Criteria for GEOTRACES Compliant Data
Revised by the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) in April 2017

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.

To begin the process of establishing a given dataset as compliant data, the investigator of the dataset concerned should begin by sending the post-cruise metadata form (see below) to the GEOTRACES IPO (ipo@geotraces.org). Reccommendations will be made by the GEOTRACES Data Management and Standards & Intercalibration committees to the Scientific Steering Committee (SSC) on a case by case basis.

In principle, compliant data concerns measurements of one or more GEOTRACES parameters 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 IPO (ipo@geotraces.org). A post-cruise metadata form is available at: http://www.bodc.ac.uk/geotraces/cruises/documentation/
- Submission of data and metadata for all datasets, including ancillary data, to the investigator's national data centre (for US, French and Dutch researchers) 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 hydrographic data: http://www.go-ship.org/HydroMan.html