

COMPANY PROFILE OF BIOTOXLAB (PTY) LTD

TOXICITY SPECIALISTS

CONTACT DETAILS



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BUSINESS SUMMARY

BioToxLab (PTY) Ltd operates a SANAS accredited Testing Laboratory (T0663 – accreditation schedule available at www.sanas.co.za) based in Pretoria East, South Africa, that specializes in freshwater aquatic ecosystem toxicity testing. We are focused on delivering superior services and operate under formalized quality systems (ISO/IEC 17025:2017). BioToxLab also has a sub-license agreement with SANAS to use the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) symbol. We are committed to the ongoing professional development of all staff members through peer interaction, as well as in-house and external training programs. When working with BioToxLab, clients can expect:

- Rapid turnaround to keep projects on schedule
- Competitive prices
- Accurate results through an internal quality control program as well as regular participation in external Proficiency Test evaluations which provides assurance that the accuracy of results is continuously monitored and improved
- An open attitude towards our clients
- Logical and comprehensible, user-friendly reports that will satisfy government expectations and also ensure legal compliance
- The use of highly trained and competent analysts and validated methods
- Experience acquired by working with a wide range of clients, field specialists, consultants and programs

BioToxLab's reputation as a leader in environmental toxicity testing services is based on the commitment to keep our laboratories at the cutting edge of analytical technology, while focusing on a "best value" practice to increase value of services rendered.

CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

BioToxLab believes that meeting compliance obligations is a responsibility essential to its long-term success. The company is committed to adhering to all legislation that relates to the operation of BioToxLab. All BioToxLab employees are responsible for conforming to policies and procedures established to ensure that BioToxLab fulfills requisite legislative requirements. Every employee, contractor, or agent of the company is held accountable to comply to the law and act ethically at all times. BioToxLab is committed to minimizing its environmental impact and footprint – we adhere to relevant legislation for waste storage and disposal and wastes are disposed in an environmentally responsible manner. BioToxLab is also committed to achieving the highest levels of occupational health and safety performance.

BioToxLab employees understand the importance of confidentiality and impartiality and have implemented policies that ensure the protection of client information. Employees/suppliers/service providers are required to sign and follow ethics, conflict of interest and confidentiality agreements. BioToxLab ensures the highest integrity of its systems by using secure, virus-free systems, including a firewall to protect data as well as frequent backup of all data.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

BioToxLab operates a laboratory that specializes in the assessment of the effect of toxic substances on aquatic ecosystems. This laboratory is managed according to the highest international and ISO/IEC 17025:2017 standards. Our main client base is the mining industry, various other industries (e.g. explosives, agrochemical etc.), universities, municipalities, government, private developers, hydrochemical laboratories and environmental consultants.

There is a great need for knowledge in order to understand the processes involved in the natural environment and the impacts on those processes. Such knowledge can only be obtained if measurements are made, which is a prerequisite of any attempt to predict future occurrences. Recent technical advances in toxicity testing techniques have facilitated the inexpensive processing of a large number of samples without the need for analytical chemistry in every instance. Only water types that show toxicity effects can thus be subjected to detailed hydrochemical analysis for the accurate detection of low concentrations of chemical substances that may be responsible for toxicity.

Increasingly complex substances are being released into the aquatic environment mainly as a result of the rapidly expanding human economic activity. It is virtually impossible to assess the effects or combination of effects of all kinds of pollution such as pesticides, medicines, metals and sewage on animal and plant species. Toxicity testing provides a means of assessing the effects of these substances as well as any secondary substances on the aquatic ecosystem.

BioToxLab utilizes an internationally accepted approach where representative species of different trophic levels are subjected to toxicity testing with the results that can then be extrapolated to other members of the same trophic level thereby providing an indication of the effect of the impact on the aquatic ecosystem.

BioToxLab performs water and sediment toxicity studies and apply the DWS's (Department of Water and Sanitation) DEEEP (Direct Estimation of Ecological Effect Potential) protocol with hazard classification in order to determine the acute and chronic hazard of potentially affected water/sediment types.

BioToxLab performs technical water treatment plant audits as well as Water Use License audits and Environmental Impact Assessment audits.

BioToxLab performs Environmental Control Officer services for Environmental Consultants and construction projects.

OUR PEOPLE

BioToxLab is home to a number of graduate and postgraduate scientists with an in-depth scientific understanding of each field of specialization. The company currently employs scientists with a range of qualifications that include a Ph.D degree, three M.Sc. degrees, five B.Sc. Honours degrees, six B.Sc degrees, two B. Tech degrees as well as two diplomas in nature conservation. Our management team has a combined experience of over 50 years in the field of environmental monitoring. Thus, the depth of technical and management expertise of BioToxLab allows the company to deliver a consistently high level of service to our clients. We also have a close network with various other environmental specialists also including diatom assessment specialists. A commitment to having the highest level of technical expertise and knowledge provides the assurance that data are supported by a quality program using only modern instrumentation and procedures.



QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (QMS)

The BioToxLab QMS is structured to meet the client’s needs and BioToxLab corporate policies, as well as accreditation, licensing and certification requirements. The QMS is detailed in all in-house documentation. Extensive training and monitoring are done by quality personnel and this ensures effective implementation and maintenance of our QMS. Training in all critical job tasks is provided, measured, documented and monitored.

BioToxLab’s QMS comprises of:

- All analytical methods used by BioToxLab are validated prior to approval for use in the laboratory
- All approved methods include quality control and performance criteria that must be achieved prior to releasing any data
- By ensuring the quality assurance data meets method specific quality objectives, BioToxLab can ensure that the analytical results are traceable and defensible prior to its release
- Scheduled internal audits are performed on all management system elements at least annually which ensures conformance to the QMS and applicable performance criteria
- External audits performed by SANAS for conformity to the PTS applicable standards and regulations
- In addition, clients are welcome to perform audits to verify compliance with their project requirements
- Proficiency testing programs (NLA and SABS) are used to monitor testing activities - results are evaluated and available to SANAS and to clients and are used to measure performance and meet accreditation and license requirements

BioToxLab is committed to quality and all feedback and nonconformance issues from clients are documented, tracked, resolved and used as part of the Company’s continuous improvement plan. Monitoring of improvements provides clients with assurance that BioToxLab has addressed their concerns and implemented corrective action procedures that meet client expectations. The BioToxLab management team routinely reviews all activities to ensure the continued suitability of the QMS to meet all required expectations. These reviews are used to set measurable goals and timelines for future performance and growth. BioToxLab invites clients to visit the laboratory for a tour and review of management systems if required.

COMPANY STRATEGY

Mission

- Client success and satisfaction is our mission – focusing every day, every project, every sample, and every analysis on earning our clients’ trust and respect
- To provide our clients with accurate and reliable test results and bring a keen understanding and application to those responsible for environmental management and assist them in becoming experts on the particular risks that their operations may pose to the environment
- To become a leading and respected service provider and a preferred partner in environmental toxicity testing services

Vision :

- Be a full service provider for environmental toxicity testing across various industries and collaborate with research facilities to implement industry specific toxicity testing packages and solutions
- Continually enhance the level of client satisfaction
- Offer the most technologically advanced portfolio of services in the industry
- Expand our client base to international markets
- Be recognized as a great place to work and grow professionally

Values

- No compromise on quality
- Conscious care for environment, health and safety
- Total transparency in all operations
- To demonstrate and uphold integrity and professionalism in everything we do
- To maintain our staff competences
- To create an environment that fosters team collaboration, harmony and empowerment
- To inspire, to mentor and to excel