



# **EUPT-FV-SC01 SPECIFIC PROTOCOL**

## **European Union Proficiency Test for Pesticide Residues in chia seeds (2017)**

### **Introduction**

This protocol is complementary to the General Protocol of EU Proficiency Tests (EUTPs) for Pesticide Residues in Food and Feed. This Proficiency Test is organised by the EURL for Pesticide Residues in Fruit and Vegetables covering Multiresidue Methods (MRM) of analysis.

### **Test item**

This proficiency test is based on the analysis of chia seeds spiked with pesticide analytical standards.

The test item will be homogenised and sub-sampled into coded bottles. Ten of those bottles containing the test item will be chosen randomly, and analysed to check for homogeneity.

The test item will be stored frozen ( $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) prior to shipment to participants.

Three bottles, again chosen randomly, will be analysed by the Organiser over a period of time to confirm the stability of the pesticides in the test item (firstly, when the test items are shipped, then a few days after the receipt deadline for participants' results).

Together with the test item, a blank sample of chia seeds will be sent to the participants. The blank material should not contain any of the pesticides in the Target Pesticides List, at or above, the specified MRLs. If a pesticide is identified by the Organisers in the blank material and there is no possibility to find a different blank, that pesticide could be removed from the Target Pesticides List and it will be communicated to all the participants by e-mail.

### **Steps to follow**

This Proficiency Test will be made up of the following steps:

1. **Participation in this proficiency test remains on a voluntary basis.** To participate, each laboratory must complete and return the Application Form, uploaded in the EURL-FV webpage, before the deadline stipulated on the Calendar. The participants will also receive the Target Pesticide List, containing the Minimum Required Reporting Limits (MRRLs). Given the limited material available, the registration forms will be accepted on a first come first served basis.
2. Laboratories will then receive an e-mail confirming their participation in this exercise, and assigning them each a Laboratory Code.
3. The sample delivery will be 250 euros for EU national reference laboratories and EU official laboratories and 350 euros for the rest of laboratories.
4. The sample will be delivered to the participant laboratories on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017. At the same time, they will receive by e-mail an Excel file where they will be able to report the results.
5. The deadline for submitting the results of this proficiency test is 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017.
6. The Organiser will evaluate the results at the end of the proficiency test, once the deadline for the receipt of results has passed. The Organiser will upload an electronic version onto the EURL-FV website and will send the electronic copy of the Final Report to each participant laboratory. This report will include information regarding the design of the test, the homogeneity and stability results, a statistical evaluation of the participant's results as well as graphical displays of the results and any conclusions. Further relevant information considered to be of value may also be included.

#### **Amount of Test Item**

Participants will receive:

- Approximately 25 g of chia seeds.

#### **Shipment of Test item**

The test item will be packed in polystyrene boxes surrounded by dry ice and packed into cardboard boxes.

The shipment of the test item will be carried out over a one-week period from the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The Organiser will try to ensure that all the packages arrive on the same day at each laboratory. An information message will be sent out by e-mail before shipment. Laboratories must make their own arrangements for the receipt of the package. They must inform the Organiser of any public holidays in their country/city during the delivery period given in the calendar, as well as making the necessary arrangements for receiving the shipment, even if the laboratory is closed.

### **Advice on Test item Handling**

Once received, the test item should be stored deeply frozen ( $-18^{\circ}\text{C}$  or less) prior to analysis thus avoiding any possible deterioration/spoilage. The test item should be mixed thoroughly before taking the analytical portion(s).

All participants should use their own routine standard operating procedures for extraction, clean-up and analytical measurement and their own reference standards for identification and quantification.

### **Test item Receipt**

Once the laboratory has received the test item, its arrival must be reported to the Organiser by e-mail. The deadline for acceptance (or non-acceptance) is 10<sup>th</sup> November 2017. If the laboratory does not respond by this date, the Organiser will assume that the test item has been received and accepted.

If any laboratory has not received the test item by 10<sup>th</sup> November, they must inform the Organiser **immediately** by e-mail ([cferrer@ual.es](mailto:cferrer@ual.es))

### **Submission of results:**

Once the laboratory has analysed the test item and is ready to submit their data, they must enter their results in the Excel file provided by the Organisers and send it to the following e-mail address: [cferrer@ual.es](mailto:cferrer@ual.es).

All analyte concentrations must be expressed in mg/kg together with the associated recovery expressed as a percentage.

The number of significant figures should be based on the guidelines provided in SANTE/11945/2015. Additional significant figures may be recorded for the purpose of statistical analysis. Please bear this in mind when reporting data:

- Residue levels above the reporting level and  $< 10 \text{ mg/kg}$  should be rounded to two significant figures.
- Residue levels  $\geq 10 \text{ mg/kg}$  may be rounded to three significant figures or to a whole number.

Results should not be reported where a pesticide was not detected or was detected below the laboratory's LOQ. In both cases, this will be considered as 'ND' (Not Detected) or <LOQ. If a pesticide was not sought, it will be considered as 'NA' (Not Analysed). The actual results/residue levels measured must be reported as numbers. Further instructions on how to fill in the Excel file will be provided in the same file.

### False Negatives

After the receipt of results, participant laboratories that have reported that they sought a pesticide present in the test item but did not find it (false negative) will be asked via e-mail about the analytical method used to determine that specific pesticide.

### Calendar

ACTIVITY	DATE
Opening Registration period	16 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
Deadline for receiving Application Form from laboratories.	26 <sup>th</sup> October 2017
Sample distribution.	6 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
Deadline for receiving results	27 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
Preliminary Report: only results, no statistical treatment.	11 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
Preliminary Report with statistical treatment.	15 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
Final Report	July 2018

### Cost of test item shipment.

The sample delivery will be **250 € for EU National Reference Laboratories and EU Official Laboratories** and **350 € for the rest of laboratories**. Regarding payment procedures, each laboratory can specify their details and invoice requests when applying for the test.

**Please, do not pay for this EUPT until we send you the invoice.**

**Remember to include your Laboratory Code in the subject of the bank transfer.**

Payment details are as follows:

**BANK NAME:** CAJAMAR - Caja Rural Sociedad Corporativa de Crédito  
**BANK ACCOUNT HOLDER:** Universidad de Almería  
**BANK ADDRESS:** Office Number 990. Universidad de Almería. Spain  
**IBAN:** ES0730580130172731005000  
**SWIFT:** CCRIES2A  
**REFERENCE:** Invoice No. or Lab Code

### Contact information

The official organising group details are as follows:

Universidad de Almería. Edificio Químicas CITE I  
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### Organising team (e-mails and phone no.s):

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### Scientific Committee

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Philippe Gros, Laboratoire du SCL de Montpellier, France.  
Magnus Jezussek, Bavarian Health and Food Safety Authority, Erlangen, Germany.  
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