SPECIFIC PROTOCOL

for the 8th EU Proficiency Test on Pesticides requiring Single Residue Methods EUPT – SRM8 (2013)

(last updated: 02.04.2013)

Introduction

This protocol is complementary to the **"General Protocol for EU Proficiency Tests for Pesticide Residues in Food and Feed"** covering all EUPTs.

The EUPT-SRM8 is organised by the EU Reference Laboratory for pesticides requiring Single Residue Methods (EURL–SRM) and deals with the analysis of SRM-pesticides in potato homogenate. This EUPT is to be performed by all National Reference Laboratories for Single Residue Methods (NRL-SRMs) as well as by all official EU laboratories (OLs) involved in official pesticide residue controls as far as their scope overlaps with that of the EUPT-SRM8. The commodity "potatoes" is considered to represent commodities with high water content (see **SANCO document 12495/2011**). Considering only the commodity scope (not the pesticide scope) a **Tentative List of obliged labs for EUPTs in 2013** has been prepared by the EURLs and published on the CIRCA-Platform. Labs listed as "Obliged to participate in the EUPT-SRM8" that have decided not to participate, for whatever reasons, were requested to state their reasons in a special online form.

Test Item and Blank Material

This EUPT deals with the analysis of pesticide residues in **potato homogenate**.

Participants will receive two bottles containing:

1) ca. 350 g **Test Item (spiked)**, containing pesticides from the **Target Pesticide List.**
2) ca. 350 g **Blank-Material**, that can be used for recovery experiments as well as for the preparation of matrix-matched calibration standards

Using randomly chosen bottles, the Organizers will check the Test Item for sufficient homogeneity and for the stability of the pesticides over the period of the exercise. The Blank Material will be also checked to prove that none of the pesticides of the Target pesticides List is contained at relevant levels. All these tests will be conducted by the EURL-SRM that is ISO 17025 accredited.

Analytical parameters

The Test Item contains several pesticides from the **Target Pesticide List.** Laboratories should read the Target Pesticides List carefully, as it contains the residue definition valid for the PT as well as the **Minimum Required Reporting Levels (MRRLs)**. For practical reasons, the residue definitions in the Target Pesticides List do not always fully match with the legal ones.

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.
It should not be assumed that only pesticides registered for use on potatoes are present in the Test Item.

Shipment of Test Item

Test item and Blank Material are planned to be shipped on 15 April, 2013.
Frozen Test Item and Blank Material will be packed in thermo-boxes together with dry ice and shipped to the participants. The organisers will aim to ensure that all participating laboratories will receive their shipments on the same day.
Prior to shipment a reminder will be sent to the participating laboratories by e-mail.

Laboratories must make their own arrangements for the receipt of the package. They should **inform the Organiser 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.

Instructions on handling the Test Item

Once received, Test Item should be stored deep frozen (at -18°C or lower) until analysis to avoid any possible deterioration/spoilage and to minimize pesticide degradation.

Before portions are taken for analysis the Test Item should be mixed thoroughly in its entirety. During mixing, try to keep temperatures low (e.g. frozen or semi-frozen condition) to avoid degradation of susceptible pesticides. To avoid frequent thawing of the test item it is further suggested to prepare all analytical portions that you intend to use for all EUPT-related experiments.

All participants should use their own routine standard operating procedures for extraction, clean-up and analytical measurement as well as their own reference standards for identification and quantification purposes. Considering that the amount of Test Item that the Organizers can provide is limited, laboratories are advised to consider scaling down their analytical procedures to avoid shortage of Test Item.

The homogeneity tests will be conducted using 10 g analytical portions of Test Item for all analytes. Sufficient homogeneity can only be guaranteed for sample portions ≥10g. Please note that sub-sampling variability increases with decreasing analytical portion size.

Results submission website

Sample receipt acknowledgement, analytical results and method information are to be submitted via the following website: **EUPT-SRM8 Result Submission Website** (**http://thor.dfvf.dk/eupt-srm8**).
Sub-page 0 (Sample receipt acknowledgement) will be accessible from 16 April 2013 and Sub-pages 1-3 (analytical results and method information) from 22 April till 17 May 2013.

This website also contains a link to specific instructions on how to enter the required data in the various submission forms (sub-pages).

To access the data submission forms participants must use their unique login data (username and password) provided to them with the confirmation e-mails sent upon registration.

The deadline for result submission is 17 May 2013 at 14.00 h CET.

- Sample Receipt and Acceptance (Sub-Page 0)

Once the laboratory has received the Test Items it must report to the organiser, via the **EUPT-SRM8 Result Submission Website** (sub-page 0) the date of receipt, the condition of the Test Item, and its acceptance. The deadline for acceptance is the 19 April 2013. If a laboratory does not respond by this deadline, the Organisers will assume that the Test Items have been received and accepted. If any participants have not received the Test Items by the 19 April at noon, they must inform the Organiser immediately by e-mail (**EURL-SRM@cvuas.bwl.de**), so that a new shipment can be initiated.

- Reporting qualitative and quantitative Results (Sub-Page 1 and 2)

To report their results, laboratories must access the **EUPT-SRM8 Result Submission Website**.

All results must be reported on the above website by 17 May 2013 at 14:00 h CET. The website will not be accessible after this deadline and all results submitted afterwards will not be included in the statistical treatment or in the final report.

Before entering the results, please study the **Target Pesticides List** carefully. The residue definitions are not given on the Result Submission Website.

The following fields will be available for reporting the quantitative results:

- "**Concentration in mg/kg":** the pesticide concentrations that would be reported in routine work. Recovery-corrected results should be reported only where this reflects the normal lab's procedure; otherwise the non-recovery-corrected result should be reported. 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" will be considered as „Not Detected".

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.

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

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

- **"Is your result recovery-corrected?":** Please specify, via dropdown-menu, whether the reported result was recovery-corrected and the recovery-correction approach used.

- **"Recovery figure (in %)":** Here labs can report any recovery figures (in %) obtained for the analyte in question. If a recovery factor was used to correct for recovery, the recovery figure (in %) used for the calculation MUST be reported.

Additional information on how each recovery figure was derived will be asked in separate fields.

- Reporting Information on Analytical Methodology (Sub-Page 3)

In **sub-page 3 within of** the "**EUPT-SRM8 Result Submission Website**" the participating laboratories must provide information on the analytical method(s) applied to the all pesticides which were analysed, irrespective if they were detected or not.

The laboratories are urged to thoroughly fill-in this important information in order to minimize the administrative burden of collecting this information a posteriori.

If no sufficient information on the methodology used is provided, the Organisers reserve the right not to accept the analytical results reported by the participant.

Subcontracting

The following tasks will be subcontracted to other partners:

a) Preparation of Test Item and Blank Material (to EURL-FV, Almería/Valencia, Spain)

b) The administration of **EUPT-SRM8 Result Submission Website** (to EURL-CF, Soeborg, Denmark)

Follow-up actions

After the distribution of the Preliminary EUPT-Report laboratories with poor performance (high z-scores, false negatives or false positives) will be asked to provide information concerning the reasons for poor performance and possible corrective actions. The EUPT-SRM8-participants are welcome to ask the EURL-SRM for technical assistance.

According to instructions by DG-SANCO, the "**Protocol for management of underperformance in comparative testing and/or lack of collaboration of National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) with Community reference laboratories (CRLs) activities**" will be followed for NRLs.

Documents

All documents relating to EUPT–SRM8 can be found in the **EURL-Document Repository (CIRCA/FIS-VL)**.
Links to the documents can be found in the **EUPT-SRM8 Website**.
For further information please contact the organizers **EURL-SRM@cvuas.bwl.de**

Participation fees and payment details

To cover the costs of production, handling and shipment of the Test Materials the following participation fees will be charged to the participating laboratories:

- OLs (including NRLs) from EU countries, EU-candidate countries and EFTA countries: 175 €
- Labs based in third countries: 250 €

All laboratories that have been accepted to participate will be sent an invoice to the "invoice address" stated in the registration form.

Payment is expected to be made prior to the scheduled shipment date. **If for any reason payment cannot be carried out before shipment, please contact the Organizer 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 not to proceed with sample shipment.**
Details of payment will be given in the invoices.

To facilitate tracking of money transfer mind to include your special payee identification text (= invoice number) as shown in the invoice.

Bank Details:

Bank account holder:	**CVUA Stuttgart**
Bank Name :	**Baden Wuerttembergische Bank**
IBAN:	**DE 72 6005 0101 7469 5341 03**
BIC/SWIFT:	**SOLADEST**
Payee identification text:	**See invoice (VERY IMPORTANT!)**
VAT of CVUA Stuttgart	**DE 811 600 510**

Calendar of EUPT-SRM8

(see also **http://www.crl-pesticides.eu/library/docs/srm/EUPT_SRM8_Calendar.pdf**)

Target Pesticides List of EUPT-SRM8

(see also **http://www.eurl-pesticides.eu/library/docs/srm/EUPT_SRM8_TargetPesticideList.pdf**)

Contact information

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