



AOAC Method Conformity Assessment Programs

The Difference Between PTM and OMA Programs

AOAC INTERNATIONAL (AOAC) operates two complementary pathways for method evaluation and recognition: the *Performance Tested MethodsSM* (PTM) Program and the *Official Methods of AnalysisSM* (OMA) Program. While both programs are scientifically aligned and assess method performance, they differ in purpose, rigor, management, and intended use. Methods approved in these programs have different status claims. PTM accelerates innovation and market readiness, while OMA provides the highest level of scientific and regulatory confidence. Together, they create a harmonized pathway for method development, validation, and global acceptance.

Features	<i>Performance Tested MethodsSM</i> (PTM) Certification	<i>Official Methods of AnalysisSM</i> (OMA) Compendium
<i>Program Purpose & Scope</i>	- Designed for proprietary, commercial, often kit-based methods. - Provides a rapid, standardized, third-party verification of performance claims. - Primarily used for market entry, regulatory acceptance, and customer assurance.	- AOAC's highest level of method recognition. - Intended for methods used in regulatory, compliance, and reference laboratory settings. - Produces Official Methods of Analysis, which are globally recognized standards.
<i>Program Minimum Requirements</i>	- Requires a single-laboratory validation (SLV) following AOAC guidelines. - Independent testing is conducted by a laboratory unaffiliated with method developer – preferably ISO 17025 accredited. - Focuses on verifying manufacturer claims.	- Requires more extensive validation - SLV and a multi-laboratory or collaborative study. - May be evaluated with criteria defined in SMPRs (Standard Method Performance Requirements) when available.
<i>Program Administration & Governance</i>	- Managed by the AOAC Research Institute. - Reviews conducted by expert reviewers including volunteer experts. - Streamlined governance for faster turnaround. - Includes method certification via consensus-based approvals and decision-making by ERPs. - Scientific oversight by AOAC's Official Methods Board (OMB)	- Oversight by AOAC's Official Methods Board (OMB). - Involves Expert Review Panels (ERPs), Committee on Statistics, and Committee on Safety & Security. - Includes method publication in the compendium via consensus-based approvals and decision-making by ERPs.
<i>Recognition and Output</i>	- Results in a PTM Certificate and a validation report. - Certificate is time-limited and requires annual renewal.	- Results in an <i>Official Method of Analysis</i> published in the OMA compendium. - Recognition is in two parts: First Action status and Final Action status (full validation required). - Recognition is permanent unless withdrawn for cause.
<i>Typical Use Cases</i>	- Commercial and/or proprietary test methods. - Methods seeking quick market access. - Manufacturers that need third-party verification.	- Regulatory compliance testing. - Reference methods for laboratories. - Methods used in standards, regulations, and international trade.
<i>Intellectual Property & Ownership</i>	- AOAC owns the certifications issued under the PTM program. - AOAC does not own the methods themselves; ownership remains with the method developers.	- AOAC owns the methods published in the <i>Official Methods of Analysis of AOAC INTERNATIONAL</i> compendium through copyright. - Proprietary methods included in the OMA compendium are listed as a component (apparatus and reagents) in the method along with the source, respecting intellectual property rights.
<i>Relationship between the programs</i>	- PTM can serve as a first step towards OMA status. - PTM supports innovation and commercialization.	- OMA submission may leverage PTM data, reducing duplication. - OMA remains the gold standard for regulatory and reference use.