled once QuoData has received the enrollment. If a purchase order was submitted together with your statement for participation, an invoice for the participation fee and shipping costs will be mailed to the address indicated on the purchase order.

The amount indicated on the invoice must be credited within four weeks as specified in the invoice. No sample will be shipped until the fee has been received.

On behalf of QuoData and the ENFSI Expert Working Group Firearms/GSR



PD Dr. habil. Steffen Uhlig
CEO
QuoData GmbH

Dresden, 10 July 2023



Expert Working Group
Firearms / GSR



*QUALITY & STATISTICS!

References

- [1] <https://quodata.de/de/ringversuche/sdd-quality-scheme>
- [2] <http://www.enfsi.eu/about-enfsi/structure/working-groups/firearms-and-gsr>
- [3] <https://www.bka.de>
- [4] ISO/IEC 17043:2010; Conformity assessment – General requirements for proficiency testing
- [5] <https://www.leibniz-inm.de>
- [6] ISO/IEC 17025:2018; General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories.

