

Criteria for GEOTRACES Compliant Data

Approved by SSC on December 2015

The following information outlines to investigators how a dataset may be given GEOTRACES 'compliant' status, which would permit the data to be included in the GEOTRACES database and data products.

In principle, compliant data concerns measurements of a GEOTRACES parameter on a cruise not designated as a GEOTRACES section or process study. To be established as a compliant dataset, the following conditions must all be met:

(i) The measurements should be of a trace element or isotope relevant to the GEOTRACES programme. Including, but not limited to, the key parameters (<http://www.geotraces.org/about-us/about-geotraces/geotraces-key-parameters>).

(ii) The data set must adhere to the intercalibration process relevant for that particular dataset (<http://www.geotraces.org/library-88/geotraces-policies/946-intercalibration-procedures-2>), see also the GEOTRACES 'cookbook': <http://www.geotraces.org/images/stories/documents/intercalibration/Cookbook.pdf>.

(iii) GEOTRACES Data Management protocols must be followed. Specifically:

- A post-cruise metadata form must be completed and supplied to the GEOTRACES Data Assembly Centre (GDAC, geotraces.dac@bodc.ac.uk). A post-cruise metadata form is available at: <http://www.bodc.ac.uk/geotraces/cruises/documentation/>
- Submission of data to the investigator's national data centre and/or to GDAC in a timely manner.

(iv) The dataset must be provided with adequate hydrographic data to interpret the compliant dataset. These include at least temperature and salinity, and, preferably, nutrients and oxygen. Collection of CTD and other data that aid in interpreting compliant datasets should follow GO-SHIP guidelines on how to produce good-quality CTD data: <http://www.go-ship.org/HydroMan.html>

To begin the process of establishing a given dataset as compliant data, the investigator of the dataset concerned should begin by contacting GDAC (geotraces.dac@bodc.ac.uk). Datasets can become compliant independent of the status of the specific cruise. Decisions will be made by the GEOTRACES Data Management and Standards & Intercalibration committees and recommended to the Scientific Steering Committee on a case by case basis.