SPECIFIC PROTOCOL

for the 15th EU Proficiency Test
on Pesticides requiring Single Residue Methods
EUPT – SRM15 (2020)

(update on 17 March 2020)

Introduction

This protocol is complementary to the valid version of the "**General Protocol for EU Proficiency Tests for Pesticide Residues in Food and Feed, Ed. 9**" covering all EUPTs in 2020.
The EUPT-SRM15 is organized by the EU Reference Laboratory for pesticides requiring Single Residue Methods (EURL–SRM) that is accredited according to ISO 17043 as a provider of proficiency tests (please see **EURL-SRM accreditation**).

The EUPT-SRM15 deals with the analysis of SRM-pesticides in rice flour and is to be performed by all National Reference Laboratories for Single Residue Methods (NRL-SRMs) as well as by all official EU laboratories (OfLs) performing pesticide residue analyses of cereals or feeding stuff within the frame of National and EU official controls, see Art 38 (b) of Reg. (EC) 625/2017 and Art. 28 of Reg. (EC) 396/2005. The most important documents related to this PT can be accessed via the **EUPT-SRM15-Website**.

Laboratories were classified into those that are tentatively obliged and those tentatively non-obliged to participate in the present PT, based on information within the EURL DataPool. NRL-SRMs and OfLs performing pesticide residue analyses of cereals or feeding stuff, within the frame of National and EU official controls, were considered as being obliged to participate. Prior to classification the laboratories were asked to update this information. This tentative classification was only based on the commodity scope (not the pesticide scope) of the laboratories and was also visible to the participants during the PT registration process. OfLs listed as “obliged to participate in the EUPT-SRM15” but not intending to participate had to state their reasons for non-participation during the online registration of the EUPT-SRM15. The registration period lasted from 25 November till 23 December, 2019. The feedback received during registration, especially details considering the scope, will be considered in the final list of obliged laboratories.

Test Item

The Test Item of this EUPT is **Rice Flour**.

Participants will receive one bottle Test Item containing 150 – 200 g **rice flour with incurred and spiked analytes** from the **Target Pesticides List**. NO Blank material will be sent to the participants for this PT.

Using randomly chosen bottles, the Organizers will check the Test Item for sufficient homogeneity and for the stability of the pesticides contained over the period of the exercise.

Target Analytes and MRRLs

The Test Item will contain several pesticides from the **EUPT-SRM15 Target Pesticides List.** Laboratories should read this list carefully as it shows how the residues are expected to be reported as well as the **Minimum Required Reporting Levels (MRRLs)**. The MRRL values will be used to help identify false positive and false negative results and for the calculation of z-scores for false negatives. **Make sure to download the latest version of the EUPT-SRM15 Target Pesticides List before starting with analysis and result reporting**.

Shipment of Test Item

Test item is planned to be shipped on 10 February, 2020.
Test Item will be packed in thermo-boxes together with freeze gel packs and shipped from Germany via DHL Express to the participants. Prior to shipment a reminder will be sent to the participating laboratories by e-mail.
The participating laboratories must make their own arrangements for the receipt of the package. They should inform the Organizers of any public holidays in their country/city during the week of the shipment, and must make the necessary arrangements to receive the shipment, even if the laboratory is closed.

Where complications during customs clearance or shipment are expected, the participating laboratories should provide the Organizers in advance with suitable contact information (e.g. mobile phone numbers of laboratory personnel) as well as **instructions in local language** explaining the need to keep the package in the freezer in case of delays during shipment or custom clearance. This information will be attached to the package.

After the packages is picked up and stored in the DHL delivery system, each participant will be informed by DHL about the tracking number of his package. The participants can follow the delivery state of their own packages online and must make any necessary arrangements to receive the delivery.

In case of unusual delays in the customs or within the recipient's country, the participants themselves are strongly encouraged to contact the local DHL Express office and/or the customs in order to help accelerate the clearance and delivery procedures.

Instructions on handling the Test Item

Once arrived, the Test Item should be stored deeply frozen (at -18°C or lower) until analysis in order to avoid any possible deterioration/spoilage of the sample material and to minimize analyte losses.

Before analytical portions are taken for analysis, the Test Item should be mixed thoroughly in its entirety.

Participating laboratories are recommended using their routine standard operating procedures for extraction, clean-up and analytical measurement as well as their own reference standards for identification and quantification purposes. Laboratories may also employ methods not yet implemented routinely, for example, if they are in the test-phase of implementing them. In this case the limited experience and the non-inclusion of the analytes in the routine scope should be indicated in the **EUPT-SRM15 result submission webtool**.

The homogeneity tests will be conducted using 5 g for both QuEChERS and QuPPe amenable pesticides. As sub-sampling variability increases with decreasing analytical portion size, sufficient homogeneity can be guaranteed only for sample

portions equal to or bigger than the portion size used in the homogeneity test. Where smaller sample portions are employed, there will be uncertainty as to whether the portion-to-portion variability is still acceptable

Results submission webtool

Sample receipt acknowledgement, analytical results and method information are to be submitted via the **EUPT-SRM15 result submission webtool**:

- **Sample receipt acknowledgement: accessible from 10 February and should be complete by 19 February.**
- **Analytical results and method information: accessible from 10 February till 10 March.**
- **The deadline for result submission is 31 March, 11.30 pm (CEST), 2020.**
- **Additional information on the methods used for tentatively false negative results: accessible from 1 April till 9 April, 2020.**

A guideline for the new **EUPT-SRM15 result submission webtool** will be provided to the participants in due time. The **participants are urged to read it carefully before submitting their results**.

- Login credentials and lab code

To access the EUPT-SRM15 result submission webtool, participants must use their personal login credentials (username and password). The link to the EUPT-SRM15 result submission webtool and the personal login credentials will be provided to the PT-contact persons on the day of sample shipment.

The lab's unique lab code for the EUPT-SRM15 will be provided to the participants following the first access to EUPT-SRM15 result submission webtool.

- Acknowledgement of package receipt and acceptance of PT-materials

Once the laboratory has received the package with the PT material, it must report to the organizer via the **EUPT-SRM15 result submission webtool** the date of receipt, whether the material is accepted or not, and any other comments concerning the test material. This task should be finalized by 19 February. If a laboratory does not respond by this deadline, the Organizers will assume that Test Item has been received and accepted. Please note that completing the sample receipt and acceptance acknowledgement information is a pre-requisite for accessing the website areas in which results and method information is submitted.

Any participants not having received the Test Items by the Fri. 14 February at noon must inform the Organizer via e-mail (EURL-SRM@cvuas.bwl.de) by Fri. 14 February 2:30 pm. The Organizer will consult the shipping company to localize the package and decide on further actions including new shipment, if necessary.

- Reporting qualitative and quantitative results

To report their results, laboratories must access the **EUPT-SRM15 result submission webtool**.
All results must be reported on this website by 31 March, 11.30 pm (CEST), 2020. The website will not be accessible after this deadline, and all results submitted afterwards will not be accepted.

Before entering the results, please study the **EUPT-SRM15 Target Pesticides List** carefully, in particular the residue definitions that apply to the EUPT, which may not be given in full on the result submission website.

Among others, the following fields will be available for reporting the quantitative results:

- "**Concentration in mg/kg":** the numerical pesticide concentrations that would be reported in routine work. Results should not be reported where a pesticide was not detected, or was detected below the RL (Reporting Limit) of the laboratory or the MRRL. Results reported as "< RL" or "< #.# mg/kg" will be judged as "false negatives".

  The residue levels of the pesticides must be reported in mg/kg using the following **significant figures**:
  - Levels <0.010 mg/kg to be expressed to 2 significant figures, e.g. 0.0058 mg/kg;
  - Levels ≥ 0.010 mg/kg to be expressed to 3 significant figures, e.g. 0.156, 1.64, 10.3 mg/kg

  Recovery-corrected results should be reported only where this reflects the lab's actual (or projected in case of new analytes) routine procedure; otherwise the non-recovery-corrected result should be reported. Where a **result was corrected for recovery,** the approach(es) followed to achieve this correction (e.g. standard additions to sample portions, procedural calibration, recovery factor, use of ILIS) must be reported in the respective fields.

- **"Conc. in blank in mg/kg":** concentration values of any pesticides from the **EUPT-SRM15 Target Pesticides List** determined in the Blank Material (even at levels below the MRRL).

- **"Experience with this compound":** Use the dropdown-menu to indicate how many years you have been analysing for the concerned compound, using the method applied in this EUPT.

- Reporting Information on Analytical Methodology

On the page of "**Edit methods"** of **EUPT-SRM15 result submission webtool** the participating laboratories must provide information on the analytical method(s) applied to pesticides, which were analysed and detected in the Test Item.

The participating laboratories are urged to thoroughly fill-in all requested information. If entries in required fields are missing, you cannot submit your results.

For detailed information on the columns on the page of "**Edit methods" please refer to the guideline for results submission, that will be distributed to all participants in due time, and that can also be download from the support box on the webtool**.

- Submission of results

Once you have entered all your results and checked their correctness, you have to submit them by clicking "Final submission" button that can be found at the bottom of each page. This has to be done before the submission deadline, afterwards, you will NOT be able to change your data anymore. Without "Final submission" your results and method information will not be included in the evaluation!

- Additional Information

If the laboratory has obtained tentatively false negative result(s), it will be asked to enter the method information for the analytes(s) in question after the results submission period is closed.

Subcontracting

The following tasks were subcontracted to the EURL-CF, Lyngby, Denmark:

a) Generation of the login credentials
b) Programming and administration of EUPT-SRM15 result submission website

Follow-up actions

After the distribution of the EUPT-SRM15 Preliminary Report, laboratories with poor results (high absolute z-scores, false negatives or false positives) will be asked to provide information concerning the reasons for the poor performance, and to report possible corrective actions. This information will be forwarded to the corresponding NRL-SRMs upon request. All EUPT-SRM15-participants are welcome to ask the EURL-SRM for technical assistance.

The Organizer might ask laboratories to provide missing methodology information that is important for the evaluation and interpretation of the PT.

According to instructions from DG-SANTE, the "**Protocol for management of underperformance in comparative testing and/or lack of collaboration of NRLS"** is to be followed by NRLs.

Documents

All documents related to the EUPT–SRM15 can be found in the **EURL-Document Repository (CIRCA-BC).** Links to the documents can also be found in the **EUPT-SRM15 Website.**
For further information please contact the organizers **EURL-SRM@cvuas.bwl.de**
Please check the **EUPT-SRM15 Website** before starting with the analysis in order to **make sure, that you have the latest version of all documents available**. In case of major changes the participants will be informed via e-mail.

Participation fees and payment details

To cover the costs of production, handling and shipment of the PT-Materials the following fees will be charged for one unit of the PT-Material to the participating laboratories:

- OfLs (including NRLs) from EU countries, EU-candidate countries and EFTA countries: 200 €

- Labs based in third countries: 350 €

An invoice issued to the "invoice address" stated in the registration form will be sent approximately one week after sample shipment to the invoice e-mail address stated in the registration form. Should the payment being taken care of by another department/institution, the recipient of the invoice is requested to forward the invoice accordingly.
Details on payment are given in the invoices.

Payment is expected to be made within 30 days upon the invoice issue date, unless special information was provided by the participant during registration and/or otherwise agreed between participant and the Organizers.

If, for any reason, payment cannot be carried out before this date, please contact the Organizers to give explanations.

If no payment or no proof of payment is received and no explanation is given to the Organizers, the Organizers reserve

the right to exclude the results of the concerned laboratory from the Final EUPT-Report, or to refuse its participation in future EUPT-SRMs.

Bank Details:

Bank account holder:	**Landesoberkasse Baden Wuerttemberg**
Bank Name :	**Baden Wuerttembergische Bank**
IBAN:	**DE 02 6005 0101 7495 5301 02**
BIC/SWIFT:	**SOLADESTXXX**
Payee identification text:	***See invoice (important and MUST be indicated!)***
VAT of CVUA Stuttgart	**DE 811 600 510**

Please note:
EURL-AO based in CVUA Freiburg and EURL-SRM based in CVUA Stuttgart belong to the same ministry and have thus the same bank account.
If your laboratory is participating in both PTs (EUPT-SRM15 and EUPT-AO15), please ask your financial department to transfer the fee for each of the PTs separately using the corresponding payee identification text (= invoice number) given in each invoice. Without this text, your payment will not be able to reach the correct EURL.

Calendar of EUPT-SRM15

(please see http://www.eurl-pesticides.eu/library/docs/srm/EUPT-SRM15_Calendar.pdf)

Target Pesticides List of EUPT-SRM15

(please see http://www.eurl-pesticides.eu/library/docs/srm/EUPT-SRM15_TargetPesticideList.pdf)

Contact information

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