



PROTOCOL

Ring Test Certified Standard Solutions FV17 (2015)

Introduction

This ring test is complementary to the European Proficiency Test in Fruits and Vegetables 17 (EUPF-FV17), organised by the EURL for Pesticide Residues in Fruit and Vegetables covering Multiresidue Methods (MRM) of analysis. The aim of this ring test is to help the participant laboratories in EUPF-FV17 to check if their working standard solutions have affected the z-scores obtained in EUPF-FV17.

Test item

This ring test is based on the analysis of a certified standard solution that contains all the pesticides included in EUPF-FV17. The standard solutions have been prepared by an external specialised firm, LabStandard®, division of Lab. Instruments, and they are sent to the participant laboratories in sealed glass ampoules. The solvent is methanol. The ampoules are stored at -20°C prior to shipment to participants.

Steps to follow

The procedure to follow by the participants will be:

1. To participate, each laboratory must accept their participation by e-mail.
2. When the registration period is closed, laboratories will 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 EU-National Reference Laboratories (NRLs), and it will be 80 euros for the rest of the laboratories.
4. The ampoules will be delivered to the participant laboratories on week 43 (October 19th to 23rd 2015). At the same time they will receive by e-mail an Excel file where they will be able to report the results.
5. The standard solutions have to be diluted 100 times (that way the concentration values will be between 10 and 500 µg/l). This dilution has to be performed following the laboratory's own procedures using the appropriate solvents for each analytical technique.
6. The deadline for submitting the results of this proficiency test is 9th November 2015.
7. 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 of the Final Report onto the EURL-FV website and will send it to each participant laboratory by e-mail.

Amount of Test Item

Participants will receive:

- 1 sealed glass ampoule containing 1 ml of certified standard solution in methanol.

Shipment of Test item

The ampoules will be packed in foam lined cardboard boxes.

The shipment of the test item will be carried out on week 43 (October 19th to 23rd 2015). An information message will be sent out by e-mail the day of the 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.

Advice on Test item Handling

Once received, the test item should be stored at -20°C prior to analysis. After opening the ampoule, its content should be transferred to an amber vial.

Test item Receipt

Once the laboratory has received the test item, its arrival must be reported to the Organiser by e-mail. If any laboratory has not received the test item by 23rd October, they must inform the Organiser by e-mail (cferrer@ual.es).

Submission of results:

Once the laboratory has analysed the certified standard solution 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 in the ampoule must be expressed in mg/l. The number of significant figures should be based on the guidelines provided in SANCO/12571/2013. 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 mg/l should be rounded to two significant figures.
- Residue levels ≥ 10 mg/l may be rounded to three significant figures or to a whole number.

If a pesticide was not sought, it should be recorded as 'NA' (Not Analysed). The actual results measured must be reported as numbers.

Further instructions on how to fill in the Excel file will be provided in the same file.

Calendar

EU-RT-FV17 CALENDAR	
Activity	Date
Sample shipment	19 th October 2015
Deadline for receiving results	9 th November 2015
Preliminary Report: only results.	16 th November 2015
Final Report	December 2015

Cost of test item shipment.

The sample delivery will be **80 €**. For EU-NRLs it will be free of charge. 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 Almería

BANK ADDRESS: Office Number 990. Universidad de Almería. Spain

IBAN: ES0730580130172731005000

SWIFT: CCRIES2A

REFERENCE GIVEN: Invoice No. or Lab Code

Contact information

The official organising group details are as follows:

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Organising team (e-mails and phone numbers):

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Sonja Masselter, Senior Chemist, AGES, Innsbruck, Austria.

Finbarr O'Regan, The Pesticide Control Laboratory, Celbridge, Ireland.

Tuija Pihlström, Senior Chemist NFA, Uppsala, Sweden.

Mette Erecius Poulsen, Senior Chemist, NFI, Copenhagen, Denmark.