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Sampling Guidance Reminder re Minimum Quantity

Following feedback given at the last TAC meeting by the Approved Laboratory representative that on occasion labs were not receiving a large enough quantity for a full suite of tests, and subsequent discussion with the labs regarding the size or quantity of samples received, we would like to remind operators that we have guidance available on this which you can download from our website (below).

For separated fibre, as per section 10.4 of BSI PAS 110:2014, the British Standard 12579 provides general procedure(s) for obtaining representative samples from quantities of (solid) soil improvers and growing media. As such, sampling of fibre, including minimum sample quantities, should follow REAL's 'Guidance on sampling composted materials in accordance with BSI PAS100:2018', available [here](#).

For liquid digestate, REAL produced 'Guidance on sampling liquid materials in accordance with BSI PAS110:2014' which provides guidance on taking representative samples of liquid digestate and ensuring consistency of sampling. As per the guidance, the combined sample should comprise at least 10 litres for a suite of PAS 110 tests. For re-test samples, the Approved Laboratories should be consulted on the quantity required for specific tests. This document is available on our website [here](#).

BCS Operators' Forum

The next meeting of the BCS Operators' Forum is being held online on the **24th of May at 12pm to 2:30pm**. This is an opportunity for operators to raise issues, as well as hear updates on the scheme, ADQP revision, and work of the Research Hub.

If you are interested in attending the Forum, you can register interest and confirm attendance by contacting Emma Laws at emma@realschemes.org.uk.

If you are not able to attend this meeting but you would like to have an issue raised on your behalf, please contact Jo Chapman or Tom Brown, who share the role of BCS Operators' Representative, using jo@acshropshire.co.uk or tombrown@andigestion.com.

The minutes from the previous meeting can be found on our website [here](#).

Scheduling Audits Reminder

The Certification Bodies (CBs) have reported some cases in which audits have been scheduled too late, taking place too close to the certificate expiry date, which has resulted in withdrawn certificates due to non-compliances not having been addressed prior to certificate expiry. As such, REAL would like to remind operators that it is important to schedule their audit as early as possible.

As per the Scheme Rules, audits should take place approximately 3 months prior to the current certificate expiring. Operators will be contacted by their CB to book their audit when the 3 month window is approaching but can contact their CB sooner. It is important that these renewal audits are scheduled with sufficient time to address any non-compliances.

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