

SPECIFIC PROTOCOL

for the EU Proficiency Test for Pesticide Residues in Cereals/Feeding stuff using Multi Residue Methods, EUPT-CF14 (2020)

(last updated: 27 February 2020)

Introduction

This protocol is complementary to the [General Protocol for EU Proficiency Tests for Pesticide Residues in Food and Feed](#) (9th 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-CF14.

Test Item (Test Material)

This proficiency test concerns the analysis of pesticide residues rice kernels. The rice was grown in India 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, Annex B. All these tests will be conducted by the the organiser, the EURL-CF which is (ISO 17025 accredited).

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 rice kernel Test Item with incurred and spiked pesticides and

Blank material will not be distributed to the participants.

Shipment of Test Items

The Test Items are planned to be shipped on 30 March 2020.

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 and password send by email. Please, save the credentials, as it will be valid for the EUPTs next 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 9-27 March 2020. As default all pesticides are preselected.

Results and method submission: The **EUPT Webtool** will be accessible from 31 March 2020 for sample receipt acknowledgement and submission results and method information.

The deadline for submission is 30 April 2020 at 24.00 CEST.

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 their submitted data.

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 3 April 2020, the Organiser will assume that the Test Items have been received and accepted.

If participants have not received the Test Items by **the 2 April 2020 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

Results reported as <RL will be considered as „Not Detected“.

Significant Figures:

Residue levels <0.010 mg/kg;

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

Residue levels \geq 0.010 mg/kg;

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

Reporting Analytical method: The laboratory must to 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 can also be done by accessing EUPT Webtool. Deadline for this is 6 May 2020.

Follow-up actions

In accordance with Art. 32 1b of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004, underperformance of any NRL-CF in comparative testing will be followed by EURL-CF.

Documents

All documents related to EUPT-CF14 can be found on EUPT-CF14 website.

Calendar

Activity	Dates
Announcement Calendar Target Pesticide List	December 2019
EUPT-Registration Website open	January 2020
Deadline for registration	2 March 2020
Specific Protocol published	2 March 2020
Website for selecting pesticide scope open	9 March 2020
Website for selecting pesticide scope closed	27 March 2020
Distribution of Test items	30 March 2020
Deadline for receipt and acceptance of Test Materials	within 24 hr on receipt
Deadline for Result Submission	30 April 2020 at 24.00 CET
Deadline for submission of additional method information for false negative results	6 May 2020 at 24.00 CET
Preliminary Report (only compilation of results) published	24 June 2020
Final Report published	December 2020

Participation Fees

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

- 200 €

The participation fees for laboratories from third countries will be:

- 350 €

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

Delays in Payment

The 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 (ca. 13 €) will be charged per reminder.

Any questions concerning invoices must be directed to Tom Schmidt Christensen, tomsc@adm.dtu.dk at the financial department of DTU.

Contact information:

DTU Food
National Food Institute



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Organising Team:

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Quality Control Group:

Dr. Antonio Valverde	University of Almería, Spain
Dr. Paula Medina	European Food Safety Agency, Italy

Advisory Group

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Mr. Finbarr o'Regan	Pesticide Control Laboratory, Celbridge, Ireland
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