ISSN 1757- 5958

Editor: Michael Thompson Analytical Methods Committee AMCTB No 46 February 2010

Internal quality control in routine analysis

Internal quality control (IQC) ensures that factors determining the magnitude of uncertainty do not change during the routine use of an analytical method over long periods of time. Together with validation, IQC forms the mainstay of quality practice in chemical analysis. Broadly speaking, validation comprises the estimation of the uncertainty of results resulting from the use of a method under given conditions. Analysts can then judge whether the method is fit for purpose by comparing that uncertainty with the end-users' requirements. Internal quality control (IQC) is a process for checking that the uncertainty at validation does not deteriorate after validation, that is, when the method is in routine use.

events.) Alternatively, temporary control lines based on fitness-for-purpose considerations could be used.

After sufficient runs and replicated results have been