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Estimated Measurement Uncertainty – mandated by ISO17025 for results where known guidelines exist.

Envirolab Services will use a combination of either control charts, proficiency testing data and method validation to evaluate the uncertainty of measurement. This data is used to evaluate bias and precision of the measurement process. Note, the values used to calculate the estimated measurement uncertainty are generally $\geq 10 \times \text{PQL}$ (reporting limits) and therefore measurement uncertainty estimates only reflect these concentration ranges. Theoretically, as results approach the PQL the statistical error will increase.

The measurement uncertainty interval determined is at the 95% confidence interval which is common practice, labelled as $\text{MU}_{95\%}$. A table of Measurement Uncertainty *Estimates* relating to Chemistry tests in **Soils/Solids** are given below:-

	PQL (mg/kg)	Estimated $\text{MU}_{95\%}$ at $\geq 10 \times \text{PQL}^*$
INORGANICS		
Hexavalent Chromium	1	14%
Total Fluoride	50	28%
Cyanides	0.5	10-19%
pH	0.1 pH units	± 0.2 pH units
Foreign Material %	0.1% (w/w)	$\pm 0.1\%$
METALS		
	Various - sub mg/kg to mg/kg	11-26%
ORGANICS		
VOCs	Various - sub mg/kg to mg/kg	10-34%
TRHs		14-23%
Organochlorine and Organophosphorus Pesticides		19-46%
PAHs		14-33%
Phenols		22-42%
PCBs		23%
Phthalates		37%
Explosives		12-37%
Phenoxy Acid Herbicides		19-34%

*Note: where a range exists the use of the higher percentage would be the most conservative – please contact the lab for analyte specific $\text{MU}_{95\%}$. * N/A for pH as a logarithmic value.*



For example: - If a level of 50mg/kg is found for Lead (trace metal), then statistically there is 95% confidence that the true result lies between 37-63mg/kg (conservatively $\pm 26\%$ at $MU_{95\%}$).

Estimated $MU_{95\%}$ is calculated from the following equation:-

$$U_{X(95\%)} = 2((s_x^2 + B^2)^{1/2})$$

Where:

$U_{X(95\%)}$ Measurement Uncertainty with 95% level of confidence.

s_x Standard Deviation of multiple observations.

B Bias, the deviation between the average value of the multiple measurements and the true value being measured

For further information contact the laboratory, see the website for contact details
<https://www.envirolab.com.au/>

CURRENT AS OF AUGUST 2026