

### **VLS Pre-Case Submission Test Protocol**

VLS have recently changed its procedure to allow for the acceptance of product tests, under certain circumstances, being undertaken by the Complainant ahead of a formal case registration form being made.

The protocol recognises the testing that the Complainant carries out ahead of the submission of a formal case to VLS and that these test results can be used by VLS as the basis of their case adjudication in certain circumstances, and if certain criteria are met.

The procedure in this regard is as follows;-

The Complainant satisfies themselves (by testing if required) that the product in question is not compliant with its own technical specification, with accepted and widely recognised industry standards applicable in the UK market, or OEM specifications that are claimed as part of its performance standards.

The Complainant instructs an ISO 17025 UKAS-accredited Test House to source two containers of the product and analyse one of these at the complainant's expense. The other container to be retained unopened by the Test House until the case is resolved.

The Complainant submits the case registration form together with Test House results to the VLS Secretariat who anonymise and pass on to the VLS Technical Review Panel (TRP).

The VLS TRP consider the case registration form, and give their opinion including whether the test results are acceptable and whether any further testing is required.

The VLS TRP pass their findings back to the VLS Secretariat who liaise with the Complainant and Named Party as appropriate.

The VLS process has been revised to reflect these changes.