



SPECIFIC PROTOCOL

for the EU Proficiency Test for Pesticide Residues in Cereals/Feeding stuff using Multi Residue Methods, EUPT- CF20 (2026)

(last updated: 20 January 2026)

Introduction

This protocol is complementary to the [General Protocol for EU Proficiency Tests for Pesticide Residues in Food and Feed](#) (12th Edition). The current proficiency test covers pesticides that are determined by Multi Residue Methods. This EUPT is to be performed by all National Reference Laboratories for Cereals and/or Feeding stuffs (NRL-CFs) as well as by all official EU laboratories (OfLs) responsible for official pesticide residue controls on cereals and/or feeding stuff, as far as their scope overlaps with that of the EUPT-CF20.

Test Item (Test Material)

This proficiency test concerns the analysis of pesticide residues in oat kernels. The oat was grown in Denmark and pesticides were applied in the field.

The Organiser, will check the Test Items for sufficient homogeneity and for stability at conditions reproducing sample shipment and storage during the duration of the test, according to ISO 13528:2023, Annex B. All these tests will be conducted by the Organiser, the EURL-CF which is ISO 17025:2017 accredited (DANAK no. 350).

Analytical Parameters

The Test Item contains several pesticides from the **Target Pesticides List**. Laboratories must report their results as stated in the Target Pesticides List.

Amount of Test Item

The participants will receive:

- approximately 100 g of oat kernels Test Item with incurred and spiked pesticides

Blank material will **not** be distributed to the participants.

Shipment of Test Items

The Test Items are planned to be shipped on 9 February 2026.

Test Items will be shipped frozen and packed in thermo-boxes together with a freezer block. The Organiser 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 Test Item Handling

Once received, the Test Items should be stored deep-frozen (at -18°C or below) before analysis to avoid any possible deterioration/spoilage and to minimize pesticide losses. The test Item should be milled before analysis. After milling, mix the flour thoroughly, before taking the analytical portion(s).

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

The homogeneity test is conducted using 5 g of milled Test Item in all cases. As sub-sampling variability increases with decreasing analytical portion size, sufficient homogeneity can only be guaranteed where participants employ sample portions that are equal to or larger than the ones stated above.

EUPT Webtool and Deadlines

To select pesticide scope and report results and method information, the participants should log in to the **EUPT Webtool** using the username send by email, the password can be retrieved via <https://guest.dtu.dk/Sites/GuestLogin/RetrievePassword.aspx> using your email address or your username. Please, update the password every year.

Selection/deselection of scope: The analytical scope must be selected prior to the shipment of the samples. This is done via the **EUPT Webtool**. The scope selection subpage will be open from 27 January to 9 February 2026. As default all mandatory pesticides are preselected.

Results and method submission: The **EUPT Webtool** will be accessible from 10 February 2026 for sample receipt acknowledgement and submission results and method information.

The deadline for submission is 9 March 2026 at 23.00 CET.

IMPORTANT: After the final submission it will NOT be possible to edit the results. Participants will receive an email confirming the submission of their results. Attached to the email will be an excel file with all their submitted data and a pdf of the pesticide and concentration submitted.

Test Item Receipt and Acceptance: Once the laboratory has received the Test Items it must report to the Organiser, via the **EUPT Webtool**, the date of receipt, and its acceptance. If the laboratory does not respond by **13 February 2026 at 12.00 CET**, the Organiser will assume that the Test Items have been received and accepted.

If participants have not received the Test Items by **the 13 February 2026 at noon**, they must inform the Organiser immediately by e-mail to eurl-cf@food.dtu.dk.

Reporting Quantitative Results:

Results should **not** be reported where a pesticide

- a) was not detected,
- b) was detected below the RL (Reporting Limit) of the laboratory, or

Significant Figures:

Residue levels <0.010 mg/kg;

- to be expressed by two significant figures (e.g. 0.0058 mg/kg).

Residue levels ≥ 0.010 mg/kg;

- to be expressed by three significant figures, e.g. 0.156, 1.64, 10.3 mg/kg.

Please note that instructions for quantification of alpha-cypermethin must be followed (see appendix 1)

Reporting Analytical method: The laboratory must report details of the analytical methods they used. If not, it will not be possible to submit results.

Reporting of supplementary information in case of false negative results

In case of false negative results, the affected laboratories will be asked to provide details on the methodology used after the deadline for result submission. This has also to be done by accessing EUPT Webtool. Deadline for this is 16 March 2026.

Follow-up actions

In accordance with Art. 32 1b of Regulation (EC) No 2017/625, underperformance of any NRL-CF/-C/-FE in comparative testing will be followed by EURL-CF.

Documents

All documents related to EUPT-CF20 can be found on EUPT-CF20 website.

[EURL | Pesticides in Cereals and Feedingstuffs | EUPT-CF20 on Oat kernels](#)

Calendar

Activity	Dates
Announcement Calendar Target Pesticide List	10 November 2025
EUPT-Registration Website open	10 December 2025
Deadline for registration	19 January 2026
Specific Protocol published	26 January 2026
Website for selecting pesticide scope open	26 January 2026
Website for selecting pesticide scope closed	9 February 2026
Distribution of Test items	9 February 2026
Deadline for receipt and acceptance of Test Materials	within 24 hr on receipt
Deadline for Result Submission	9 March 2026 at 23.00 CEST
Deadline for submission of additional method information for false negative results	16 March 2026
Preliminary Report (only compilation of results) published	16 May 2026
Final Report published	December 2026

Participation Fees

For participating laboratories from the EU, EU-candidate states and EFTA states the participation fee will be:

- 250 €

The participation fees for laboratories from third countries will be:

- 400 €

For further information, visit www.eurl-pesticides.eu.

Delays in Payment

Participants will receive an invoice from DTU. The terms of payment are 30 days net. After this deadline, reminders will be sent. From the second reminder onwards, an administration fee of DKK 100.00 excluding VAT (approximately 13 €) will be charged per reminder.

If the participant requests DTU to issue a new invoice because additional or new information is needed on the invoice, or if they simply want a copy of the original invoice, additional costs may be incurred due to the administrative workload.

Any questions concerning invoices must be directed to Anne Rhein Hansen, arh@dtu.dk at the financial department of DTU.



Contact information:

Mette Erecius Poulsen

Head of EURL Cereals and Feeding stuff

National Food Institute Technical

University of Denmark Kemitorget,

Building 202

DK-2800 Lyngby

Phone: +45-3588-7463

E-Mail: eurl-cf@food.dtu.dk

<http://www.eurl-pesticides.eu>

Organising Team:

Organising Team at EURL for Pesticide Residues in Cereals and Feedingstuff:

Ederina Ninga

Andrea Alsted Hansen

Julio César España Amórtegui

Susanne Pless

Ban M. Kadhum

Quality Control Group:

Antonio Valverde

University of Almería, Spain

Paula Medina-Pastor

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), Italy

Advisory Group

Amadeo R. Fernández-Alba

University of Almería, Spain

André de Kok

Former WFSR - Wageningen Food Safety Research, Wageningen, The Netherlands

Bjoern Hardebush

Chemisches und Veterinäruntersuchungsamt (CVUA) Freiburg, Germany

Carmen Ferrer Amate

University of Almería, Spain

Finbarr O'Regan

Pesticide Control Laboratory, Co. Kildare, Ireland

Hans Mol

WFSR - Wageningen Food Safety Research, Wageningen, The Netherlands

Magnus Jezussek

Bavarian Authority of Health and Food Safety, Erlangen, Germany

Marine Lambert

ANSES

Michelangelo Anastassiades

Chemisches und Veterinäruntersuchungsamt (CVUA) Stuttgart, Germany

Patrizia Pelosi

Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Roma, Italy

Ralf Lippold

Chemisches und Veterinäruntersuchungsamt (CVUA) Freiburg, Germany

Hermann Unterluggauer

AGES, Institute for Food Safety, Innsbruck, Austria

Radim Štěpán

Czech Agriculture and Food Inspection Authority

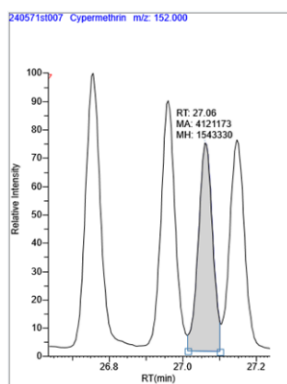
Tuija Pihlström

National Food Agency, Uppsala, Sweden

Appendix 1

Quantification Instructions for Alpha-Cypermethrin

The EU commission plans to introduce specific MRLs for alpha-cypermethrin. Cypermethrin has 8 isomers that on non-chiral columns elute in four peaks if the GC runtime is long enough. The two alpha-cypermethrin isomers elute as the third peak, see below.



Even if a crop has been treated with the technical cypermethrin, the alpha-cypermethrin content must be quantified.

Below is described how to calculate the content of alpha-cypermethrin in the EUPT-CF20 test item when either technical cypermethrin or alpha-cypermethrin is used for calibration of the GC instrument. Both calibration types are valid.

When analysing alpha-cypermethrin standard isomerisation is seen, depending on the method used for extraction, clean-up, GC brand, and how clean the instrument is (injector, liner, column).

However, when technical cypermethrin are analysed, no isomerisation is seen.

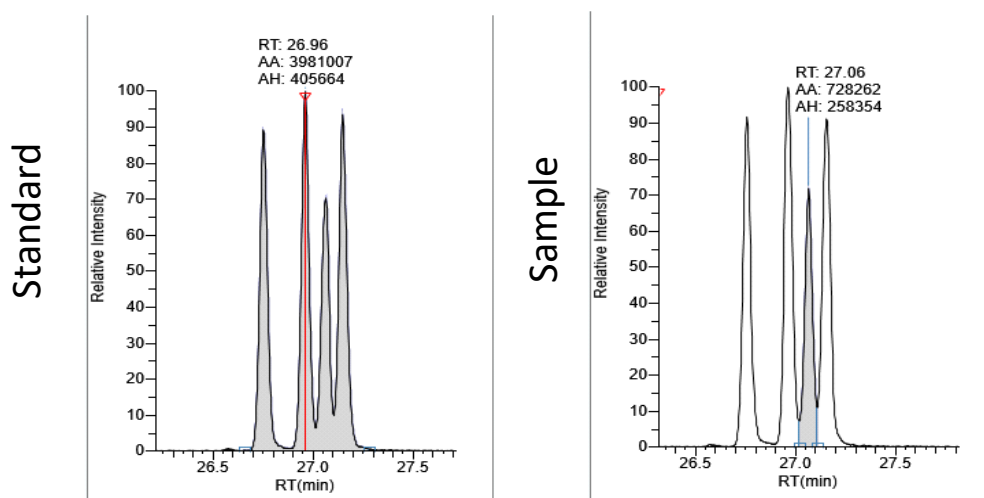
GC runtime

The GC runtime must be long enough to separate the four peaks adequately to facilitate the integration of the third peak. An example of this is:

Oven temperature program: 60°C for 1.5 min, up to 90°C at 25°C/min for 1.5 min, up to 180°C at 25°C/min, then up to 280°C at 5°C/min and finally up to 300°C at 10°C/min and for 12 min.

Method 1: Calibration with technical cypermethrin

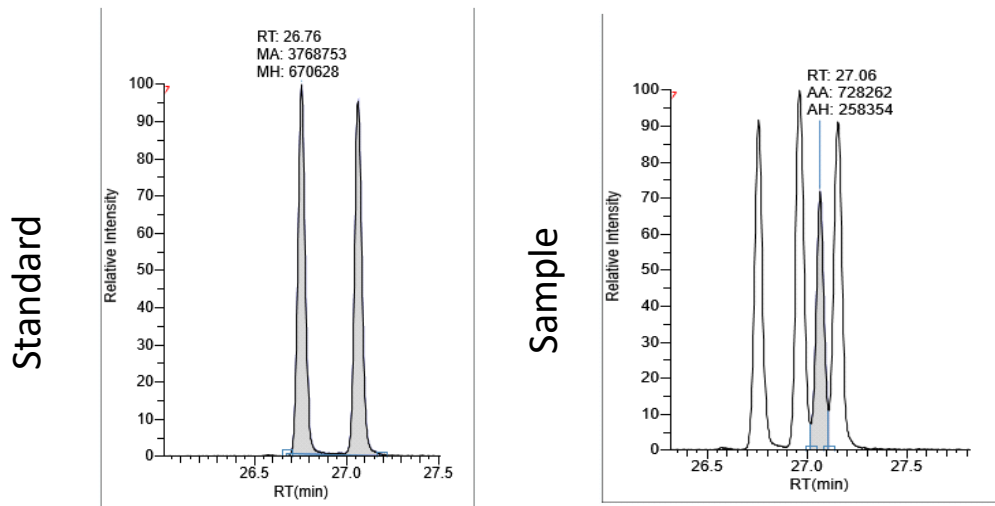
- Use the technical cypermethrin mixture as the calibration standard
- In the standard chromatogram: integrate the peak areas of **all isomers** present in the technical mixture
- In the sample chromatogram: integrate **only the alpha-cypermethrin peak** (third peak).



This method is suitable when the isomer composition of the technical mixture is well-characterized and remains constant.

Method 2: Calibration with alpha-cypermethrin

- Use pure alpha-cypermethrin as the calibration standard
- In the standard chromatogram: integrate the alpha-cypermethrin peak and any isomer peaks that result from isomerization during analysis
- In the sample chromatogram: integrate only the alpha-cypermethrin peak (third peak)



Do not use this approach

When measuring alpha-cypermethrin in the sample, you should not integrate only the third peak (the alpha-cypermethrin peak) from the technical cypermethrin standard in the calibration.

This approach is not valid unless the exact proportions of all isomers in the technical mixture have been determined and verified beforehand.

