

STANDING COMMITTEE OF ANALYSTS

- **Report of the activities of the Standing Committee of Analysts between 1/1/2005 - 30/6/2006**

Standing Committee of Analysts

The Standing Committee of Analysts has for many years been recognised internationally for the high quality of its published methods, reviews and guidance relating to the sampling and analysis of water and associated materials. Over the last 18 months, SCA has undergone a renewal of its structures and procedures to ensure that it remains relevant and effective in promoting UK best practice. I have been privileged to work with the Secretary and the other Main Committee members, all of whom give of their time willingly and on a voluntary basis. At the same time we must not forget the never-ending but highly rewarding work of the Groups and Panels in their tasks of producing and revising methods, a process that has continued throughout. My thanks to all SCA committee members, who have contributed to this success. I know that their efforts are gratefully appreciated by all in the environmental scientific community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Morgan', with a long, sweeping underline.

Malcolm Morgan
Chairman (Main Committee)

Report of the activities of the Standing Committee of Analysts between 1/1/2005 - 30/6/2006

This short report provides information of the work of the Standing Committee of Analysts (SCA) carried out between 1/1/2005 and 30/6/2006. SCA is the major source of authoritative guidance on best UK analytical practice for the sampling and analysis of environmental matrices. This guidance is produced in the form of blue books published within the series "Methods for the Examination of Waters and Associated Materials" (MEWAM). Whilst original blue books can still be provided, see details on the Agency's web-site (www.environment-agency.gov.uk/nls) new publications are now published and made freely available, in electronic format, as downloadable drafts, i.e. PDF documents.

If you believe you can contribute to and participate in the work of SCA and wish to get involved in the development and drafting of these documents, or have any suggestions for topics that you believe the SCA should consider, please contact the Secretary, Dr David Westwood. Details are given below. Also, if you consider that previous SCA documents should be reviewed or revised, please contact the Secretary with an indication of your willingness to participate. Details of the activities being considered within SCA are given on the web-site under the section "Documents currently under development within SCA". In addition, the terms of reference and charter of SCA can also be found on the web-site. If you wish to receive advance notice of forthcoming SCA publications then please contact the Secretary.

This report sets out the activities undertaken within SCA for the year 2005 up to 30 June 2006. It gives details of the meetings that have been held (see Appendix 1) and the drafts that have been published (see Appendix 2). In Appendix 3, the names of the individuals and their respective organisations that have contributed and supported SCA are also given.

Appendix 1 shows the SCA meetings that have been held at Agency offices or, as otherwise stated, on premises provided by participating organisations. Grateful thanks are offered to these organisations for enabling these facilities to be used and providing hospitality for members attending the meetings.

Appendix 2 lists the six publications that have been published on the Agency's web-site (www.environment-agency.gov.uk/nls) since 1/1/2005 and where applicable the associated working group responsible for producing the document.

A series of documents (of which one has already been published) is being developed within the Agency to support the MCERTS performance standard for laboratories undertaking direct toxicity assessments. An internal meeting has been held to discuss progress, however, the majority of work is undertaken by exchange of emails.

Details of drafts currently being produced within SCA and their state of development are also included in Appendix 2.

Appendix 3 lists the individuals (with details of their respective organisations where applicable) participating in SCA meetings and discussions. Named individuals have attended at least one meeting. Other members have attended many more. Without the

good will and support given by these individuals and their organisations SCA would not be able to continue and produce the highly valued and respected blue book methods.

The Secretary attended all meetings except one (main committee meeting on 11/5/2005) and acted as chairman for several committees where the appointment of a permanent chairman is still outstanding.

Between 1/6/2005 and 30/6/2006, a total of 477 requests from 12 countries (including Australia, Canada, Ireland, Japan, Portugal, Spain, The Netherlands, Uruguay, and the United States of America) were received and copies of original publications despatched by post. A further 6 enquiries, where technical advice and information was sought on blue book methodologies, were received and appropriate responses provided. The number of copies of documents provided (as downloadable electronic files) via the web-site is not known, as this information is not collated. Information on the "contacts" or "hits" made on the Agency's SCA web-site has only been available since July 2005 and between 1/7/2005 - 30/6/2006, a total of 4054 "hits" have been registered.

For any further information, please contact the Secretary.

June 2006

Dr David Westwood, Secretary to Standing Committee of Analysts

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<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/nls>

Appendix 1 SCA meetings held between 1/1/2005 – 30/6/2006

| | |
|---|--|
| <i>Cryptosporidium</i> | 25/1/2005 (Thames Water, Reading) 14/4/2005 (Thames Water, Reading) 5/5/2005 (Thames Water, Reading) 7/7/2005 (Thames Water, Reading) 10/11/2005 (Thames Water, Reading) 10/1/2006 (Thames Water, Reading) 21/3/2006 (Thames Water, Reading) |
| <i>Legionella</i> | 24/1/2005 (HPA, London) 14/7/2005 |
| Main committee | 11/5/2005 28/9/2005 27/1/2006 (DWI, London) |
| Metals in soil | 7/6/2005 13/9/2005 24/1/2006 6/4/2006 6/6/2006 |
| Microbiology of sewage sludge | 25/1/2006 (Alcontrol Laboratories, Rotherham) 10/5/2006 |
| Preparation and pre-treatment of soils Recreational and environmental waters | 28/6/2005 (Alcontrol Laboratories, Rotherham) 25/5/2005 17/11/2005 |
| Steroids | 1/11/2005 5/4/2006 |
| TPH in soils | 18/1/2005 12/4/2005 24/6/2005 25/4/2006 (Energy Institute, London) 26/6/2006 (Energy Institute, London) |
| Working group 2 (Microbiology) | 10/5/2005 28/11/2005 11/5/2006 |
| Working group 8 (Biodegradability and Inhibition) | 4/5/2005 (HLS, Eye) 11/10/2005 |

Further meetings are currently planned for 2006 and include

| | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <i>Legionella</i> | (12/7/2006) |
| Working group 9 (Radiochemical) | (14/7/2006) |
| TPH in soils | (12/9/2006) |
| Main committee | (14/9/2006, DWI, London) |
| Working group 8 (Biodegradability and Inhibition) | (19/9/2006) |
| Working group 5 (Inorganics) | (26/9/2006) |
| Microbiology of sewage sludge | (1/11/2006, Thames Water, Reading) |
| Working group 6 (Organics) | (3/11/2006) |
| Working group 2 (Microbiology) | (9/11/2006) |

Appendix 2 Published documents between 1/1/2005 – 30/6/2006

The following documents within the SCA series “Methods for the Examination of Waters and Associated Materials” have been published on the Agency’s internet web-site (www.environment-agency.gov.uk/nls). These documents are available free of charge.

198. Guidance on the measurement of tritium in environmental samples (2005) (WG9)
199. The assessment of aerobic biodegradability by measurement of dissolved and/or gaseous inorganic carbon in sealed vessels (2005) (WG8)
200. The determination of *Legionella* bacteria in water and other environmental samples (2005) - Part 1 - Rationale of surveying and sampling (WG2)
201. The preparation and pre-treatment of potentially contaminated soils prior to chemical analysis (2006) (WG6)
202. The Microbiology of Drinking Water (2006) - Part 5 - The isolation and enumeration of enterococci by membrane filtration (See also 180) (WG2)
203. The direct toxicity assessment of aqueous environmental samples using the oyster (*Crassostrea gigas*) embryo-larval development test (2006)

Advanced drafts of the following documents are available and within the next six months it is anticipated that these drafts will be finalised and published on the Agency’s web-site, (www.environment-agency.gov.uk/nls).

- The determination of metals in solid environmental samples
- The determination of steroid oestrogens in environmental and waste waters using chromatography and mass spectrometry
- The determination of *Legionella* bacteria in water and other environmental samples - Part 2 - Methods for their detection and enumeration
- The direct toxicity assessment of aqueous environmental samples using the marine copepod *Tisbe battagliai* lethality test
- The direct toxicity assessment of aqueous environmental samples using the juvenile *Daphnia magna* immobilisation test
- Determination of the inhibitory effect of chemicals, industrial and other waste waters on nitrification by *Nitrosomonas* bacteria

A draft in a less advanced state of preparation is available for:

- The isolation, identification and enumeration of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts and *Giardia* cysts in waters

Drafts in various other stages of development are in preparation for:

- The determination of hydrocarbon compounds in soil
- The Microbiology of Sewage Sludge - Part 3 - Methods for the isolation and enumeration of *Escherichia coli*, including verocytotoxigenic *Escherichia coli*
- The Microbiology of Recreational and Environmental Waters – numerous parts (approximately 13) are being developed.

- Microbiology of Drinking Waters - Part 6 - Methods for the isolation and enumeration of sulphite-reducing clostridia and *Clostridium perfringens* by membrane filtration

Further development continues in other areas and additional details can be found on the Agency's web-site under the section "Documents currently under development within SCA".

Appendix 3**Names of individuals attending SCA meetings**

| Committee | SCA member | Organisation |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Cryptosporidium</i> | Peter Alcock | Severn Trent Water |
| | Bob Barrell | Manchester University |
| | Rachel Chalmers | HPA (N Wales) |
| | Roger Down | Southern Science |
| | Tony Hallas | DWI |
| | Howard Hawkins | Veolia Water |
| | Ashley Jonas (Chair) | Thames Water |
| | Helen Shapland | Wessex Water |
| | Philip Walker | United Utilities |
| | John Watkins | CREH Analytical |
| <i>Legionella</i> | Liz Fricker | Thames Water |
| | Gary Hogben | Feedwater |
| | Mike Iddon | |
| | John Lee (Chair) | HPA (Colindale) |
| | Tom Makin | Liverpool University |
| | John Newbold | HSE |
| | David Sartory | |
| | David Seal | |
| | Vernon Smith | Environment Agency |
| | Susanne Surman-Lee | HPA (Colindale) |
| Main committee | Richard Allan | Scottish Water |
| | Huw James | WRc (STL) |
| | Steve Kippin | LGC |
| | Robin Law | CEFAS |
| | Malcolm Morgan (Chair) | DWI |
| | Sue Owen | AES Ltd |
| | David Pirie and (A Roberts) | SEPA |
| | David Sartory | WG2 Chairman |
| | Gary Walker | APA/RSC/CIWEM |
| | Roger Wellings | BSI |
| | Tim White | SCI/CBI |
| | Peter Whittle | WG6 Chairman |
| | Mark Wilkinson | Environment Agency |
| Metals in soil | Paul Burton | AES Ltd |
| | Phil Clark | STL |
| | Graham Coe | Thames Water |
| | Neil Housley | WSP Group |
| | Alex Leach | Environment Agency |
| | Darren Lewis | STL |
| | Bob Llewelyn | Direct Labs |
| | Lou Tanous | SAL |
| | Paul Williams | Southern Water |
| | John Wilson | EAL |

Microbiology of sewage sludge

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Bob Barrell | Manchester University |
| Simon Cole (Chair) | Wessex Water |
| Roger Down | Southern Science |
| Andy Hochin | Alcontrol Laboratories |
| Karl Murrin | Thames Water |
| Steven Nokes | Alcontrol Laboratories |
| Sonal Patel | WRc (STL) |
| Robert Pitchers | WRc (STL) |
| Sandra Scanlon | United Utilities |
| Jane Sellwood | HPA (Reading) |
| Helen Shapland | Wessex Water |
| Richard Shepherd | Alcontrol Laboratories |
| Clive Thompson | Alcontrol Laboratories |
| John Watson | South West Water |
| Carol Weatherley | STL |
| Louis Weaver | Southampton University |

Preparation and pre-treatment of soils

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| Mark Allan | BGS |
| Ian Barnabas | AES Ltd |
| Agnes Bennett | British Gas |
| Mike Cohen | STL |
| David Davidson | AES Ltd |
| Hazel Davidson (Chair) | Alcontrol Laboratories |
| Julie Higgins | British Gas |
| Mike Hopgood | Alcontrol Laboratories |
| Katy Kennedy | STL |
| Ian Lightfoot | WSP Group |
| Sue Owen | AES Ltd |
| Peter Sleeman | Environment Agency |
| Graham Small | SAL |
| Neil Whitelegg | WSP Group |
| Peter Whittle | |
| Paul Williams | Southern Water |

Recreational and environmental waters

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Carol Francis | CREH Analytical |
| Andy Gawler | Environment Agency |
| Phil Holmes | Severn Trent Water |
| David Kay | CREH Analytical |
| John Lee | HPA (Colindale) |
| David Sartory | |
| Jane Sellwood | HPA (Reading) |
| John Watkins (Chair) | CREH Analytical |
| Carol Weatherby | STL |

Steroids

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Bruce Brown (Chair) | Environment Agency |
| Neil Cullum | Anglian Water |
| Rakesh Kanda | WRc (STL) |
| Carole Kelly | CEFAS |
| Mike Pinchin | Anglian Water |
| Mark Scrimshaw | Imperial College |
| Peter Teale | HFL |
| Mark Wilkinson | Environment Agency |

TPH in soils

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Richard Allan | Scottish Water |
| Ian Barnabas | AES Ltd |
| Hazel Davidson | Alcontrol Laboratories |
| Richard Glendinning | STL |
| Richard James | Southern Water |
| Gordon Lethbridge | Shell |
| Martin Maeso | Energy Institute |
| Rosie Merry | Midkent Water |
| Sue Owen | AES Ltd |
| Antonio Provenzano | AWE |
| Nathan Read | Chemex |
| Ian Roberts | ITS Sunbury |
| Clifford Rogers | SAL |
| Malcolm Rose | CERAM |
| David Smith | SAL |
| Kathleen Thompson | Environment Agency |
| David Wood | SAL |

**Working group 2
(Microbiology)**

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Bob Barrell | Manchester University |
| Peter Boyd | HPA (Newcastle) |
| Simon Cole | Wessex Water |
| Martin D'Agostino | CSL |
| David Drury | DWI |
| David Gaskell | United Utilities |
| Andy Gawler | Environment Agency |
| Andy Hockin | Alcontrol Laboratories |
| Phil Holmes | Severn Trent Water |
| Ashley Jonas | Thames Water |
| John Lee | HPA (Colindale) |
| Jonathon Moses | Scottish Water |
| Kay Moule | NI Water Services |
| Ruth Murphy | United Utilities |
| David Sartory (Chair) | |
| Jane Sellwood | HPA (Reading) |
| Carol Weatherby | STL |

**Working group 8
(Biodegradability
and Inhibition)**

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Steve Barnes | HLS |
| Don Bealing | TSG |
| Christine Burwood | Covance |
| Ann Colley | |
| Maggie Daniel | AstraZeneca |
| Ray Drake | Chemex |
| David Gore | Unilever |
| Chris Mead | SafePharm |
| Harry Painter | |
| Dominic Sacker | Chemex |
| Kirit Wadhia | Alcontrol Laboratories |

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