# Test Group Summary Report
# C45 Anions in Soil
# January 2026 PT Round

**Issued: March 2, 2026**

PTC | Proficiency Testing Canada

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# 1.0 The Proficiency Testing Report

The Proficiency Testing Report consists of two parts.

- *PTC Proficiency Testing Report*: This report contains participant-specific data and other confidential information. This report is emailed to participants at the end of the PT round.
- *Test Group Summary Report*: A Test Group Summary Report is created for each quantified test group at the end of the PT round. These reports contain more detailed information on the round than is found in the participant-specific PTC Proficiency Testing Report. These reports do not contain any confidential information and are made available on the PTC web site.

# 2.0 Definitions

The participant-specific PTC Proficiency Testing Report contains some terms that new participants may not be familiar with.

| | |
|---|---|
| *Code:* | The registration code that is unique to each analyte that a participant is registered for. |
| *App:* | If a participant is accredited by CALA, this three-digit number is the appendix number that the accredited method is assigned to. |
| *N:* | The number of participants results that were used to calculate the summary statistics. This excludes qualified data (e.g., <) and any results that were flagged as outliers. |
| *Assigned:* | The Assigned Value is the robust mean of the reported results, outliers excluded. This is often referred to as the "target" value. |
| *± u:* | The uncertainty of the assigned value. |
| *Reported:* | The result reported by the participant. |
| *s:* | The Standard Deviation of Proficiency Assessment (SDPA). This value is used to determine the acceptance limits for the PT evaluation. |
| *z-Score:* | A value assigned to each reported result that is a measure of the degree to which it deviates from the Assigned Value. |
| *Score:* | The composite score of the four results reported for each analyte. It is normalized to a score out of 100. |
| *Bias:* | A flag assigned if bias is detected using the re-scaled *z*-score procedure. |

# 3.0 Scoring System

Participant performance is evaluated for each proficiency testing sample by a quantitative method that is consistent with ISO/IEC 17043 - *Conformity assessment- General requirements for the competence of proficiency testing providers*, the *International Harmonized Protocol for Proficiency Testing of (Chemical) Analytical Laboratories* (2006), and ISO 13528:2015 *Statistical methods for use in proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparisons*.

The following is a brief description of the evaluation procedure used by PTC. The detailed evaluation procedure is described in PROC09 – PT Evaluation *Procedure*, which is available on the PTC website www.PTCanada.org).

## 3.1 HOMOGENEITY AND STABILITY ASSESSMENT

Homogeneity and stability are assessed using participant data. Regression analysis is performed on reported result against order of sample production (Homogeneity) and reported result against date of analysis (Stability). If the slope is significantly different than zero for either then the Standard Deviation of Proficiency Assessment (s) is increased to minimize the impact.

## 3.2 THE Z SCORE

A "z-score" is calculated for each reported result as follows:

$$z - Score = \frac{(x - \bar{X})}{SDPA}$$

where: x = participant result;
$\overline{X}$ = the Assigned Value;
SDPA = the Standard Deviation for Proficiency Assessment.

The assigned value $\overline{X}$ is generally estimated from the inter-laboratory Robust mean after outliers due to obvious gross errors (e.g., reported in wrong units) have been removed.

The Standard Deviation for Proficiency Assessment, s, is determined as follows:

- The inter-laboratory Robust standard deviation ($Stdev_{rob}$) is calculated using reported results, obvious outliers removed;
- The regression equation standard deviation ($Stdev_{reg}$) is estimated from regression equations derived from previous studies (see PROC11- *PT Regression Equations* for details);
- The SDPA is the higher of $Stdev_{rob}$ and $Stdev_{reg}$;
- When a laboratory reports its detection limit, s will be estimated using a pooled variance procedure that uses both the inter-laboratory data and the reported detection limit.

## 3.2 COMPOSITE (PT) SCORE

Since each PT round involves four or two separate samples of distinct concentration for each test, it is necessary to calculate a composite PT score for each test to determine overall performance. The composite score is calculated by first averaging the absolute *z*-scores for the four results and then calculating a final score as 100 + (-15 x avg |z|).

Acceptable PT Scores equal or exceed 70.

## 3.3 IDENTIFYING BIAS

The proficiency testing report provides flags for bias. These are determined using the re-scaled *z*-score procedure.

$$RSZ = \frac{\sum z}{\sqrt{N}}$$

where *z* = the *z*- score
N = the number of samples

Flags are assigned for each test group/parameter combination as follows:

RSZ $\geq$ -2 and $\leq$ 2 no flag assigned

| | |
|---|---|
| RSZ > 2 | H (High) |
| RSZ > 3 | VH (Very High) |
| RSZ < -2 | L (LOW) |
| RSZ < -3 | VL (Very Low) |

## 3.4 DEVIATIONS FROM EVALUATION PROCEDURE

Other than changes to the Standard Deviation of Proficiency Assessment due to homogeneity or stability flags, any deviation from the published evaluation procedure is described on the cover page(s) of the final *PTC Proficiency Testing Report*.

# 4.0 PT Round Specific Data Summary

The following pages provide more detailed information about the PT round indicated in the cover page of this report than is found in the participant-specific PTC Proficiency Testing Report. The graphical representations and the statistical summaries are based upon the data after outliers have been removed.

## 4.1 SUMMARY STATISTICS

In addition to some of the statistics found in the customer reports, this table includes additional summary statistics such as Median, different measures of dispersion, the number of outliers removed, the number of results in the Questionable range (|z| between 2 and 3) and the Unacceptable range (z > 3), and whether a data set was flagged for Homogeneity or Stability. This section also includes sorted scatter plots of the data for each sample.

## 4.2 *z* - SCORE PLOTS

The z -scores for each sample are ranked in increasing order and plotted. When the data is normally distributed, the plot should show a slight sigmoidal curve, with an equal number of points above zero as below. Each bar in these plots is colour-coded to indicate the analytical method used by the participant.

## 4.3 KERNEL DENSITY PLOTS

Kernel density plots are generated for each data set. These plots are a graphical way to represent the overall data distribution and are used to visualize possible deviations from normality and unimodality.

## 4.4 STABILITY AND HOMOGENEITY PLOTS

Plots of reported result against analysis date, and reported result against order of bottling are displayed, along with the regression line. These regression analyses are used to determine if the SDPA should be adjusted due to homogeneity or stability.

## 4.5 BOX-AND-WHISKER PLOTS

Box-and-Whisker plots are another way to display the distribution of the data. The box denotes the first and third quartile and the whiskers are the 5$^{th}$ and 95th percentile.

## 4.6 HISTORIC COMPARISON PLOT

The Historic Comparison Plot is a plot of robust mean against robust standard deviation for the previous ten PT rounds as well as the current PT round. This plot can be used to identify possible changes in the sample formulation.

# Bromide

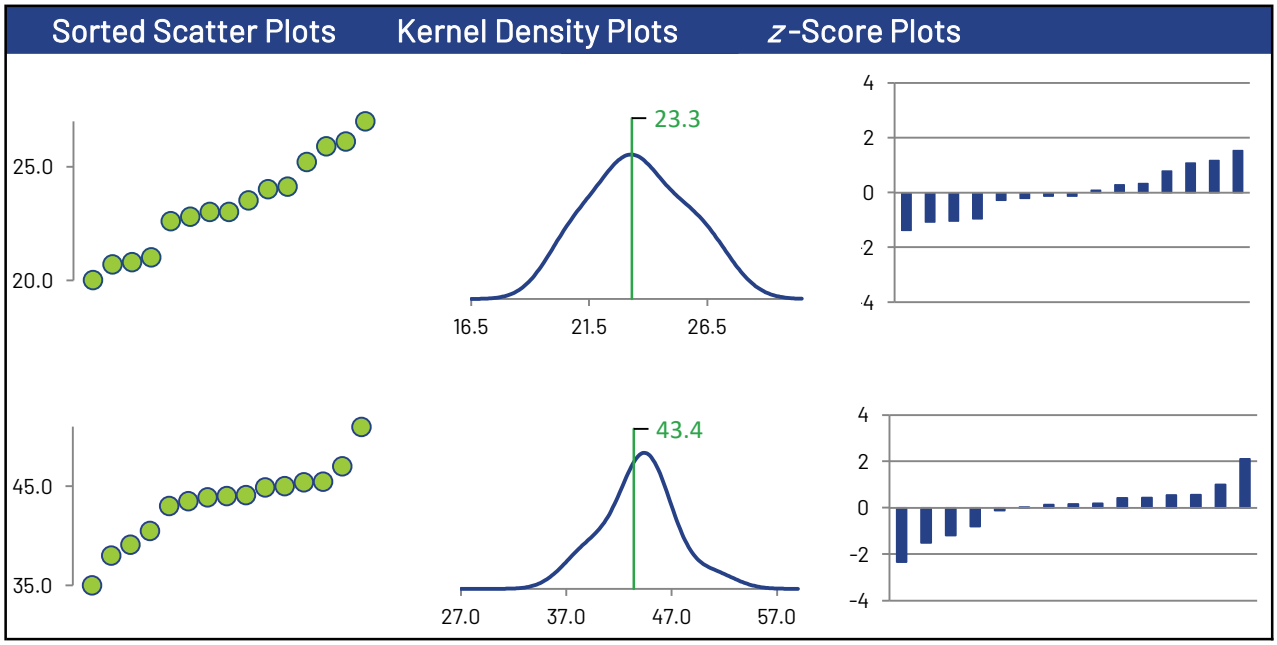
## Summary Statistics

| Statistic | C45-1 | C45-2 | C45-3 | C45-4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. of results used for summary statistics | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Median µg/g | 23.0 | 44.0 | 66.0 | 72.3 |
| Robust Mean µg/g | 23.3 | 43.4 | 65.6 | 72.4 |
| Uncdrtainty of the Assigned Value µg/g | 0.775 | 1.17 | 2.30 | 2.09 |
| Robust Standard Deviation µg/g | 2.40 | 3.61 | 7.12 | 6.49 |
| Regression Standard Deviation µg/g | | | | |
| Stability Flag | | | | |
| Homogeneity Flag | | | | |
| Standard Deviation Used (SDPA) µg/g | 2.40 | 3.61 | 7.12 | 6.49 |
| Flagged Outliers | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| \|z\|>3.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2<\|z\|<3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Failure Rate %* | 0.0 | | | |

## Methods Used

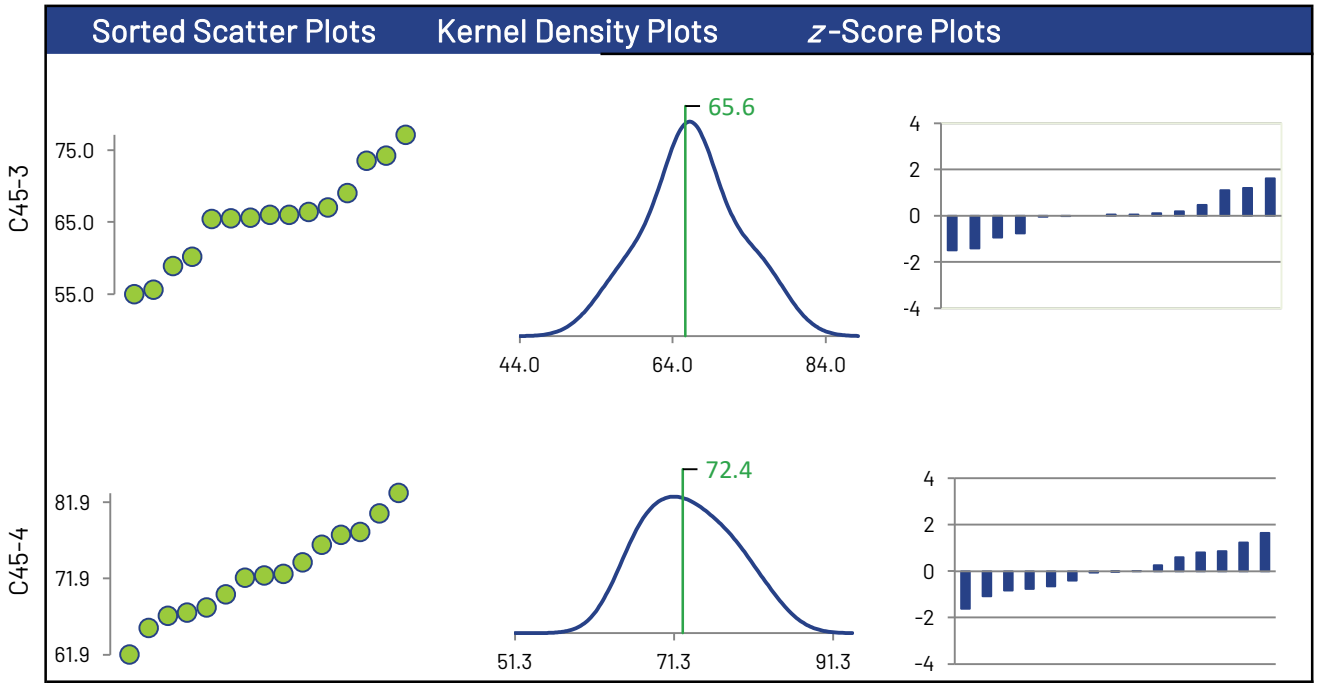
| Method | C45-1 | C45-2 | C45-3 | C45-4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ION CHROMATOGRAPHY (Blue) | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

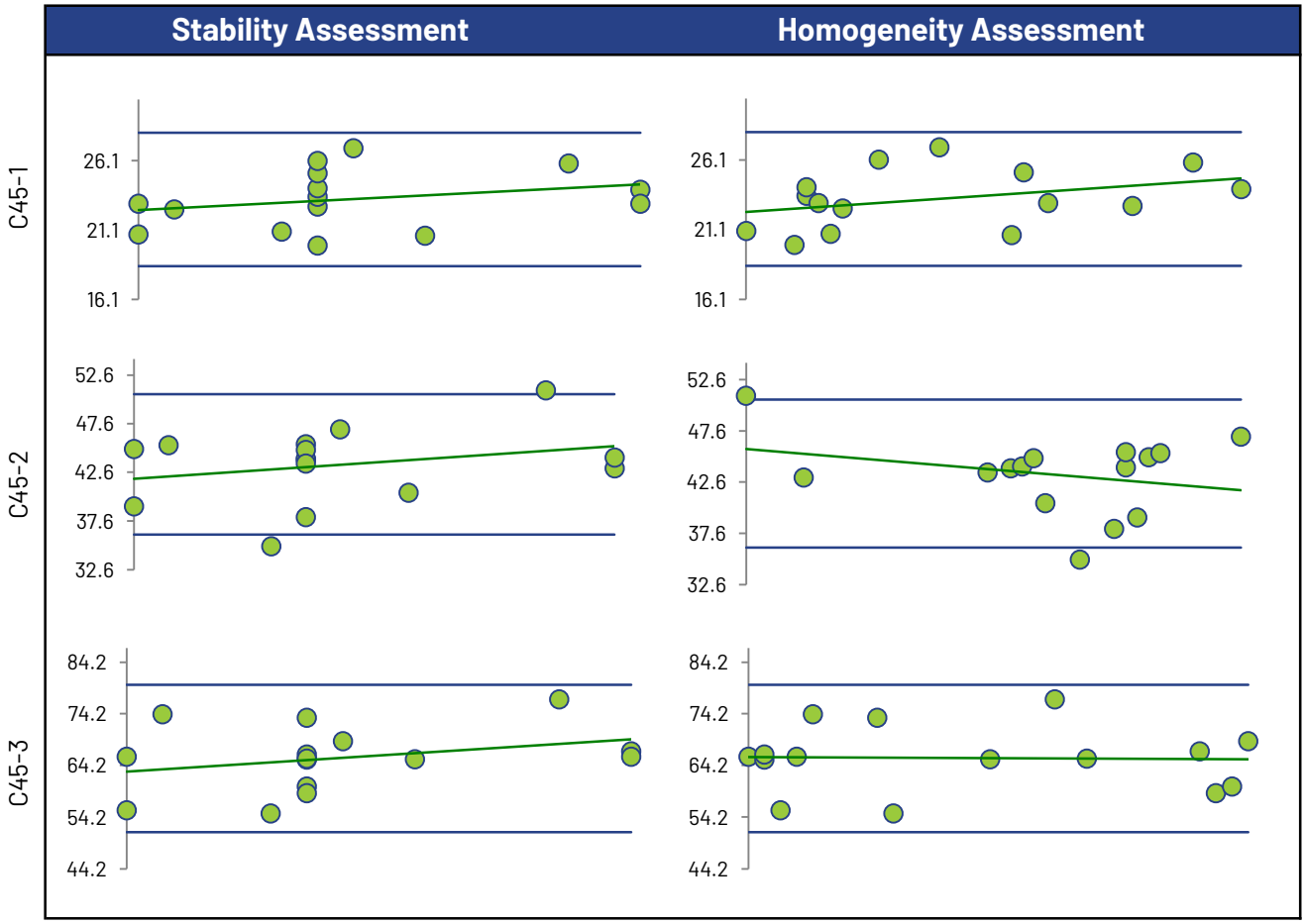
All summary stats, except the failure rate, and the plots below are based on the data excluding any flagged outliers




* Displayed failure rate does not account for the RDL modified z-Scores or inaccurately reported non-detects.

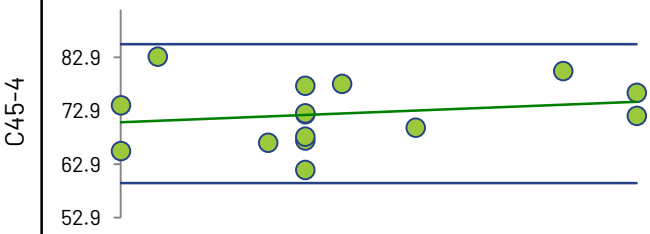
# Bromide


Sorted Scatter Plots
Kernel Density Plots
z-Score Plots
C45-3
75.0
65.0
55.0
65.6
44.0
64.0
84.0
4
2
0
-2
-4
C45-4
81.9
71.9
61.9
72.4
51.3
71.3
91.3

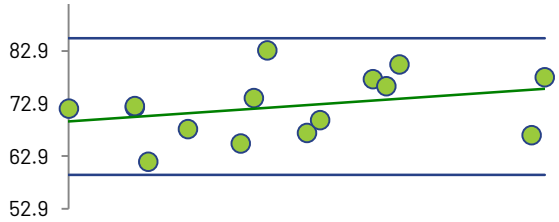

Stability Assessment
Homogeneity Assessment
C45-1
26.1
21.1
16.1
C45-2
52.6
47.6
42.6
37.6
32.6
C45-3
84.2
74.2
64.2
54.2
44.2

# Bromide

## Stability Assessment



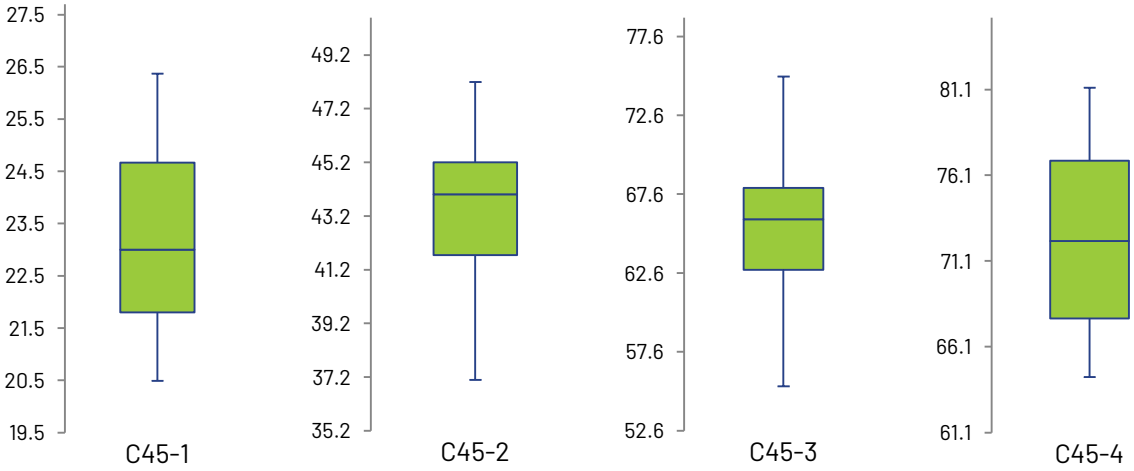

## Homogeneity Assessment



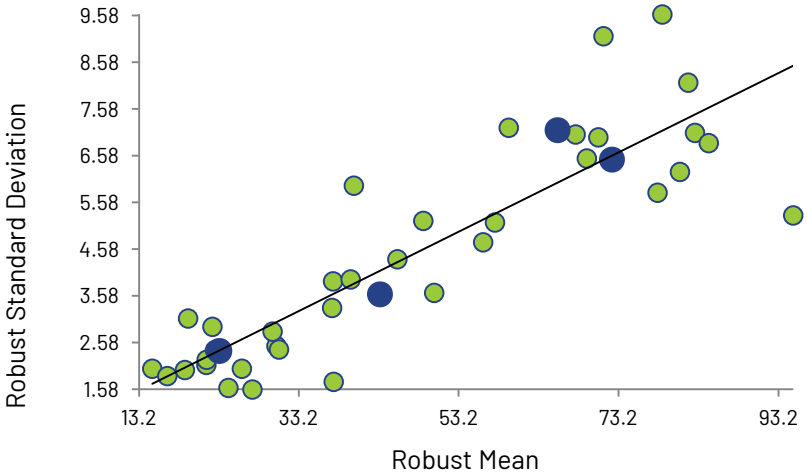

Stability assessments are regression analysis of reported result against date of analysis.

Homogeneity assessments are regression analysis of reported result against bottling order.

## Box and Whisker Plots




## Current Round (blue) Compared to Historic Rounds (green)



# Chloride

## Summary Statistics

| Statistic | C45-1 | C45-2 | C45-3 | C45-4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. of results used for summary statistics | 35 | 35 | 35 | 35 |
| Median µg/g | 390 | 520 | 680 | 931 |
| Robust Mean µg/g | 391 | 524 | 689 | 950 |
| Uncdrtainty of the Assigned Value µg/g | 10.2 | 15.5 | 20.8 | 26.0 |
| Robust Standard Deviation µg/g | 48.5 | 73.4 | 98.3 | 123 |
| Regression Standard Deviation µg/g | | | | |
| Stability Flag | | | | |
| Homogeneity Flag | | | | |
| Standard Deviation Used (SDPA) µg/g | 48.5 | 73.4 | 98.3 | 123 |
| Flagged Outliers | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| \|z\|>3.0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2<\|z\|<3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Failure Rate %* | 11.1 | | | |

## Methods Used

| Method | C45-1 | C45-2 | C45-3 | C45-4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| COLORIMETRIC (Blue) | 6 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| ION CHROMATOGRAPHY (Red) | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 |
| AUTO COLOR (Green) | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| ION SELECTIVE ELECTRODE (Orange) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | |
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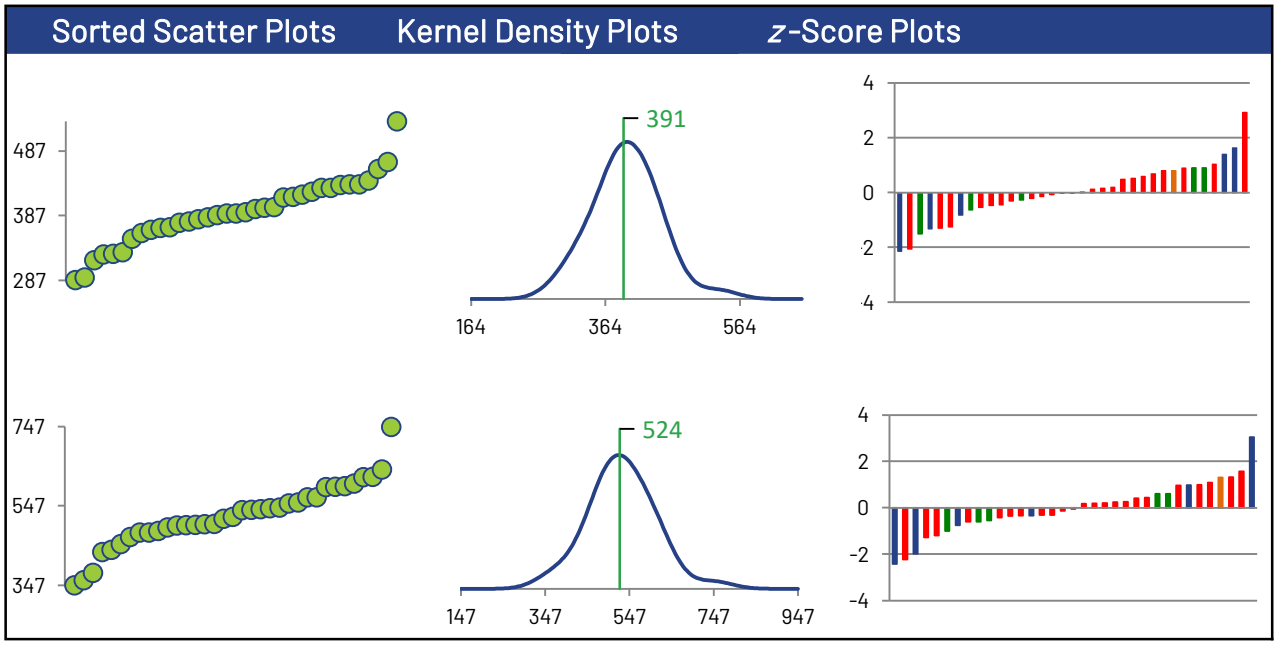
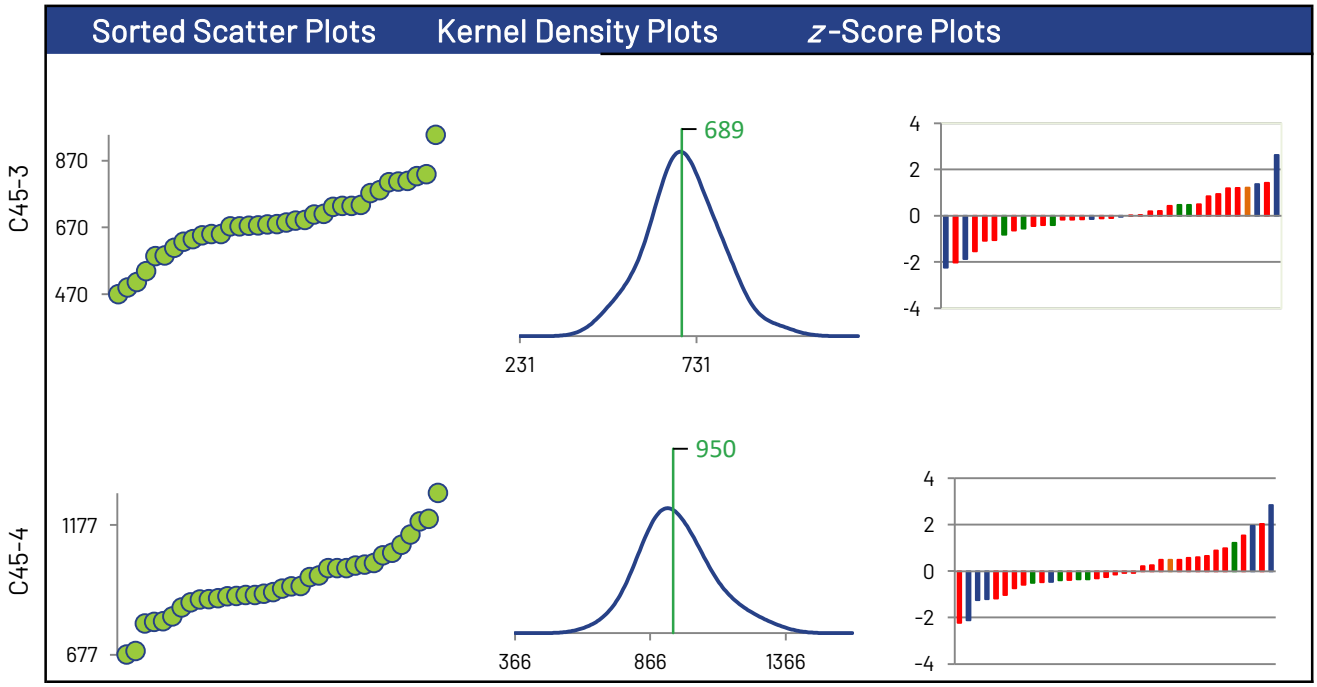
| | | | | |

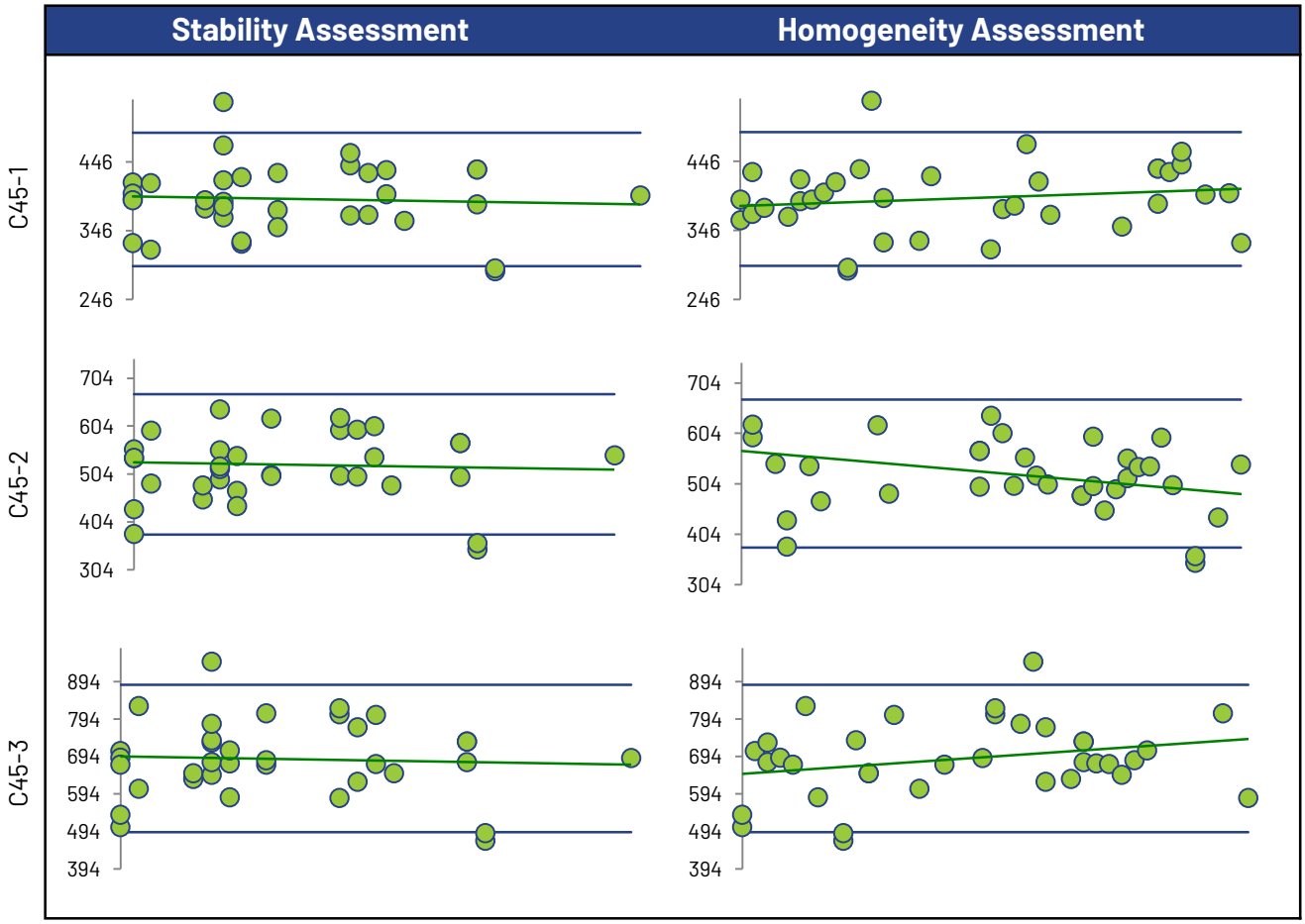
All summary stats, except the failure rate, and the plots below are based on the data excluding any flagged outliers




* Displayed failure rate does not account for the RDL modified z-Scores or inaccurately reported non-detects.

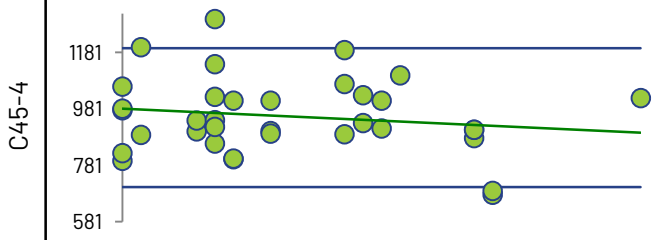
# Chloride


Sorted Scatter Plots
Kernel Density Plots
z-Score Plots
C45-3
870
670
470
689
231
731
4
2
0
-2
-4
C45-4
1177
677
950
366
866
1366
4
2
0
-2
-4

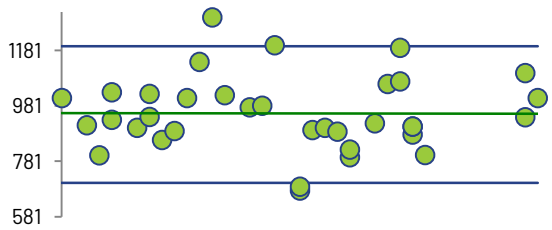

Stability Assessment
Homogeneity Assessment
C45-1
446
346
246
446
346
246
C45-2
704
604
504
404
304
704
604
504
404
304
C45-3
894
794
694
594
494
394
894
794
694
594
494
394

# Chloride

## Stability Assessment



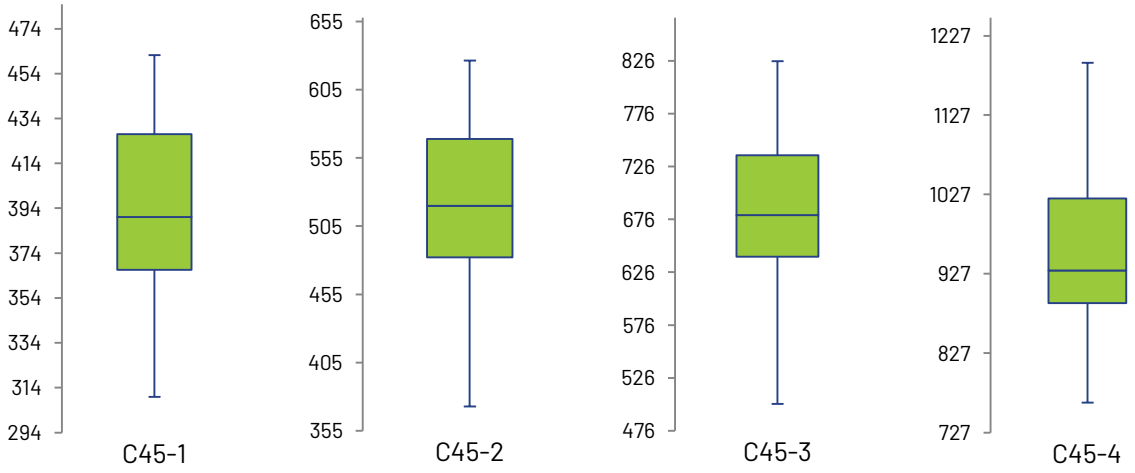

## Homogeneity Assessment



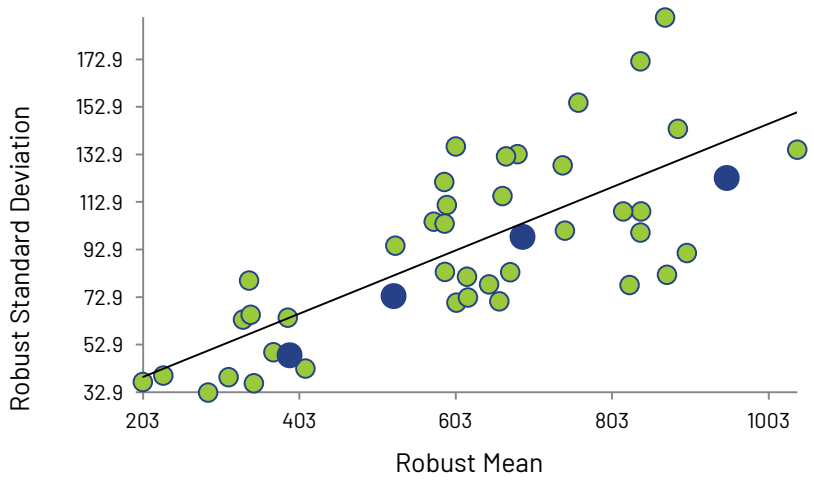

Stability assessments are regression analysis of reported result against date of analysis.

Homogeneity assessments are regression analysis of reported result against bottling order.

## Box and Whisker Plots




## Current Round (blue) Compared to Historic Rounds (green)



# Fluoride

## Summary Statistics

| Statistic | C45-1 | C45-2 | C45-3 | C45-4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. of results used for summary statistics | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 |
| Median µg/g | 42.1 | 86.0 | 201 | 179 |
| Robust Mean µg/g | 50.4 | 108 | 215 | 208 |
| Uncdrtainty of the Assigned Value µg/g | 12.8 | 29.5 | 55.5 | 54.9 |
| Robust Standard Deviation µg/g | 42.2 | 97.3 | 183 | 181 |
| Regression Standard Deviation µg/g | | | | |
| Stability Flag | | | | |
| Homogeneity Flag | | | | |
| Standard Deviation Used (SDPA) µg/g | 42.2 | 97.3 | 183 | 181 |
| Flagged Outliers | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| \|z\|>3.0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| 2<\|z\|<3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Failure Rate %* | 11.8 | | | |

## Methods Used

| Method | C45-1 | C45-2 | C45-3 | C45-4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ION CHROMATOGRAPHY (Blue) | 16 | 16 | 16 | 16 |
| AUTO COLOR (Red) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
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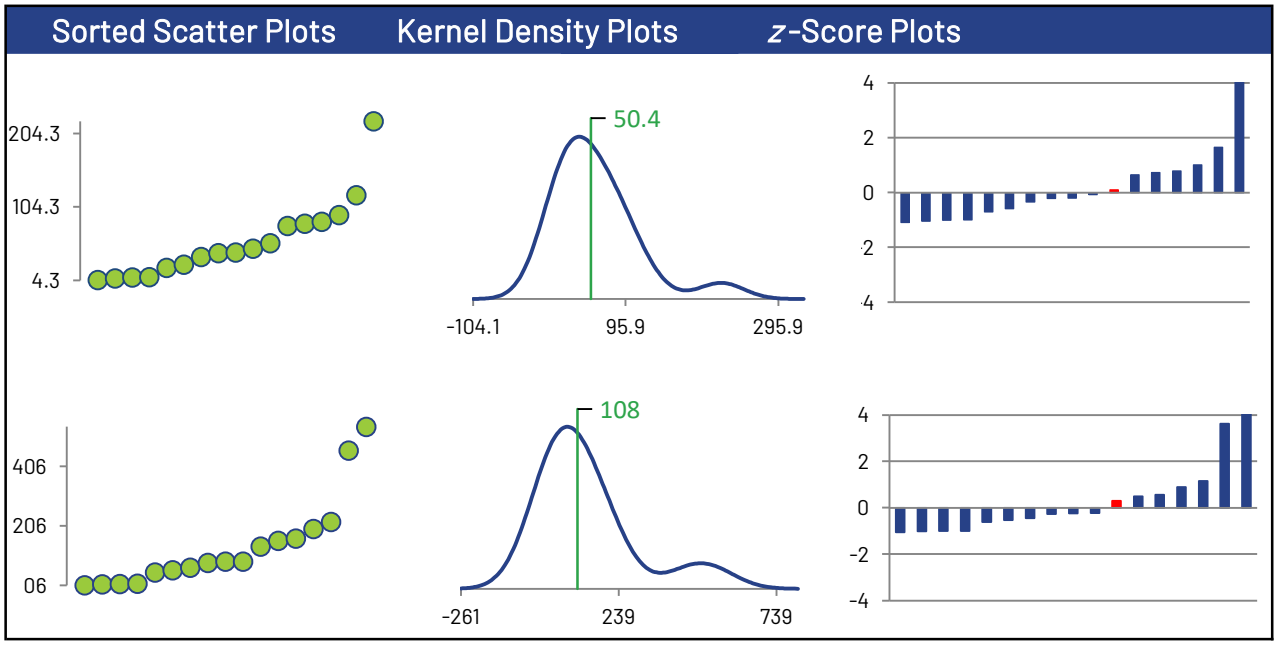
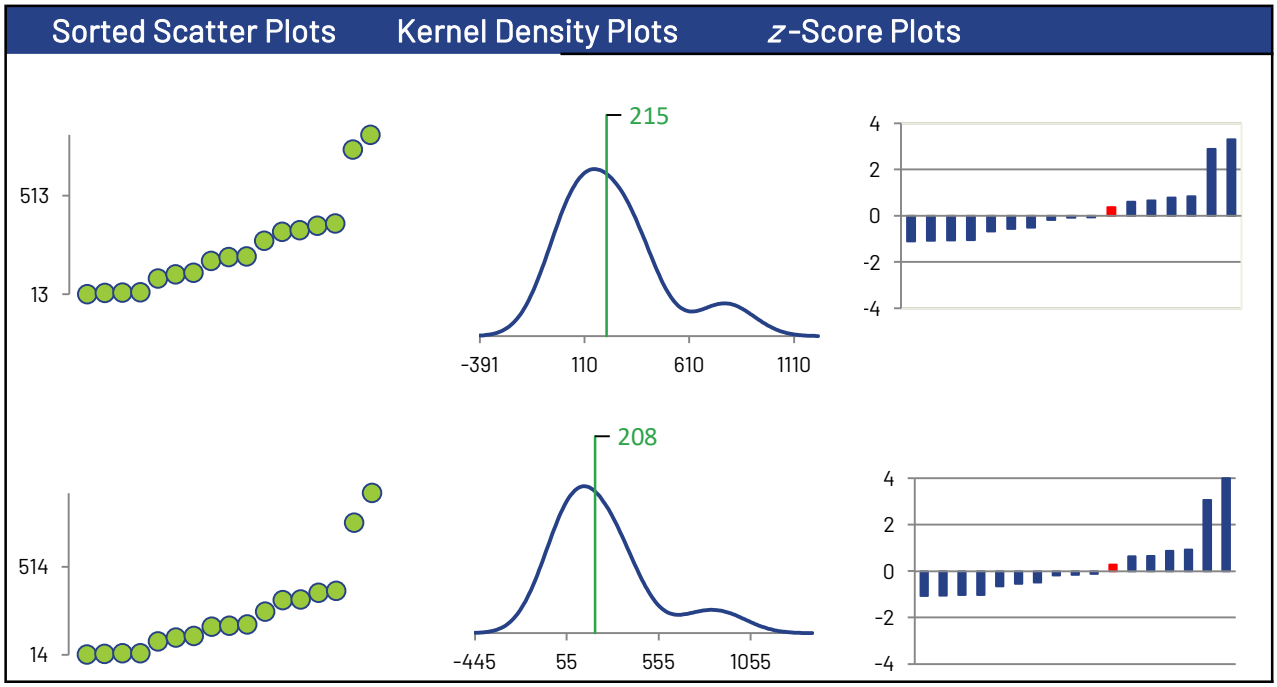
| | | | | |

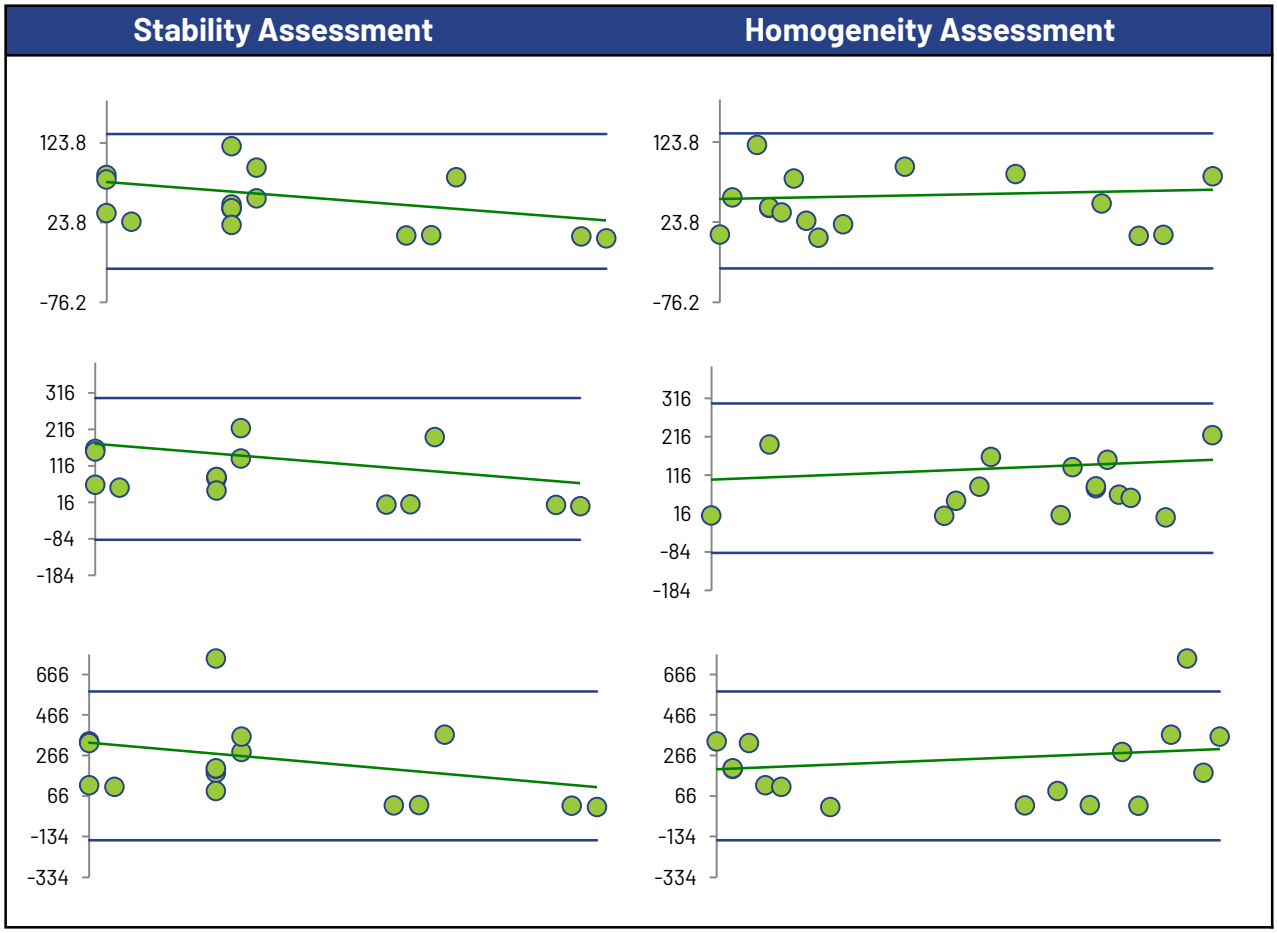
All summary stats, except the failure rate, and the plots below are based on the data excluding any flagged outliers




* Displayed failure rate does not account for the RDL modified z-Scores or inaccurately reported non-detects.

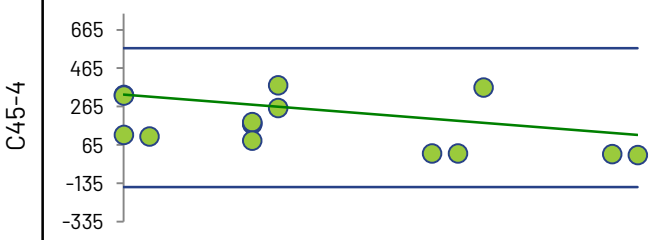
# Fluoride


Sorted Scatter Plots
Kernel Density Plots
z-Score Plots
C45-3
513
13
215
-391
110
610
1110
4
2
0
-2
-4
C45-4
514
14
208
-445
55
555
1055
4
2
0
-2
-4

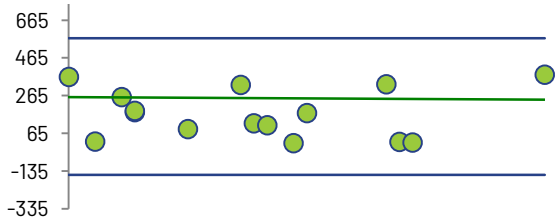

Stability Assessment
Homogeneity Assessment
C45-1
123.8
23.8
-76.2
C45-2
316
216
116
16
-84
-184
C45-3
666
466
266
66
-134
-334

# Fluoride

## Stability Assessment



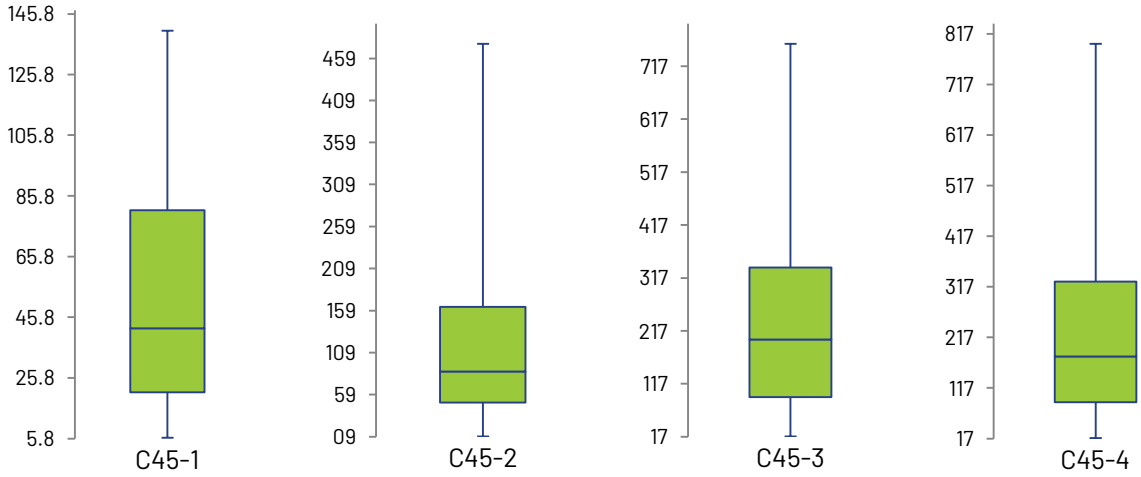

## Homogeneity Assessment



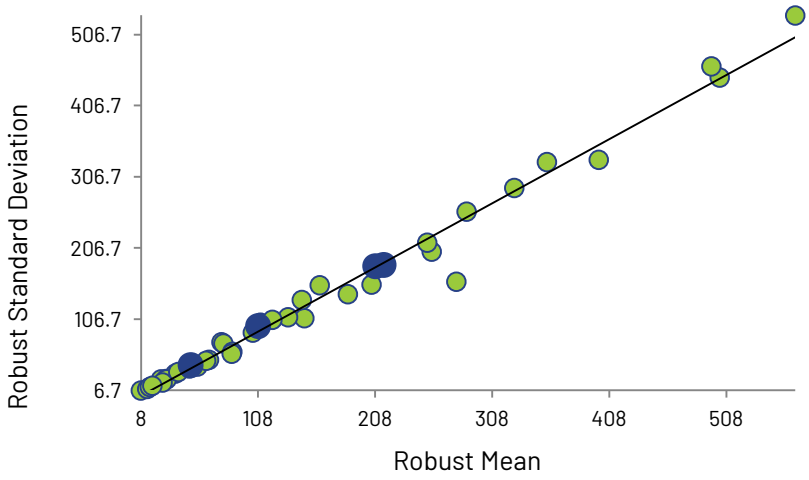

Stability assessments are regression analysis of reported result against date of analysis.

Homogeneity assessments are regression analysis of reported result against bottling order.

## Box and Whisker Plots




## Current Round (blue) Compared to Historic Rounds (green)



# Nitrate-N

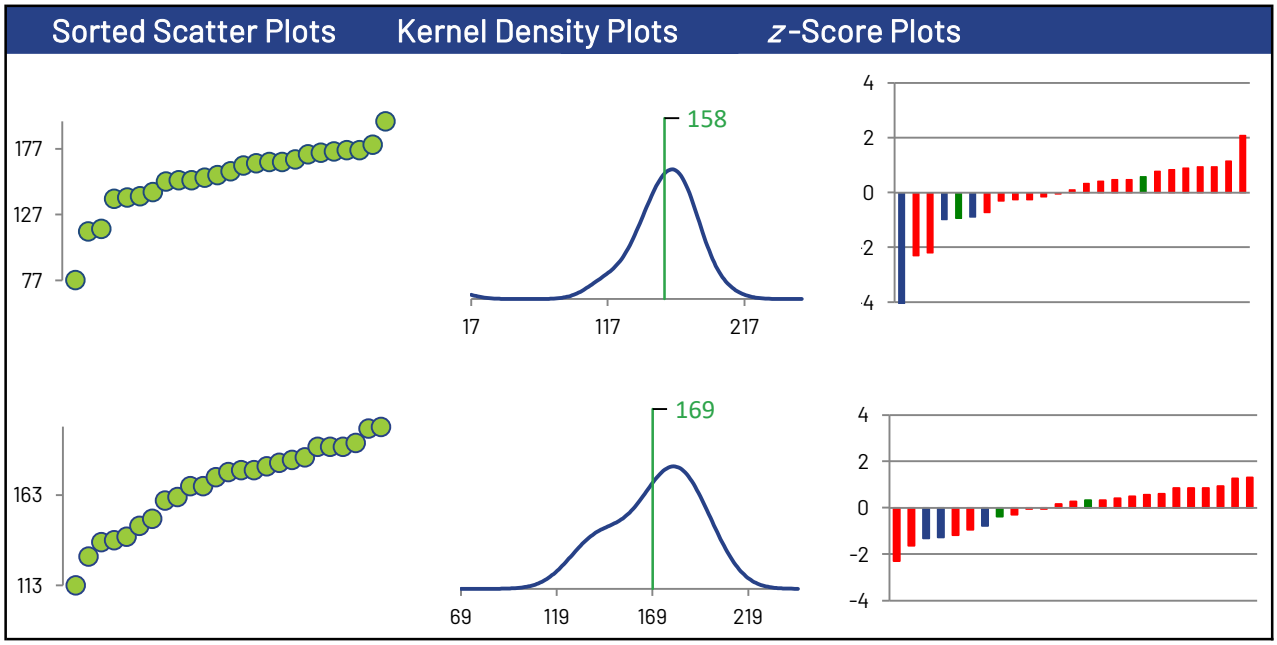
## Summary Statistics

| Statistic | C45-1 | C45-2 | C45-3 | C45-4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. of results used for summary statistics | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| Median µg/g | 160 | 176 | 256 | 391 |
| Robust Mean µg/g | 158 | 169 | 249 | 381 |
| Uncdrtainty of the Assigned Value µg/g | 4.78 | 6.13 | 9.73 | 13.5 |
| Robust Standard Deviation µg/g | 19.1 | 24.5 | 38.9 | 54.1 |
| Regression Standard Deviation µg/g | | | | |
| Stability Flag | | | | |
| Homogeneity Flag | | | | |
| Standard Deviation Used (SDPA) µg/g | 19.1 | 24.5 | 38.9 | 54.1 |
| Flagged Outliers | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| \|z\|>3.0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| 2<\|z\|<3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Failure Rate %* | 4.0 | | | |

## Methods Used

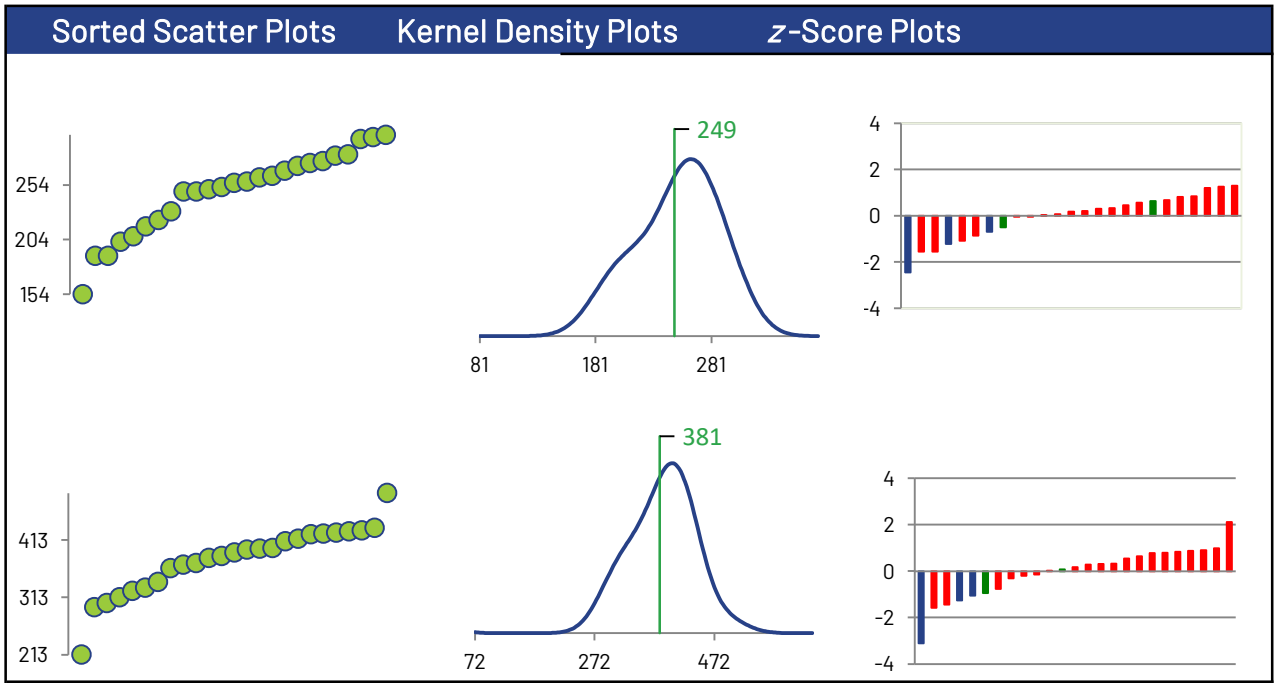
| Method | C45-1 | C45-2 | C45-3 | C45-4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| AUTO COLOR (Blue) | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| ION CHROMATOGRAPHY (Red) | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| COLORIMETRIC (Green) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

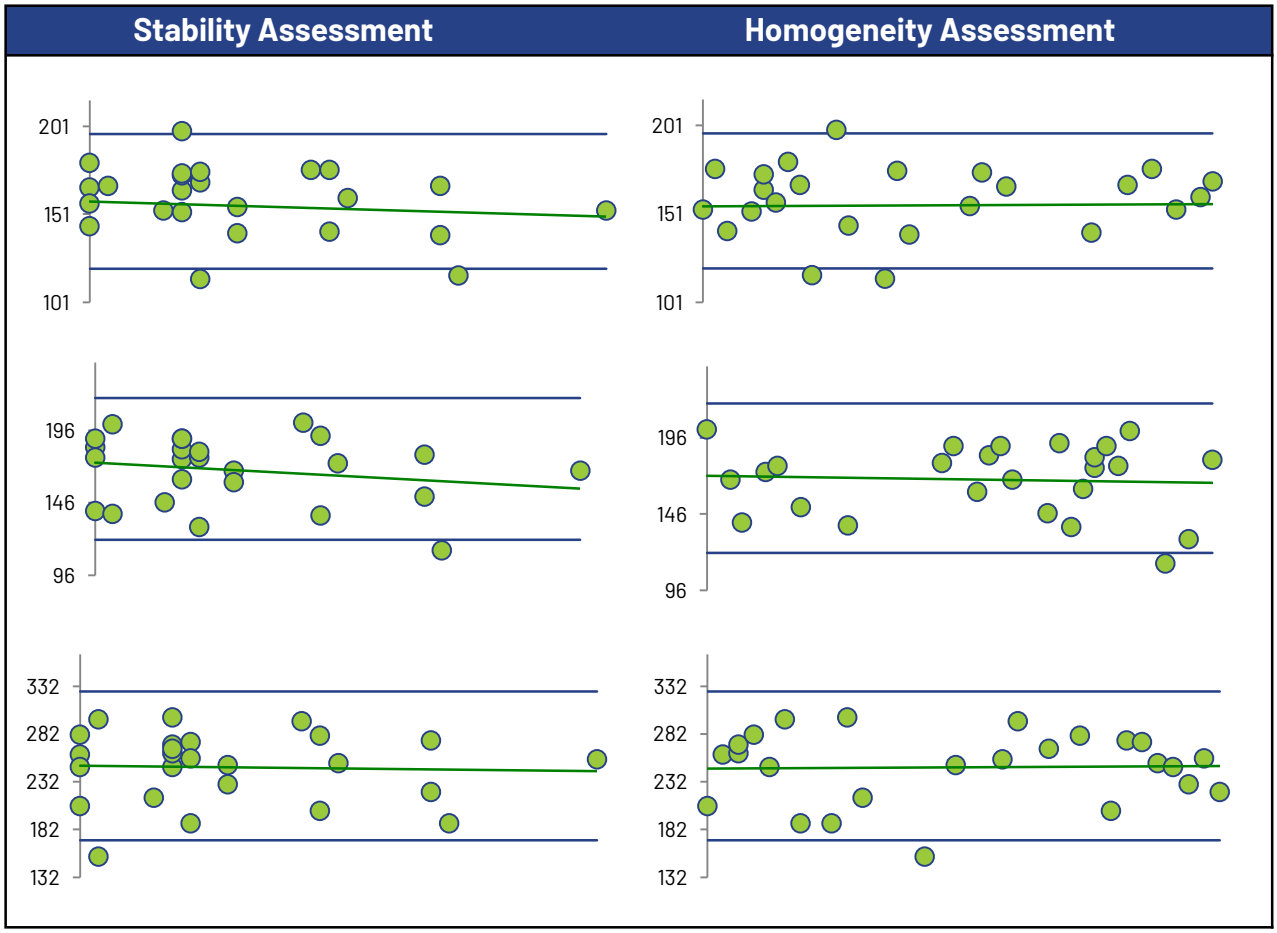
All summary stats, except the failure rate, and the plots below are based on the data excluding any flagged outliers




* Displayed failure rate does not account for the RDL modified z-Scores or inaccurately reported non-detects.

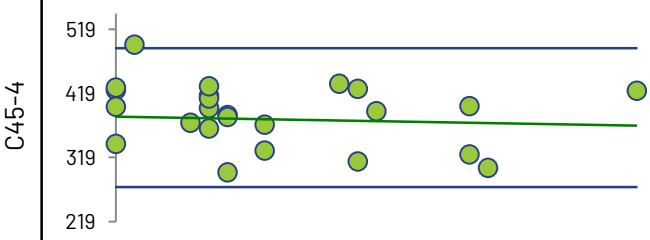
# Nitrate-N


Sorted Scatter Plots
Kernel Density Plots
z-Score Plots
C45-3
254
204
154
249
81
181
281
4
2
0
-2
-4
C45-4
413
313
213
381
72
272
472
4
2
0
-2
-4

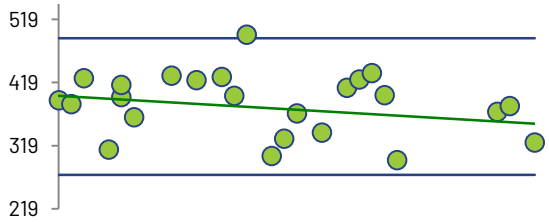

Stability Assessment
Homogeneity Assessment
C45-1
201
151
101
201
151
101
C45-2
196
146
96
196
146
96
C45-3
332
282
232
182
132
332
282
232
182
132

# Nitrate-N

## Stability Assessment



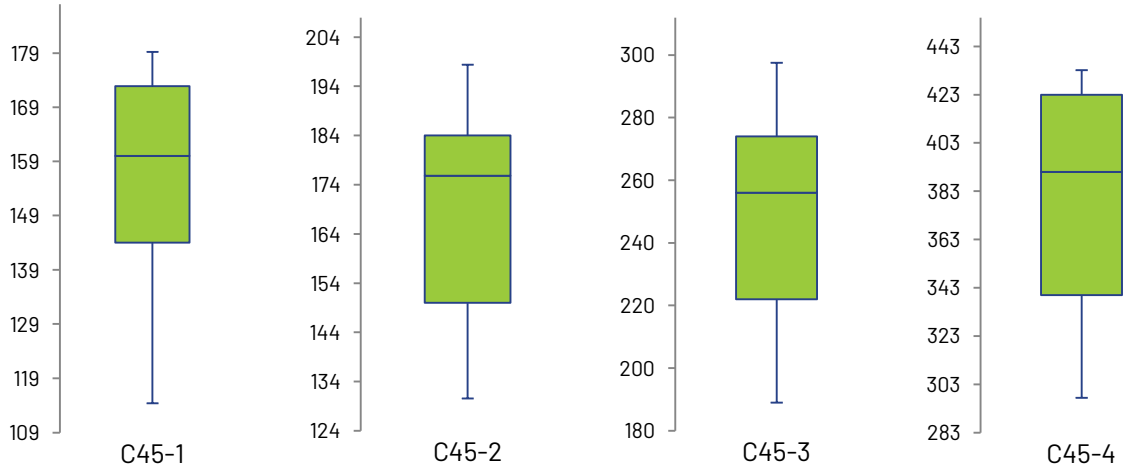

## Homogeneity Assessment



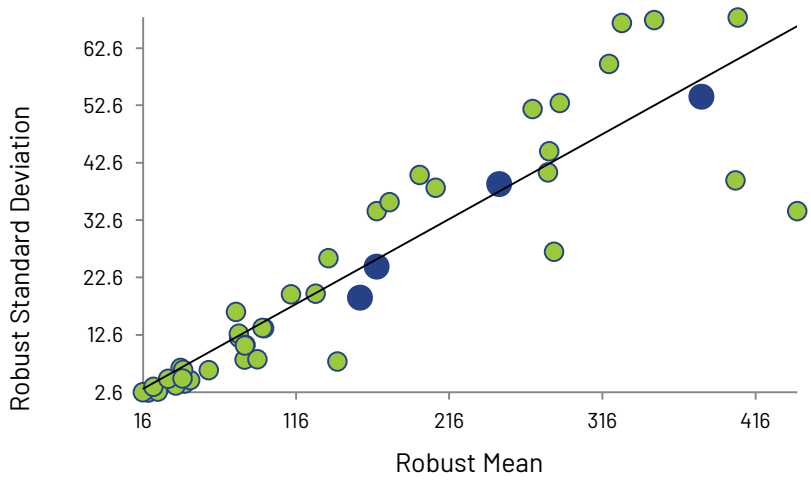

Stability assessments are regression analysis of reported result against date of analysis.

Homogeneity assessments are regression analysis of reported result against bottling order.

## Box and Whisker Plots




## Current Round (blue) Compared to Historic Rounds (green)



# Percent Saturation

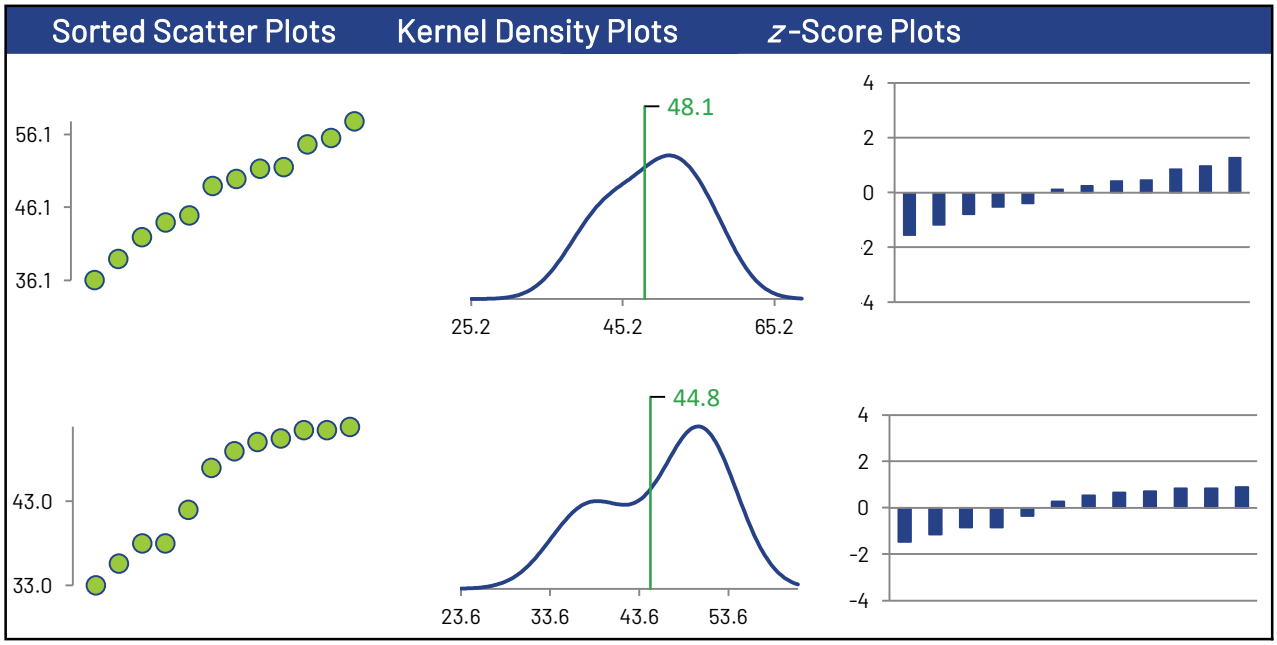
## Summary Statistics

| Statistic | C45-1 | C45-2 | C45-3 | C45-4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. of results used for summary statistics | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Median µg/g | 49.5 | 48.0 | 47.7 | 47.8 |
| Robust Mean µg/g | 48.1 | 44.8 | 45.6 | 45.8 |
| Uncdrtainty of the Assigned Value µg/g | 2.77 | 2.89 | 2.66 | 2.79 |
| Robust Standard Deviation µg/g | 7.67 | 8.00 | 7.38 | 7.72 |
| Regression Standard Deviation µg/g | | | | |
| Stability Flag | | | | |
| Homogeneity Flag | | | | |
| Standard Deviation Used (SDPA) µg/g | 7.67 | 8.00 | 7.38 | 7.72 |
| Flagged Outliers | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| \|z\|>3.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2<\|z\|<3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Failure Rate %* | 0.0 | | | |

## Methods Used

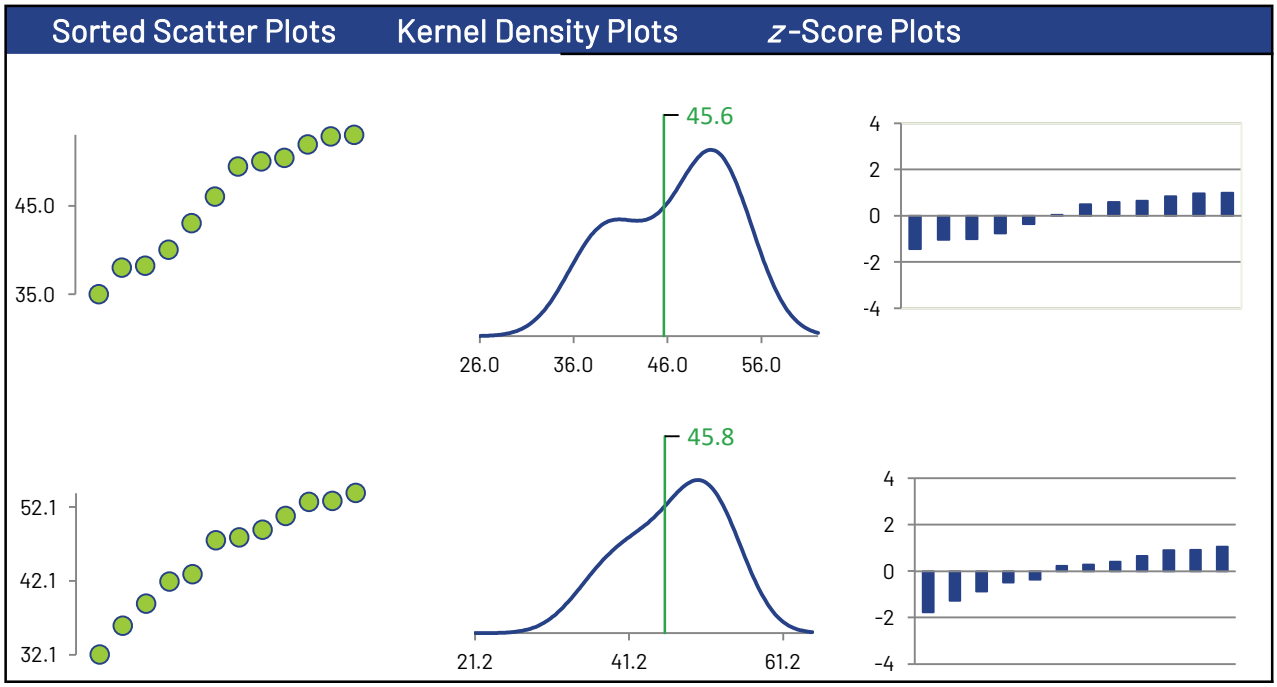
| Method | C45-1 | C45-2 | C45-3 | C45-4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SATURATED PASTE (Blue) | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

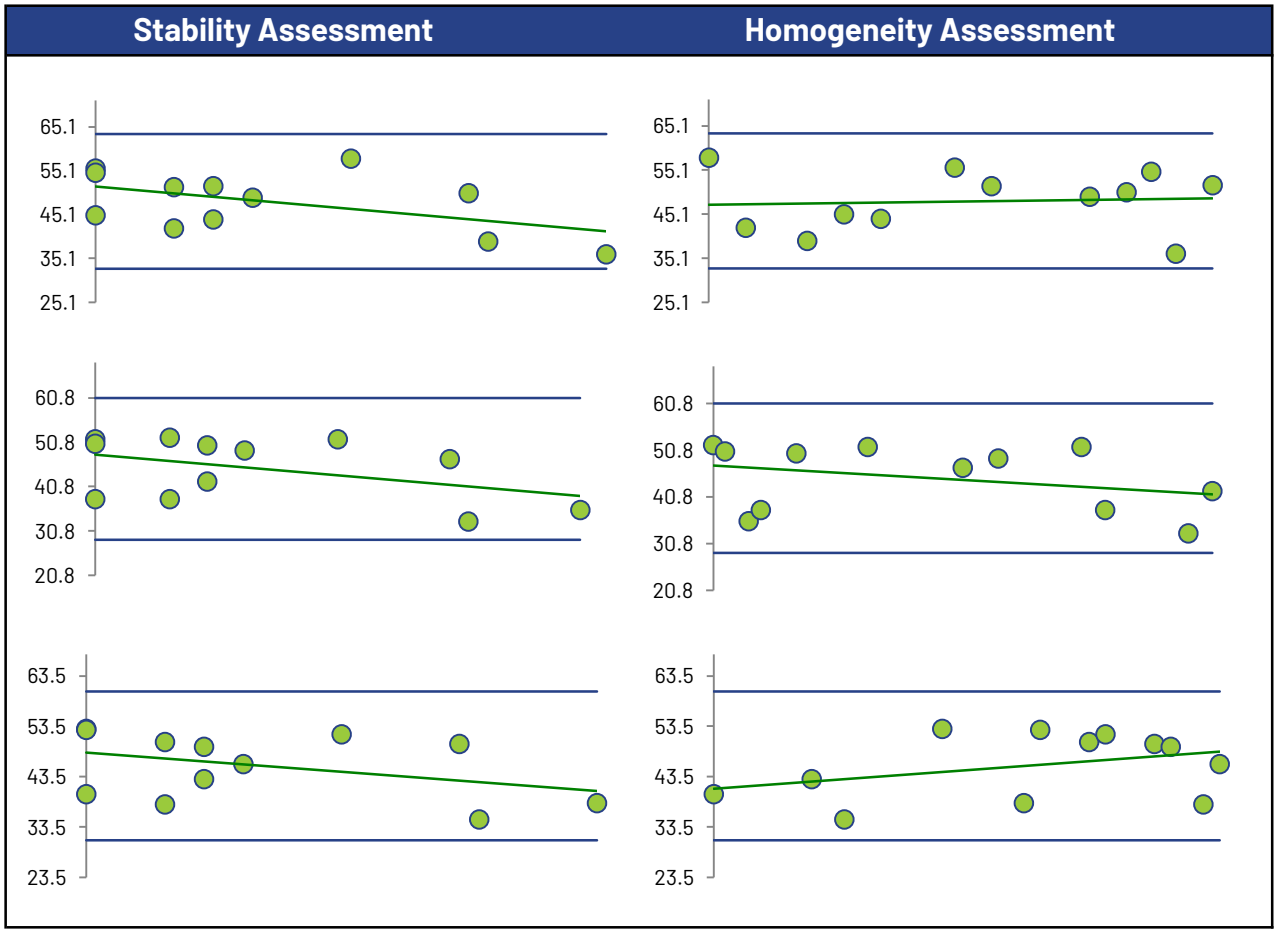
All summary stats, except the failure rate, and the plots below are based on the data excluding any flagged outliers




* Displayed failure rate does not account for the RDL modified z-Scores or inaccurately reported non-detects.

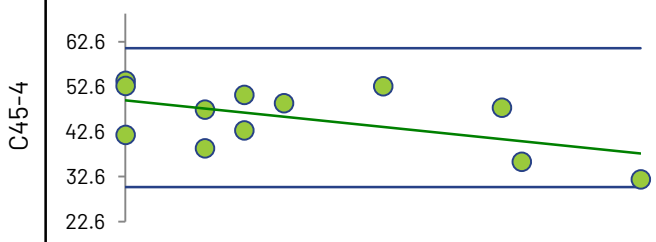
## Percent Saturation



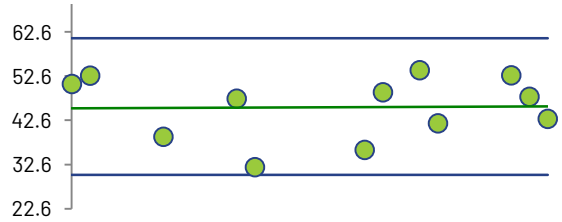



# Percent Saturation

## Stability Assessment



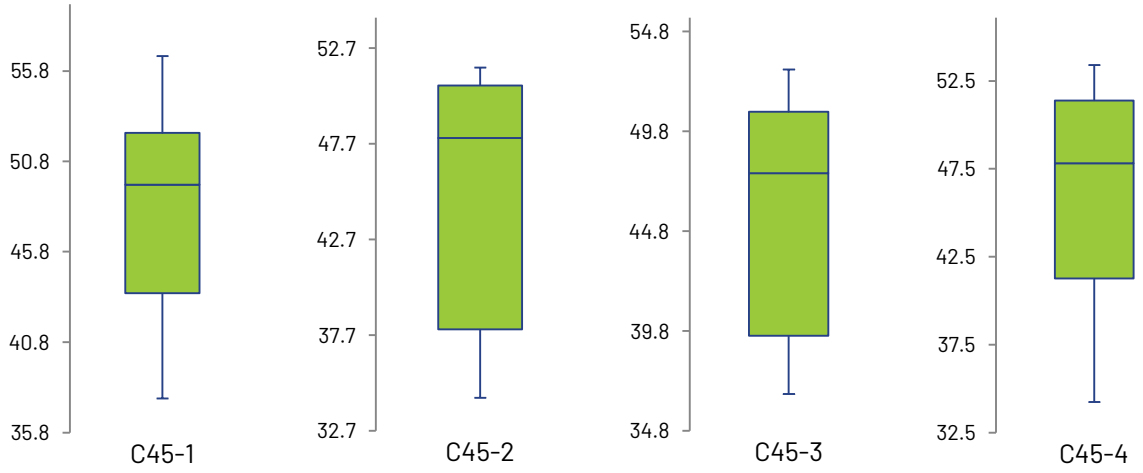

## Homogeneity Assessment



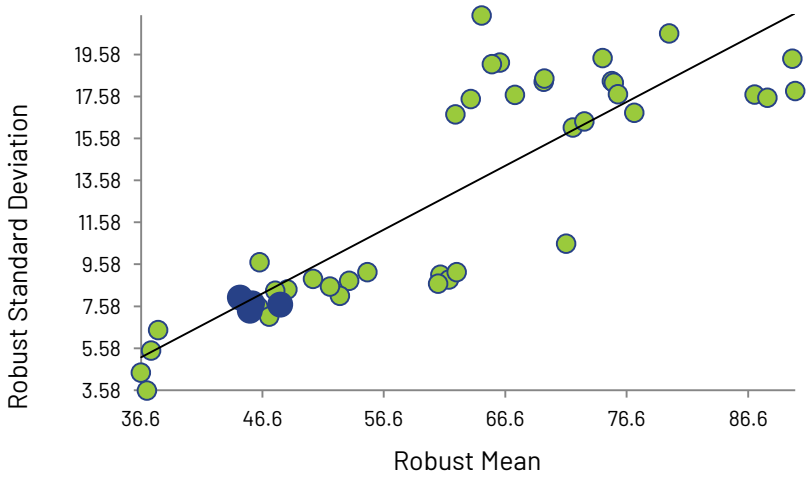

Stability assessments are regression analysis of reported result against date of analysis.

Homogeneity assessments are regression analysis of reported result against bottling order.

## Box and Whisker Plots




## Current Round (blue) Compared to Historic Rounds (green)



# Phosphate-P

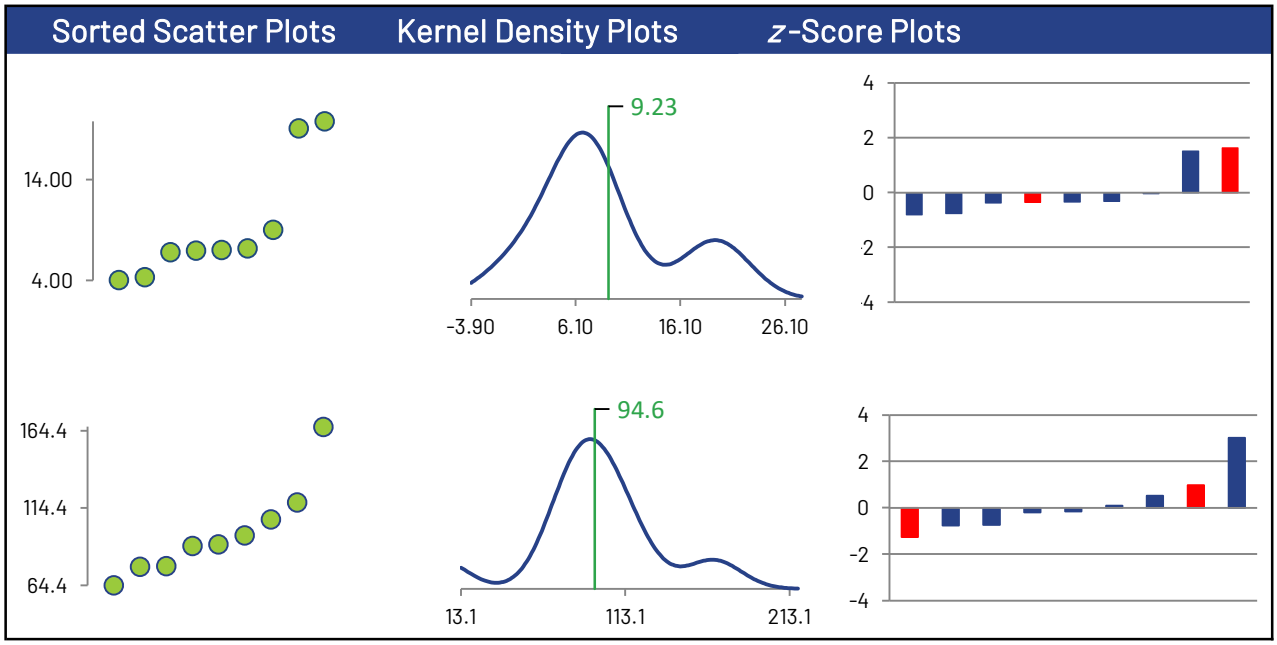
## Summary Statistics

| Statistic | C45-1 | C45-2 | C45-3 | C45-4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. of results used for summary statistics | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 |
| Median µg/g | 7.00 | 91.0 | 71.5 | 147 |
| Robust Mean µg/g | 9.23 | 94.6 | 76.5 | 172 |
| Uncdrtainty of the Assigned Value µg/g | 2.70 | 10.0 | 10.3 | 23.6 |
| Robust Standard Deviation µg/g | 6.49 | 24.0 | 24.6 | 56.7 |
| Regression Standard Deviation µg/g | | | | |
| Stability Flag | | | | |
| Homogeneity Flag | | | | |
| Standard Deviation Used (SDPA) µg/g | 6.49 | 24.0 | 24.6 | 56.7 |
| Flagged Outliers | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| \|z\|>3.0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| 2<\|z\|<3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Failure Rate %* | 20.0 | | | |

## Methods Used

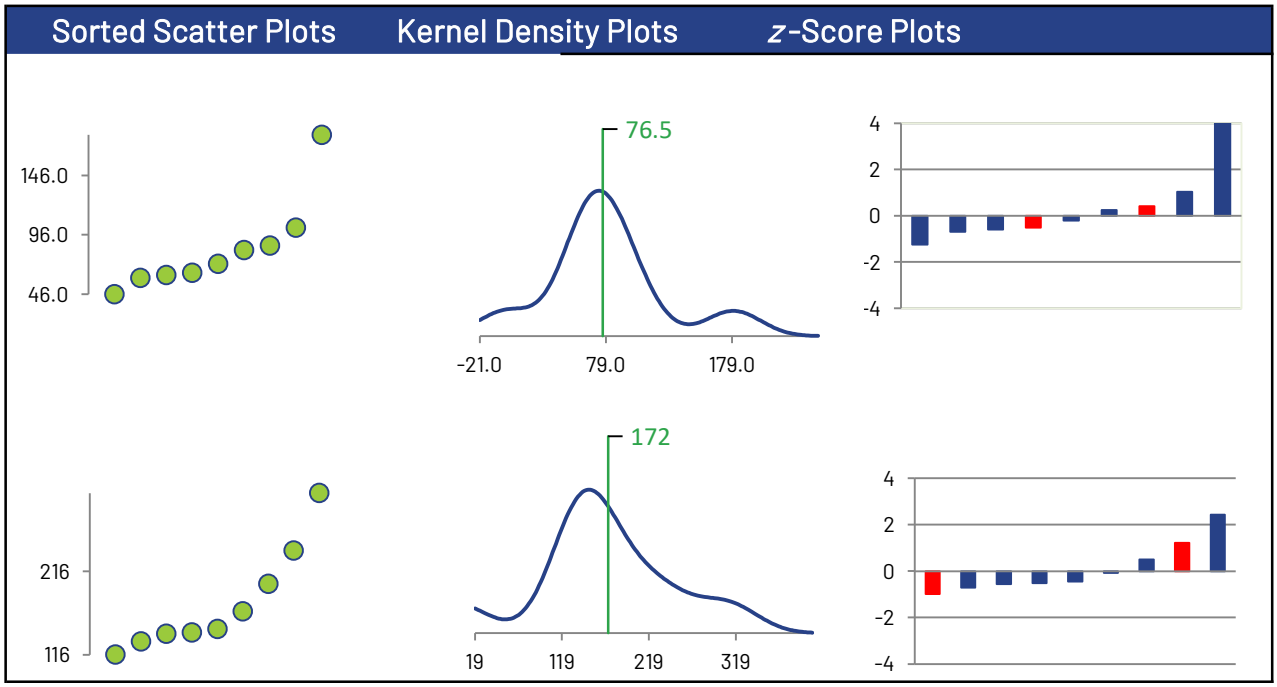
| Method | C45-1 | C45-2 | C45-3 | C45-4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ION CHROMATOGRAPHY (Blue) | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| AUTO COLOR (Red) | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

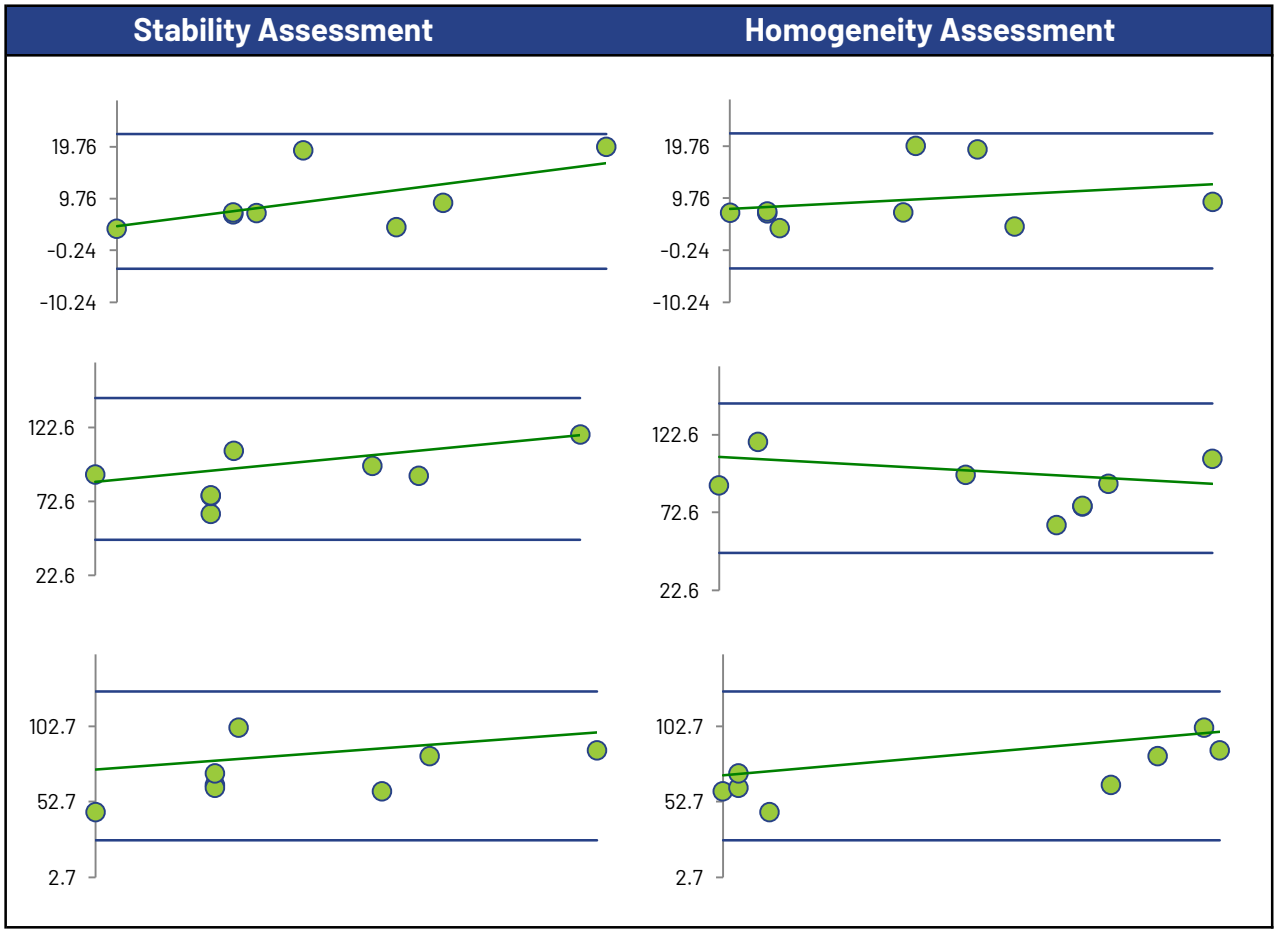
All summary stats, except the failure rate, and the plots below are based on the data excluding any flagged outliers




* Displayed failure rate does not account for the RDL modified z-Scores or inaccurately reported non-detects.

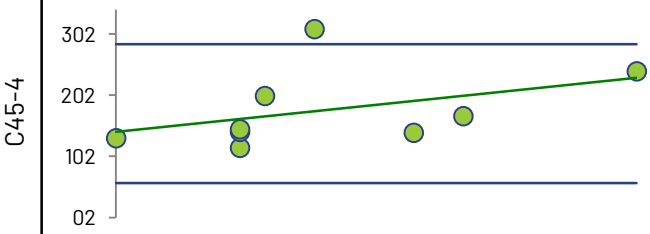
# Phosphate-P


Sorted Scatter Plots
Kernel Density Plots
z-Score Plots
C45-3
146.0
96.0
46.0
76.5
-21.0
79.0
179.0
4
2
0
-2
-4
C45-4
216
116
172
19
119
219
319

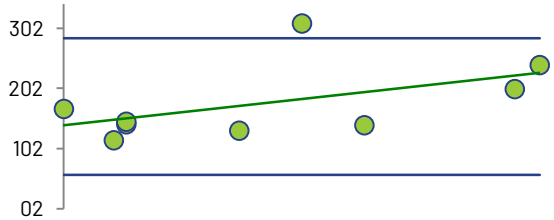

Stability Assessment
Homogeneity Assessment
C45-1
19.76
9.76
-0.24
-10.24
C45-2
122.6
72.6
22.6
C45-3
102.7
52.7
2.7

# Phosphate-P

## Stability Assessment



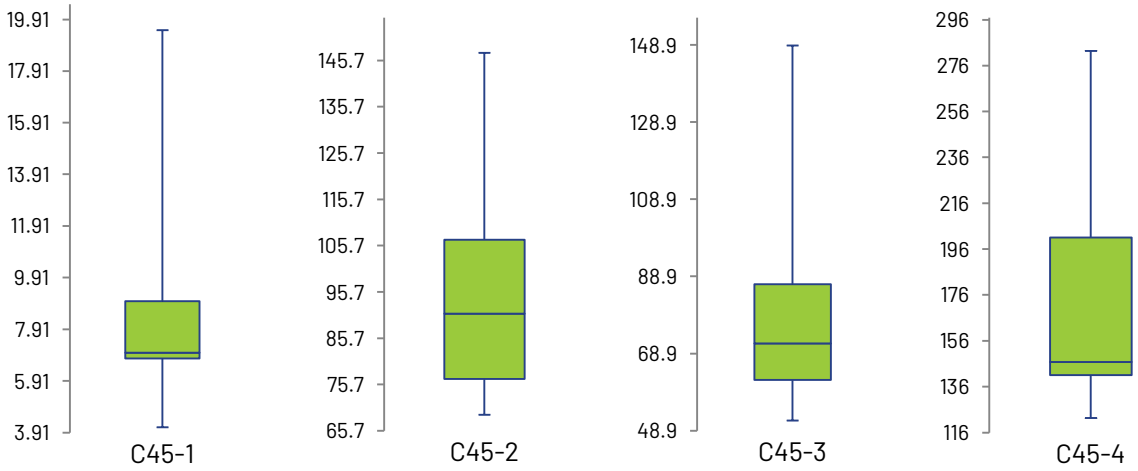

## Homogeneity Assessment



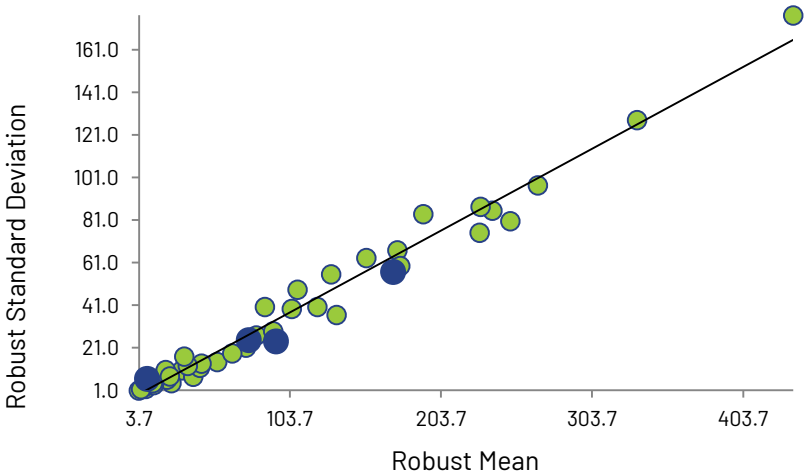

Stability assessments are regression analysis of reported result against date of analysis.

Homogeneity assessments are regression analysis of reported result against bottling order.

## Box and Whisker Plots




## Current Round (blue) Compared to Historic Rounds (green)



# Sulphate

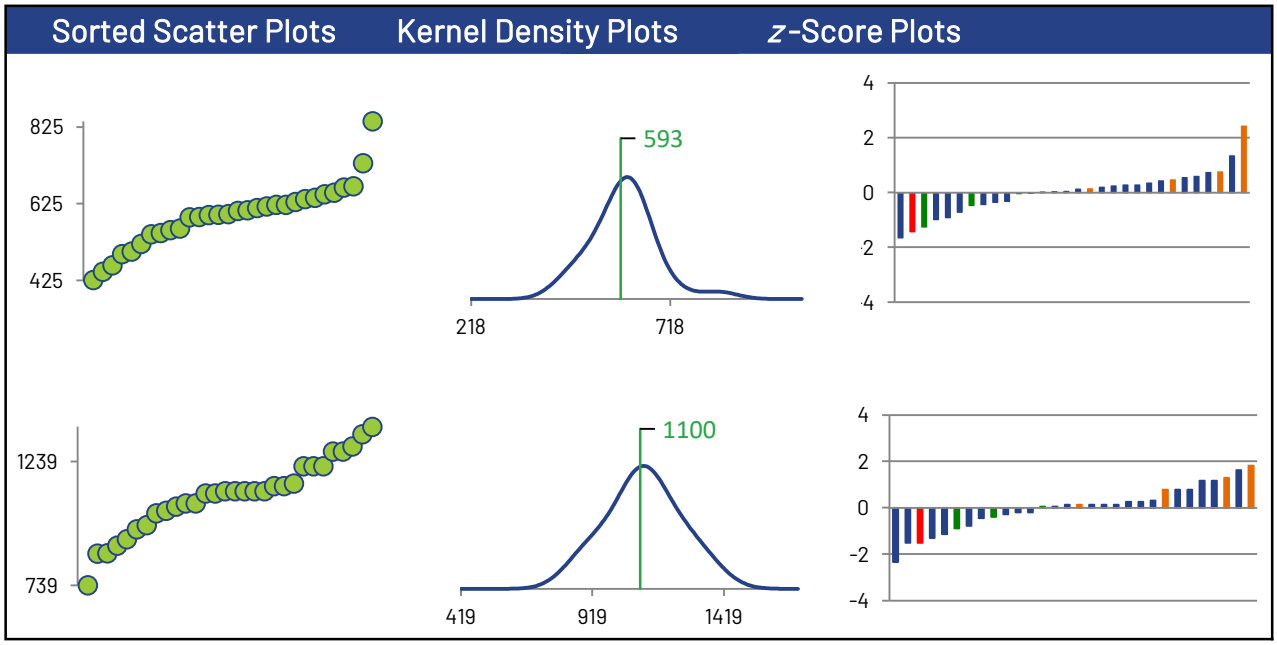
## Summary Statistics

| Statistic | C45-1 | C45-2 | C45-3 | C45-4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. of results used for summary statistics | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| Median µg/g | 602 | 1120 | 1090 | 1870 |
| Robust Mean µg/g | 593 | 1100 | 1090 | 1870 |
| Uncdrtainty of the Assigned Value µg/g | 16.3 | 35.1 | 29.4 | 47.2 |
| Robust Standard Deviation µg/g | 71.3 | 154 | 129 | 207 |
| Regression Standard Deviation µg/g | | | | |
| Stability Flag | | | | |
| Homogeneity Flag | Homogeneity | | | |
| Standard Deviation Used (SDPA) µg/g | 102 | 154 | 129 | 207 |
| Flagged Outliers | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| \|z\|>3.0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2<\|z\|<3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Failure Rate %* | 3.3 | | | |

## Methods Used

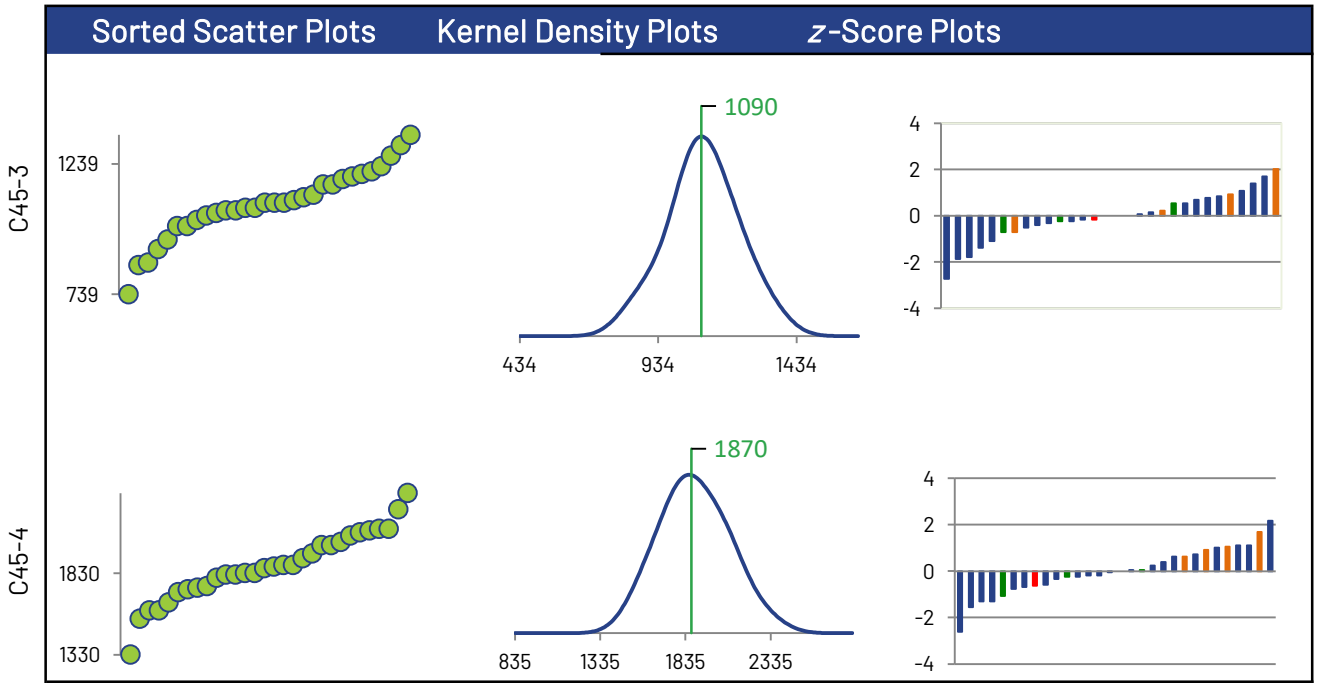
| Method | C45-1 | C45-2 | C45-3 | C45-4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ION CHROMATOGRAPHY (Blue) | 22 | 22 | 22 | 22 |
| COLORIMETRIC (Red) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| AUTO COLOR (Green) | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| ICP/OES (Orange) | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

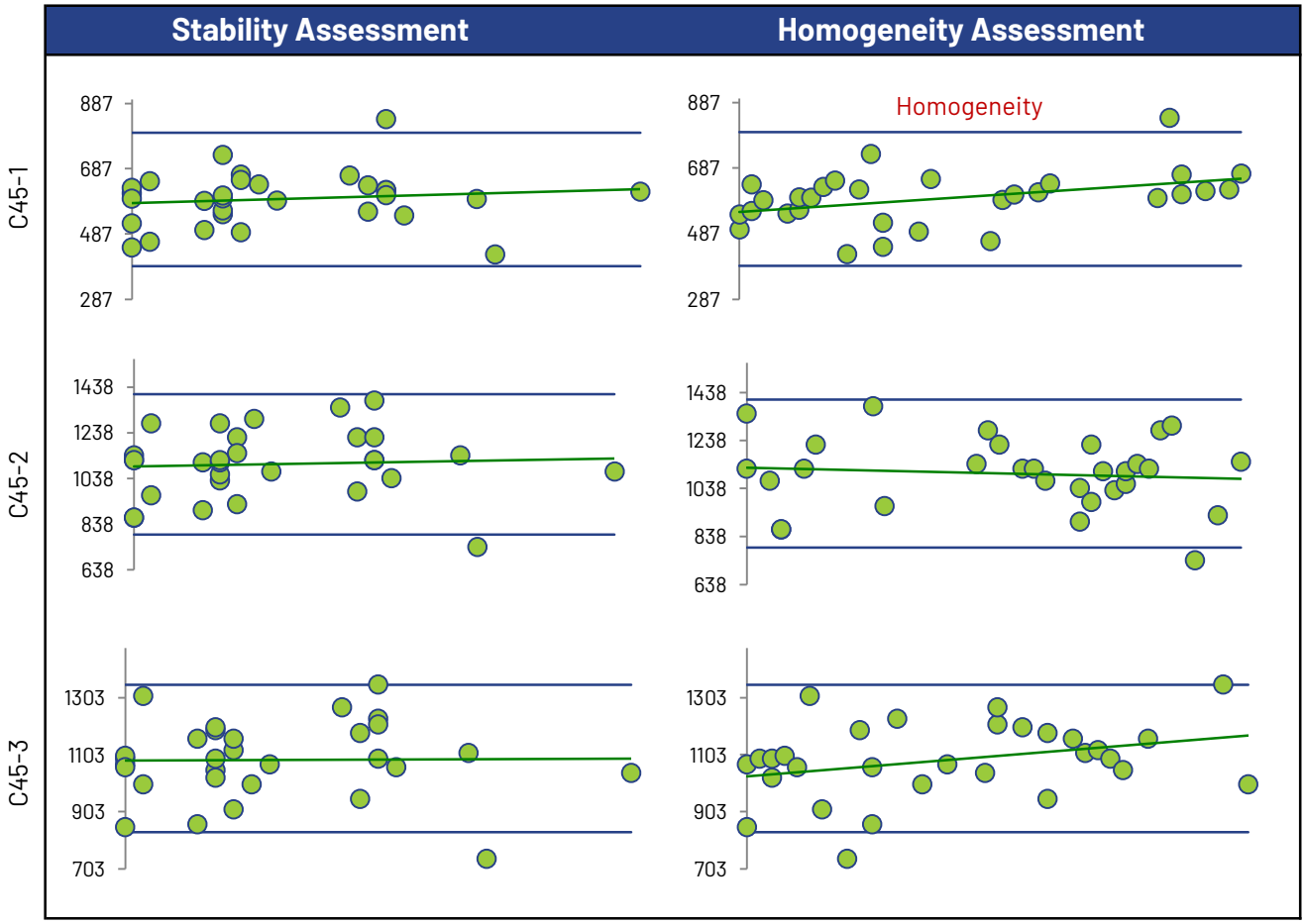
All summary stats, except the failure rate, and the plots below are based on the data excluding any flagged outliers




* Displayed failure rate does not account for the RDL modified z-Scores or inaccurately reported non-detects.

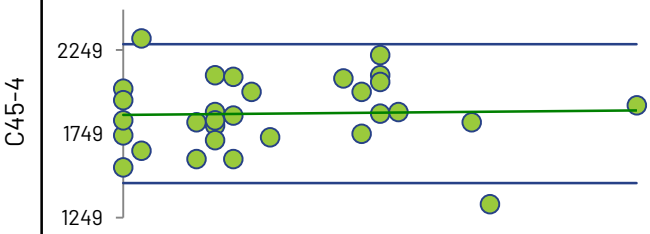
## Sulphate


Sorted Scatter Plots
Kernel Density Plots
z-Score Plots
C45-3
1239
739
1090
434
934
1434
4
2
0
-2
-4
C45-4
1830
1330
1870
835
1335
1835
2335
4
2
0
-2
-4

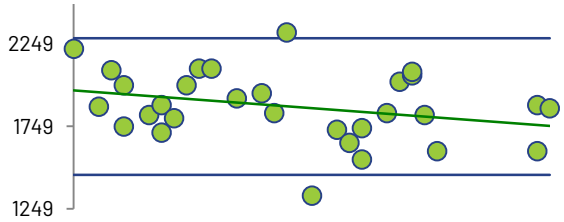

Stability Assessment
Homogeneity Assessment
Homogeneity
C45-1
887
687
487
287
887
687
487
287
C45-2
1438
1238
1038
838
638
1438
1238
1038
838
638
C45-3
1303
1103
903
703
1303
1103
903
703

# Sulphate

## Stability Assessment



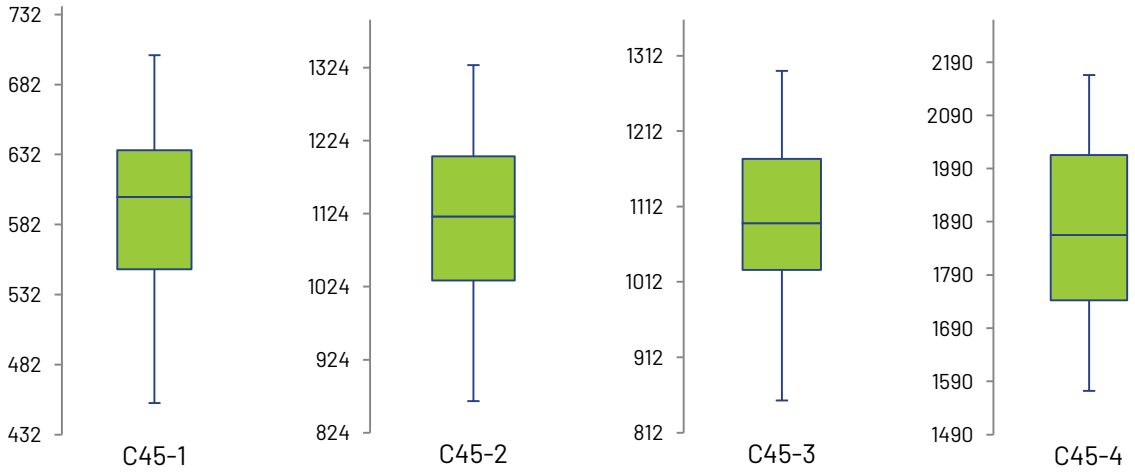

## Homogeneity Assessment

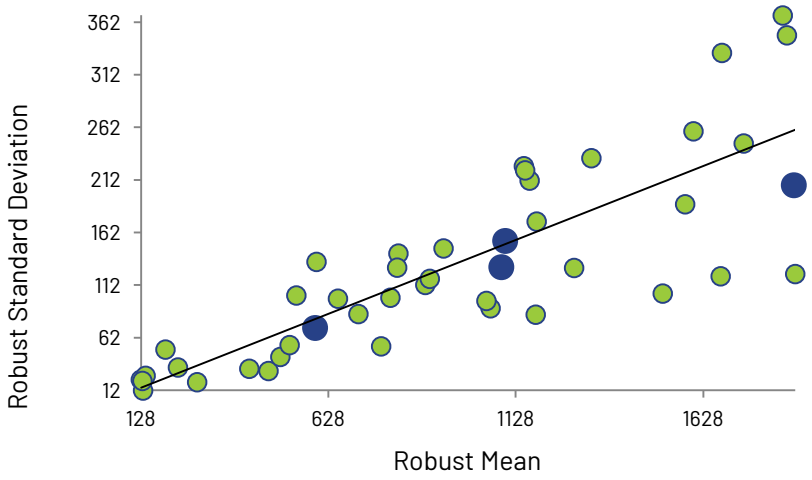



Stability assessments are regression analysis of reported result against date of analysis.

Homogeneity assessments are regression analysis of reported result against bottling order.

## Box and Whisker Plots




## Current Round (blue) Compared to Historic Rounds (green)