



## Announcement/Invitation

### EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM

(Matrix: Tomato homogenate)

(released on: 15/07/2025)

Dear Colleagues,

We herewith cordially invite you to participate in the upcoming European Proficiency Test on the analysis of PFAS pesticides requiring both multi- and single-residue methods (SRM and MRM) in fruits and vegetables (EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM). This exercise is co-organised by the EU Reference Laboratory for pesticides residues in Fruits and Vegetables (EURL-FV) and the EU Reference Laboratory for pesticides requiring Single Residue Methods (EURL-SRM).

**The EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM is scheduled to run from 13 October till 10 November, 2025.**

All relevant documentation is linked within the [EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM-Website](#).

#### 1. AIMS

Participation in proficiency tests is part of the QA/QC system of laboratories. It provides them with an assessment of their analytical performance and allows them to make a comparison with the performance of other laboratories. The general aim is to help laboratories demonstrate adequate analytical performance towards accreditation bodies and other stakeholders and, in case of underperformance, to help them identify sources of errors, so that the necessary measures for quality improvement can be taken.

Currently, there is growing concern about environmental pollutants known as PFAS, which are found in a wide range of matrices and are extremely persistent. The OECD defines PFAS as fluorinated substances that contain at least one fully fluorinated methyl or methylene carbon atom. According to this classification, certain pesticides could be considered PFAS. For this reason, DG SANTE aims to increase monitoring activities for these compounds and has established a priority list. Additionally, it has requested the organisation of a PT focused on PFAS pesticides to assess the capabilities of EU official laboratories in analyzing these substances. Following this request, it was decided to replace this year's EUPT on special commodities (EUPT-SC) by a PT focusing on PFAS pesticides and metabolites.

## 2. PROFICIENCY TESTING ITEM (PT Item)

The PT Item of the EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM will be **tomato homogenate** and will foreseeably contain only PFAS analytes that are spiked post-harvest. One jar with approximately 300 g material will be shipped to each participating laboratory. No blank material will be sent to the participants. Additional PT Items can be provided at extra charge only if excess material is available and if sufficient explanations are given by the requesting laboratory. To request a second container of PT Item please state your request to [cferrer@ual.es](mailto:cferrer@ual.es) during your registration.

## 3. TARGET ANALYTES

Analytes potentially contained in the PT Item are shown in the **Target Pesticides List (TPL)**. For each of the analytes a specific minimum required reporting level (MRRL) is given. The latest version of the TPL will always be accessible within the **EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM-Website**. In case of significant changes, the participants will be informed via e-mail.

## 4. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

The names of the compounds contained in the PT item will be communicated to the participants by e-mail within 3 working days after the final EUPT deadline. Preliminary assigned concentrations will be published in the preliminary report, which will be released approximately 3 weeks after the deadline for reporting results.

## 5. METHODS TO BE USED

The use of analytical methods routinely employed by the participating laboratories is preferred. However, participants are also encouraged to use the EUPT as a starting point for introducing new methods and analytes in their scope.

## 6. SHIPMENT AND RECEIPT OF TEST ITEM:

The shipment of the Test Item is planned to take place on **Monday, 13 October 2025**. If a laboratory will be on holiday in the week of the shipment, it should inform the organisers, so that an alternative shipment can be arranged.

Participants must check the integrity and condition of the materials and are requested to report via e-mail ([cferrer@ual.es](mailto:cferrer@ual.es)) **within 48 h** upon receipt if they accept the material or not. In case of no reaction by the participant, the organisers will assume that the material has been accepted. **If the material is received in an unacceptable condition or if there are problems with sample delivery, please also contact the organisers by email ([cferrer@ual.es](mailto:cferrer@ual.es)) to ensure that corrective actions are taken as early as possible.**

## 7. ELIGIBLE LABS

This PT is mainly directed to NRLs-FV/SRM and OfLs-FV/SRM from EU countries and EFTA countries. Nevertheless, participation is also open to the following laboratories as long as sufficient material is available:

- any other OfLs from EU countries;
- NRLs and OfLs from EU-candidate countries and EFTA countries;
- laboratories analysing official organic samples within the frame of Reg. 889/2008/EC<sup>1</sup>;
- laboratories from Third Countries (countries outside the EU), preferably if involved in the controls of products destined for export to the EU.

The latter two lab groups have to provide a proof of their function (e.g. a digital copy of a document stating official appointment) during the registration.

## 8. REGISTRATION

The registration for the EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM will run through the **EURL-DataPool**. To register for this EUPT, please log-in to the EURL-DataPool using your EURL-DataPool login credentials and click the register “EUPT Registration”. **Note that you need to register into the EURL-DataPool first before you can register to EUPTs.** If you have lost your EURL-DataPool login credentials, please use the “forgot password” feature to request a new password.

Information on how to proceed with PT-registration may be found here: [EUPT-Registration Guide](#)

The registration period will be open from **15 July 2025 till 25 August 2025**.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- The EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM registration form within the "EURL-DataPool" will be accessible from **15 July 2025 till 25 August 2025**.
- The **shipment** of the Test Items is planned on **13 October, 2025**.
- **Results and method information** should be submitted by **10 November 2025 at 23:30 h (11:30 p.m.) CEST** by e-mail ([cferrer@ual.es](mailto:cferrer@ual.es)).

## 9. PARTICIPATION FEE and PAYMENT

To cover the costs of handling and shipment, a general fee of **350 €** for one bottle PT Item will be charged to each participating laboratory from **EU Member States, EU-candidate countries or EFTA countries**. The fee for labs from **third countries** is set at **450 €** for one bottle PT Item. For double amount, the fee will double.

An invoice issued in pdf format and for the "invoice address" stated in the registration form will be sent after the shipment to the e-mail address(es) of the person(s) responsible for the PT and, if stated during registration, also to the person in charge of the payment. **Details on payment will be given in the invoices.**

<sup>1</sup> Internally classified as „889-labs“

As stated in the [General EUPT Protocol](#), the EURLs will issue digital invoices in PDF format only and without any electronic signature. If, due to local legal requirements, a participating laboratory needs an electronic invoice<sup>2</sup>, it has to provide the PT-Organisers with a suitable and freely accessible tool for generating the e-invoice and to provide full assistance in case this tool requires the use of a language other than English. Otherwise, the PT-Organisers will not issue an e-invoice. Depending on the incurring extra workload, the participating laboratory may be charged for this extra service of issuing an e-invoice. The EURLs will not complete any special form required by the participating laboratories for their financial department or payment office. If completion of such forms is prerequisite for payment in the institution of the participating laboratory, this laboratory or its payment office is requested to fill-in the forms and to send the pre-filled form to the EUPT Organisers. The EURLs are willing to provide any information required in the form as long as it is readily available, but they do not agree to provide any personalized (private) data for this purpose. After verification (and if needed correction) of the information, the EUPT Organisers will return the form with signature and stamp.

The participants must get familiar with the payment system in their laboratories and are responsible for the correctness of the invoice-relevant information stated during registration, e.g. participants must enter the purchase number when registering if a purchase number is required on the invoice. **Additional costs may be incurred if extra services are requested in relation to the payment or if invoices have to be modified and re-sent due to new information or incorrect data.**

Spanish laboratories and those laboratories not registered in VIES will have to pay the corresponding taxes. ([https://ec.europa.eu/taxation\\_customs/vies/?locale=en](https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/vies/?locale=en))

Regarding payment procedures, each laboratory can specify their details and invoice requests when applying for the test.

Please, do not pay for this EUPT until we send you the invoice.

Remember to include the invoice number in the subject of the bank transfer.

#### **Account details:**

BANK NAME: CAJAMAR - Caja Rural Sociedad Corporativa de Crédito

BANK ACCOUNT HOLDER: Universidad de Almeria

BANK ADDRESS: Universidad de Almeria. Spain

ACCOUNT NUMBER: ES0730580130172731005000

SWIFT: CCRIES2A

REFERENCE GIVEN: INVOICE NUMBER

<sup>2</sup> e.g. a certificated or signed e-invoice in XML, or an e-invoice that needs to be generated and submitted via a special billing platform

## 10. RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

All documents related to EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM will be accessible on-line and linked to the [EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM Website](#).

The schedule for all activities and deadlines within this PT can be found in the [EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM Calendar](#).

The pesticides potentially present in the Test Item can be found in the [EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM Target Pesticides List](#).

The **EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM Specific Protocol** will be published by 29 September 2025. This should be read carefully.

Please also refer to the valid version of the **General EUPT Protocol**, which contains the general procedures and rules valid for all proficiency tests organised by the four EURLs for pesticide residues, among them the general evaluation rules of the EUPTs and the payment conditions.

## 11. GENERAL INFORMATION, CONFIDENTIALITY, DISCLAIMER

The EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM is organised by the EURL-SRM and EURL-FV on behalf of DG-SANTE. DG-SANTE is the proprietor of all EUPT data and has thus access to all information. This also includes the Directorate on Health and Food Audits and Analysis.

- In each EUPT, the participating laboratories are given a unique code, initially only known to themselves and the organisers. In the final EUPT-Report, the list of participating laboratories will not be linked to their laboratory codes.
- **The participating laboratories are not allowed to communicate with each other on matters concerning the EUPT from the start of the EUPT until the publication of the preliminary report.**
- **The organisers are allowed to share EUPT results and codes with other EURLs as well as the responsible NRLs.**
- All laboratories are requested to **provide information on the analytical methods used**. If information on the methodology used is not sufficiently provided, the organisers reserve the right not to accept the analytical results reported by the participants concerned or to exclude the lab from the final report.
- Please note that **all documents mentioned above may be subject to minor changes**. In the case of significant changes, participants will be informed by e-mail. **However, please still check the <https://www.eurl-pesticides.eu/docs/public/tmpl/article.asp?CntID=1290&LabID=100&Lang=EN> EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM Website regularly for any updates** in case the email does not reach you.
- By registering for this EUPT, the laboratories accept all above conditions and provisions.

## 12. SUPPORT AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM Organisation Team is always at your disposal to answer any questions and give you technical support. For any further questions about the EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM, please mail to [cferrer@ual.es](mailto:cferrer@ual.es).

### EURL-FV

European Union Reference Laboratory for Pesticide Residues in Fruit & Vegetables  
UNIVERSIDAD DE ALMERÍA-Edificio de Química  
Ctra. Sacramento s/n, La Cañada de San Urbano  
ES-04120-ALMERÍA

### EURL-SRM

European Union Reference Laboratory for Pesticide Residues requiring Single Residue Methods  
c/o Chemisches und Veterinäruntersuchungsamt Stuttgart  
Schaflandstrasse 3/2  
DE-70736 Fellbach

### Organising Team

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## 13. EUPT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

### Quality Control Group

Paula Medina	European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)
Antonio Valverde	University of Almería, Spain

### Advisory Group

Amadeo R. Fernández-Alba	Co-Head of EURL FV, University of Almería, Spain
Carmen Ferrer Amate	Co-Head of EURL FV, University of Almería, Spain
Björn Hardebusch	Head of EURL AO, CVUA Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany
Magnus Jezussek	LGL; Erlangen, Germany
André de Kok	Formerly working at NVWA, Wageningen, The Netherlands
Marine Lambert	ANSES; Maisons-Alfort Cedex, France
Ralf Lippold	Head of CVUA Freiburg, Germany
Hans Mol	Wageningen Food Safety Research, Wageningen, The Netherlands
Finbarr O'Regan	Pesticide Control Laboratory, Celbridge Co. Kildare Ireland
Patrizia Pelosi	Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy
Tuija Pihlström	National Food Agency, Uppsala, Sweden
Mette Erecius Poulsen	Head of EURL-CF, DTU National Food Institute, Lyngby, Denmark
Radim Štěpán	Czech Agriculture & Food Inspection Authority, Prague, Czech Republic
Hermann Unterluggauer	AGES; Institute for Food Safety Innsbruck, Austria.

Best regards,

The EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM Organisation Team