What is a Performance Characteristic Sheet?

In 1997 EPA and HUD together funded and founded Performance Characteristic Testing which provides checks and balances to make certain the data from XRF instruments is accurately interpreted since their intended use is to identify lead paint in housing in order to stop lead poisoning in children.

Performance Characteristic Testing is conducted by a 3rd party that interprets the data from the testing of the XRFs on known samples of different substrates. These samples are actual doors, windows, walls and other features found in houses that have been spiked with known concentrations of Pb paint so they can evaluate the accuracy of the XRF and provide guidelines for use.

Once testing is completed, the data is scrutinized to determine accuracy and a Performance Characteristic Sheet (PCS) is issued. Earlier XRFs for lead paint had inconclusive ranges, which meant there were certain substrates like brick, metal or stucco where the instrument could not determine the level of contamination through a specific range. The Heuresis Pb200i has a PCS with no inconclusive range. This means that is does not matter which substrate the instrument is analyzing. The results from the instrument are conclusive and no further testing is necessary.