

SPECIFIC PROTOCOL

for the EU Proficiency Test for Pesticide Residues in Cereals/Feeding stuff using Multi Residue Methods, EUPT-CF18 (2024)

(last updated: 22 March 2024)

Introduction

This protocol is complementary to the [General Protocol for EU Proficiency Tests for Pesticide Residues in Food and Feed](#) (11th 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 feeding stuff, as far as their scope overlaps with that of the EUPT-CF17.

Test Item (Test Material)

This proficiency test concerns the analysis of pesticide residues in wheat straw. The wheat 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, Annex B. All these tests will be conducted by 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 40 g of wheat straw Test Item with incurred pesticides

Blank material will not be distributed to the participants.

Shipment of Test Items

The Test Items are planned to be shipped on 8 April 2024.

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 sample should be mixed 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 1 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 22 March to 8 April 2024. As default all mandatory pesticides are preselected.

Results and method submission: The **EUPT Webtool** will be accessible from 9 April 2024 for sample receipt acknowledgement and submission results and method information.

The deadline for submission is 6 May 2024 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 12 April 2024 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 12 April 2024 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 \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 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 15 May 2024.

Follow-up actions

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

Documents

All documents related to EUPT-CF18 can be found on EUPT-CF18 website.

https://www.eurl-pesticides.eu/docs/public/tmpl article.asp?LabID=400&CntID=1259&Theme_ID=1&Pdf=False&Lang=EN

Calendar

Activity	Dates
Announcement Calendar Target Pesticide List	November 2023
EUPT-Registration Website open	December 2023
Deadline for registration	18 March 2024
Specific Protocol published	21 March 2024
Website for selecting pesticide scope open	22 March 2024
Website for selecting pesticide scope closed	8 April 2024
Distribution of Test items	8 April 2024
Deadline for receipt and acceptance of Test Materials	within 24 hr on receipt
Deadline for Result Submission	6 May 2024 at 23.00 CEST
Deadline for submission of additional method information for false negative results	15 May 2024 at 23.00 CET
Preliminary Report (only compilation of results) published	15 July 2024
Final Report published	December 2024

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

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.

If the participant ask DTU to issue a new invoice because additional/new information are needed on the invoice, or just want a copy of the original invoice, that may add additional cost due to the administrative workload.

Any questions concerning invoices must be directed to Mikkel Lau Mikkelsen, mlami@dtu.dk at the financial department of DTU.

Contact information:



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