



## EUPT-T01 SPECIFIC PROTOCOL

### European Union Proficiency Test for Pesticide Residues in tea (2013)

#### **Introduction**

This protocol is complementary to the General Protocol of EU Proficiency Tests (EUPTs) 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 tea samples from China containing incurred residues of pesticides. The samples were purchased in a specialised shop for Chinese products, in Almería, Spain.

The test item (dried green tea containing incurred pesticide residues) was ground, homogenised and sub-sampled into self-seal bags that had previously been coded.

Ten of those bags containing the test item have been chosen randomly, and analysed to check for homogeneity.

The test item is stored at 4°C prior to shipment to participants.

Two bags, 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).

#### **Steps to follow**

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

1. To participate, each laboratory must complete and return the Application Form, sent to the participants by e-mail, before the deadline stipulated on the Calendar. The participants will also receive the Target Pesticide List, containing the Minimum Required

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Reporting Limits (MRRLs). Those MRRLs do not always correspond with the EU MRLs set for tea. Participation in this proficiency test remains on a voluntary 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 provided free of charge for those laboratories that have participated in EUPT-FV15.
4. The sample will be delivered to the participant laboratories on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2013. 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 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013.
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 15 g of incurred commercial tea.

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

The test item will be packed in self-seal bags and into cardboard boxes protected with foam in the interior.

The shipment of the test item will be carried out over a one-week period from the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2013. 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

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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 at 4°C 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 14<sup>th</sup> June 2013. 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 14<sup>th</sup> June, they must inform the Organiser **immediately** by e-mail (cferrer@ual.es or analozano@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.

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 SANCO/12495/2011. Additional significant figures may be recorded for the purpose of statistical analysis. Please bear this in mind when reporting data:

- Residue levels < 0.010 mg/kg should be rounded to one significant figure
- Residue levels  $\geq$  0.010 mg/kg and < 10 mg/kg should be rounded to two significant figures
- Residue levels  $\geq$  10 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 should be recorded as 'ND' (Not Detected) or <LOQ. If a pesticide was not sought, it should be recorded 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
Sending Application Form to laboratories	9th May 2013
Sending calendar and pesticides target list to participant laboratories.	14th May 2013
Deadline for receiving Application Form from laboratories.	17th May 2013
Sample distribution.	10th June 2013
Deadline for receiving results	28th June 2013
Preliminary Report: only results, no statistical treatment.	July 2013
Final Report	September 2013

### Cost of test item shipment.

The sample delivery will be free of charge for those laboratories that have participated in EUPT-FV15. Other laboratories will be charged **175 €**. Regarding payment procedures, each laboratory can specify their details and invoice requests when applying for the test. Payment details are as follows:

**BANK NAME: CAJAMAR - Caja Rural Sociedad Corporativa de Crédito**

**BANK ACCOUNT HOLDER: Universidad de Almeria**

**BANK ADDRESS: Office Number 990. Universidad de Almeria. Spain**

**ACCOUNT NUMBER: 30580130172731005000**

**IBAN: ES0730580130172731005000**

**SWIFT: CCRIES2A**

**REFERENCE GIVEN: Invoice No. or Lab Code**

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### Contact information

The official organising group details are as follows:

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Fax No.: +34 950015483

### Organising team (e-mails and phone no.s):

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### Quality Control Group

Dr. Antonio Valverde, University of Almería, Spain  
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### Statistical Group

Dr. Carmelo Rodriguez, Senior Mathematician, University of Almeria, Spain

### Advisory Group

Dr. André de Kok, Senior Chemist, NVWA, Wageningen, The Netherlands.  
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