



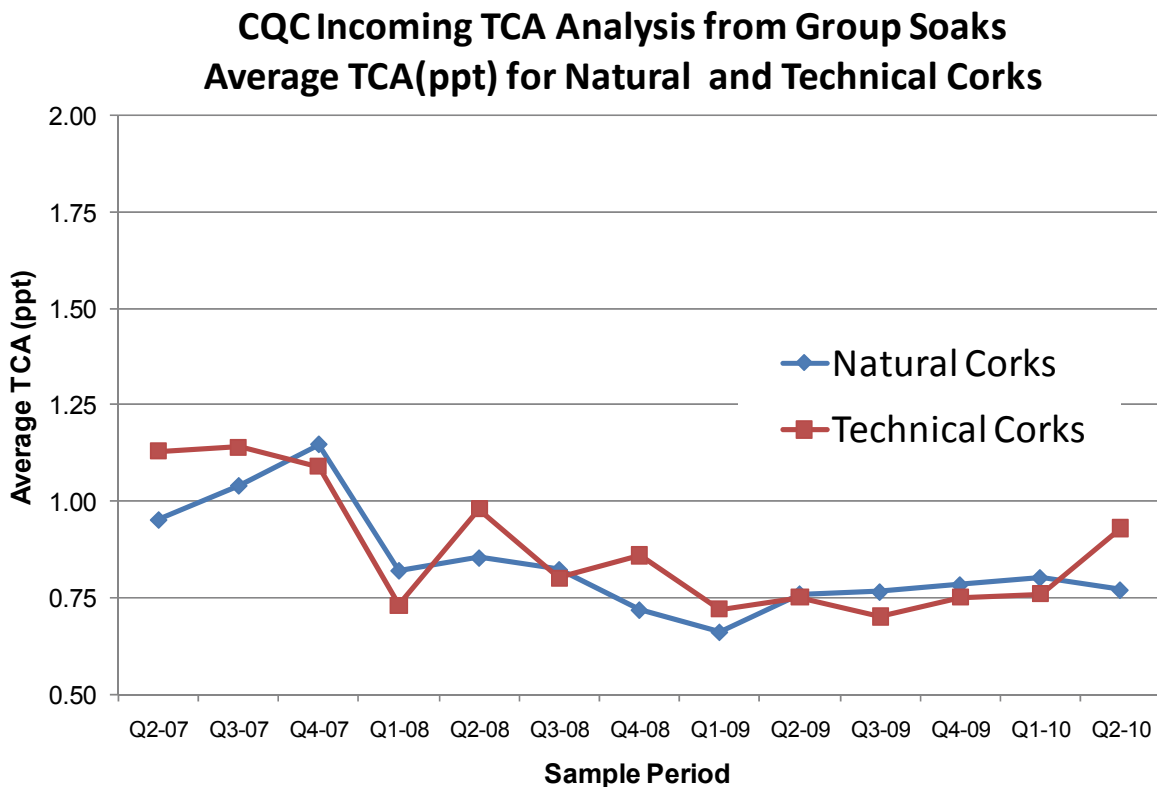
## Screening Results for Incoming Shipments –

The CQC screening protocol receives data with minimum reporting limit of “<1.0ppt”. The group has agreed to treat these results as “0.5ppt” for statistical purposes. Under this assumption, the group’s statistical records cannot improve below 0.5ppt.

In the last reporting period, 87% of all samples from incoming natural cork shipments were tested at the <1.0ppt level. Another 9% had results between 1.0-2.0ppt. Approximately 4% of incoming natural cork lots were rejected by the CQC members prior to acceptance into inventory.

### **Results from Testing of Technical Corks**

Technical corks have been subject to requirements for chemical testing since 2007. Largely due to improvements in production methods —TCA results are now very similar to those levels seen in Natural Corks.



### **Audited quality standards**

The CQC conducts annual audits to verify that all approved QC protocols are observed. The foremost QC measure is screening for TCA, based on the GC/MS analytical method developed by ETS Laboratories. This analytical method is now widely used throughout the U.S., Europe, and Australia by members of both wine and cork industries. Other audited procedures involve moisture levels, physical integrity, residual oxidants and the maintenance of documentation.