



SPECIFIC PROTOCOL

for the 21th EU Proficiency Test on Pesticides requiring Single Residue Methods EUPT – SRM21 (2026) (update on 18 February 2026)

Introduction

This protocol supplements the current version of the "[General Protocol for EU Proficiency Testings for Pesticide Residues in Food and Feed, 12th Ed.](#)" for all EUPTs analyzing pesticide residues in 2026.

The EUPT-SRM21 is organized by the EU Reference Laboratory for pesticides requiring Single Residue Methods (EURL-SRM), referred to hereafter as the "**organisers**". The EURL-SRM is an accredited provider of proficiency testings in accordance with ISO 17043 (see [EURL-SRM accreditation](#)).

The EUPT-SRM21, with cow's milk as matrix, focuses on the analysis of pesticides not readily amenable to multiresidue methods. Participation is mandatory for all National Reference Laboratories for Single Residue Methods (NRL-SRMs) and for food of animal origin (NRL-AOs), as well as for all official EU laboratories (OfLs) that conduct pesticide residue analyses in food or feed of animal origin – excluding honey but including milk-based food for infants and young children – within the scope of national and EU official controls.

The provisional classification of laboratories as either "obliged" or "not obliged" to participate in this proficiency test was based on information on the range of commodities covered by each laboratory, as recorded in the EURL-DataPool. Before this classification, laboratories were requested to update their information in the DataPool, and the responsible NRLs were asked to verify the comprehensiveness and accuracy of the data.

Laboratory registration for the proficiency test was conducted via the DataPool website. Laboratories classified as "obliged" were notified to access the online registration platform, regardless of their intention to participate. If they chose not to participate, they were required to provide a reason for their non-participation. The reasons submitted by obliged laboratories—particularly those related to scope—will be taken into account when finalizing the list of obliged laboratories.

Communication

For all matters related to the EUPT-SRM21, the organizers will communicate with participating laboratories via email, addressing both the "Main Contact Person" and any "Alternative Contact Person(s)" specified in the EUPT-SRM21 registration form. Additional emails will be automatically generated and sent by the Webtool.

The most important documents pertaining to this proficiency test are available on the [EUPT-SRM21-Website](#).

PT Item

The PT Item for this EUPT is “**cow’s milk, deeply frozen**”. The aim is to provide the participants with the sample in a snow-like consistency to allow analytical test portions to be easily withdrawn from the container.

The test material was prepared using an organic long-life cow’s milk from German production spiked with selected compounds from the [Target Pesticides List](#), thoroughly homogenised at ambient temperature, portioned into small resealable zipper bags, and frozen at –20 °C to obtain thin plates. The plates are subjected to additional cryogenic milling using dry ice to obtain the desired consistency.

Polypropylene containers containing ca. 250 g of the final material, in a snow-like state, will be dispatched within thermos-boxes containing dry ice.

The organizers will randomly select semi-bottles to verify that the analytes meet the criteria for homogeneity and stability over the duration of the proficiency test. Should any issues arise in this regard, participants will be informed in due time.

Target Analytes and MRRLs

The PT item will include several analytes from the [EUPT-SRM21 Target Pesticides List](#) (TPL), categorized into “mandatory”, “optional”, and “extra”. Laboratories are advised to review the TPL carefully, as it specifies how residues should be reported and outlines the **Minimum Required Reporting Levels (MRRLs)**. These MRRL values will be used to help identify false positive and false negative results.

Before beginning your analysis and reporting results, please ensure you download and thoroughly review the latest version of the [EUPT-SRM21 Target Pesticides List](#). This will help guarantee accurate reporting and compliance with the specified requirements.

Shipment of PT Item

Dispatch of the PT Item is planned on 2 March 2026.

The PT items will be packed into thermo-boxes with dry ice and shipped from Germany via DHL Express to all participants. Before dispatch, a reminder will be sent by email to the participating laboratories.

Participating laboratories are responsible for ensuring the successful receipt of their package. They should inform the organizers of any public holidays in their country or region during the shipment week and must arrange for the package to be received, even if the laboratory is closed.

IMPORTANT:

PT participants are responsible for facilitating prompt customs clearance.

If the shipment is delayed at customs or if any other unusual delays occur in the recipient’s country, DHL will notify the participant. In such cases, participants are strongly advised to contact their local DHL Express office and/or customs authorities to speed up clearance and delivery, or to ensure that the package is stored in a freezer while the delay is resolved.

If customs clearance or shipping issues are expected, **participants should provide the organisers in advance with all required documents required to ensure smooth customs processing to ensure smooth customs processing (preferably by 20 February)**. Such documents are to be either physically attached to the package and/or uploaded in the system of the shipping company and may include the following:

- permission to import organic material** for scientific (analytical) purposes,
- any information highlighting the **special status of the shipment** (for scientific purposes) that would help to categorize the shipment in order to speed-up or prioritize the clearance process
- instructions indicating that the package must be **stored in a freezer** in the event of a delay during transport or customs clearance (preferably in the **local language**).
- Any **relevant contact information** (e.g. phone numbers) that were not already submitted during registration.

Participants should also inform the organisers in advance if their country requires a **veterinary health certificate** for the import of the PT material (“cow’s milk”). If the required veterinary health certificate cannot be obtained, shipment of the PT item and participation in the proficiency test may be cancelled.

Once the waybill has been issued and the parcel has been collected and registered in the DHL tracking system, DHL will inform the main PT contact person of the shipment tracking number. Participants can track their parcels online and are responsible for making all necessary arrangements to receive the shipment upon delivery.

Instructions on Handling the PT Item

Upon arrival, **the PT item should be kept deeply frozen (at –18 °C or lower)** until analysis to prevent any potential deterioration or spoilage of the sample and to minimize analyte losses.

The test item was prepared and shipped in a manner that allows analytical portions to be taken directly, without the need for additional milling or thawing. If ice crystals are observed or if there are indications that the material thawed during transport, it is recommended to thoroughly mix the entire sample before taking analytical portions. During mixing, temperatures should be kept as low as possible to prevent the potential loss of unstable pesticides.

Participating laboratories are encouraged to use their routine standard operating procedures for extraction, clean-up, and analytical measurement, as well as their own reference standards for identification and quantification. Laboratories may also apply methods that are not yet part of their routine workflow, for example, if they are in the process of introducing or validating them. In such cases, the limited experience with the method and the fact that the analytes are not part of the routine scope should be indicated in the [EUPT-SRM21 Webtool](#).

NOTE ON THE ANALYSIS OF ALPHA-CYPERMETHRIN:

- In the case of alpha-cypermethrin the participants may use any method they wish.
- The participants may be asked to **provide details on the methodology within the frame of a post-PT survey**.
- If deemed necessary the **organizers may request from labs to run a follow-up analysis using a prescribed procedure**.

Homogeneity tests will be performed using 2 g or **10 g** portions, depending on the analyte. Since sub-sampling variability increases as the analytical portion size decreases, sufficient homogeneity can only be ensured for sample portions approximately equal to or larger than the portion size used in the homogeneity test.

NEW:

Analytical portions can be taken directly, without additional milling or thawing. (18.02.2026)

NEW:

Additional Information on the analysis of alpha-cypermethrin. (18.02.2026)

Changed:

Portion size for the homogeneity test: 2 or 10 g. (18.02.2026)

Results Submission Webtool

Sample receipt acknowledgement, analytical results and method information are to be submitted via the [EUPT-SRM21 Webtool](#):

- **Sample receipt acknowledgement: From 03 March till 11 March, 2026.**
- **Reporting of result submission and method information: 10 March – 31 March 11:00 pm (23 h) CEST.**
- **Reporting of additional information on methods, especially for tentatively false negative results: 1 – 9 April, 2026.**

Guidance on submitting PT results using the [EUPT-SRM21 Webtool](#) will be provided to participants in due course and linked in the info box on the webtool. **Participants are strongly encouraged to read it carefully before submitting their results.**

– Login Credentials and Lab code

To access the [EUPT-SRM21 Webtool](#), participants must use their personal login credentials (username and password). Only individuals listed as the Main or Alternative Contact Person for the EUPT-SRM21 will have access to this PT within the webtool. Around the time of shipment, DTU will send a personalized username to each participant via email.

Participants can set or change their personalized passwords using the “Guest.dtu.dk users can change their password [here](#)” option on the webtool’s start page. **If you have forgotten your password** click on “[Forgot password](#)” within “the same page. If the menu appears in Danish language use the dropdown function on the top-right to change it to **English**.

You will receive **your lab’s unique code for the EUPT-SRM21** within the webtool.

– Acknowledgement of Package Receipt and Acceptance of PT Item

Once the laboratory has received the PT item, it must report to the organiser via the [EUPT-SRM21 Webtool](#) (→ **Sample Receipt Form**) the date of receipt, the condition of the package, the condition of the PT item upon arrival, and any other comments regarding the test material. **In case of any issues with the package receipt, sample condition, or in case of any complaints this related, the Sample Receipt Form should be completed as soon as possible, and no later than 6 March at 11:00 am CET**, to allow corrective actions to be taken promptly. If a laboratory does not respond by this deadline, the organisers will assume that the PT item has been received and accepted.

If participants notice any delays, they should track their parcels using the shipping company’s tracking number, which will be provided via e-mail. If needed they should intervene with the shipping company, the customs, or the contact organisers to trigger actions that will speed up the delivery. **Any participant who has not received the PT item by the afternoon of Thursday, 5 March, must inform the organiser via e-mail (EURL-SRM@cvas.bwl.de) as soon as possible, and no later than 6 March at 11:00 am CET.** The organiser will consult the shipping company to locate the package and decide on further actions, such as arranging a replacement shipment if necessary.

Please note that **acceptance of the PT sample is a prerequisite for accessing the results submission area**. The information entered in the receipt form can be revised up until the results submission deadline at 11:00 pm (23:00 h) CEST on 31 March.

– Reporting of Results

To report their results, participants must access the [EUPT-SRM21 Webtool](#). Detailed guidance on submitting PT results will be provided to the participants in due course and linked in the info box on the [EUPT-SRM21 Webtool](#).

All results must be submitted through the webtool by 31 March 2026, 11:00 pm (CEST).

After this deadline, the pages for “scope, detected, and results” will no longer be accessible, and any results submitted afterwards cannot be accepted.

Before entering your results, please carefully review the [EUPT-SRM21 Target Pesticides List](#) to **check the actual residue definitions applicable to this PT**. Note that compound names in the webtool may appear in abbreviated forms and may differ slightly from those in the Target Pesticides List.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON OUTSOURCING OF ANALYSES

If routine procedures require the analysis of certain compounds to be performed by another laboratory*, this must be clearly communicated to the organisers. **Participants are required to inform the organisers of any outsourced analyses and provide details of the laboratories that conducted them. This does not apply if copper was analyzed by a subsection of the laboratory that routinely runs the copper analyses anyway.**

Information about outsourced analyses ensures transparency and allows the organisers to identify cases where the results of a participant originate from a different institution (which would need to be highlighted in the certificate), or the cases where results submitted by different participants originate from a single source (which must be considered when establishing the assigned value).

* This also applies to cases where the analysing laboratory is part of the same institution/company but operates a **separate quality control system**.

– Reporting of Information on the Analytical Methodologies Applied

Under “**Edit methods**” within the [EUPT-SRM21 Webtool](#) the participating laboratories have to provide information on the method used to analyse the analytes detected in the PT Item. This information is useful when it comes to localising method-related bias or individual error sources.

Detailed instructions on how to fill-in the columns are provided within the [Guideline for Results Submission](#) that will be distributed to all participants in due time. A link to this guideline can also be found in the info-box on the Webtool. **For quick information** please read the **mouse-over messages** popping-up if you position your mouse pointer over the desired field name in the table header for a few seconds.

Note: To complete your final submission in the [EUPT-SRM21 Webtool](#), all required fields must be filled-in.

If entries in required fields within the Result Submission Webtool are missing, you will not be able to proceed with the final submission. Therefore, please fill-in your method information in due time to be on the safe side.

You may update your method details during the "Additional Information" period, which will expectedly run from 1 to 9 April 2026, following the results submission deadline.

– Submission of Results

Once you have entered all your results and verified their accuracy, you must submit them by clicking the “Final Submission” button before the submission deadline. The button can be found at the bottom of each page. To prevent accidental submissions, a confirmation will be requested after clicking.

IMPORTANT:

Without completing the “Final Submission,” your results and method information will not be included in the evaluation. After submitting, you will no longer be able to make any changes to your data.

– Additional Information

After the results submission deadline, **if a laboratory has obtained a tentatively false negative result**, it will be asked to **provide the method information** for that analyte within the 7 working-day period from 1 to 9 April 2026.

Participants can also use this period to **update method information** for any other analytes.

Establishment of Assigned Values (AVs)

In addition to Official Laboratories (OfLs) from EU Member States and EFTA countries, a limited number of laboratories from EU candidate countries and third countries are also allowed to participate in this exercise. For the purpose of establishing AVs, only results submitted by OfLs from EU and EFTA countries are typically considered. Participants having followed procedures that are considered biased may be excluded from the population that is used for establishing the AV. Accurate submission of method information is thus of high importance.

Subcontracting/External Services

The following tasks are carried out by the EURL-CF, Lyngby, Denmark:

- a) Generation of login credentials
- b) Assignment of laboratory codes for this PT
- c) Programming and administration of the EUPT-SRM21 result submission website

Follow-up Actions

Following the distribution of the Preliminary Report for EUPT-SRM21, laboratories that have submitted poor results based on the preliminary evaluation conducted by this stage (absolute z-scores > 2, false negatives, or false positives) will be asked to investigate the cause of the poor performance and report to their findings and any corrective actions to the organiser. This information may be shared with the corresponding NRL-SRMs upon request. All EUPT-SRM21 participants are welcome to contact the EURL-SRM for technical assistance.

During the results evaluation, the organiser may request laboratories to provide additional methodological information relevant to the evaluation and interpretation of PT results.

NRLs should take note of the “[Protocol for management of underperformance in comparative testing and/or lack of collaboration of NRLs](#)” issued by DG-SANTE.

Documents

All documents related to the EUPT–SRM21 are available on the [EUPT-SRM21 Website](#) and the [EURL-Document Repository \(CIRCA-BC platform\)](#).

For any questions, please contact the organisers EURL-SRM@cvas.bwl.de

IMPORTANT:

Please check the [EUPT-SRM21 Website](#) before starting your analysis **to ensure that you have the latest versions of all documents**. Participants will be informed by e-mail in case of any major updates.

Participation Fees and Payment Details

To cover the costs of production, handling, and shipment of the PT materials, the following fees will be charged per unit of the PT item:

- OfLs (including NRLs) from EU countries, EU-candidate countries and EFTA countries: 249 €
- Labs based in third countries: 399 €

After shipment, the EURL-SRM will issue a PDF invoice addressed to the “invoice address” provided in the registration form. The invoice will be sent to the invoice contact person as well as to the PT contact persons listed in the registration form. If payment is handled by another department or institution, the recipient of the invoice should forward it promptly to the responsible party. **Payment details are provided on the invoice**. Participants are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of the invoice information submitted during registration and for complying with their internal payment requirements.

As stated in the [General EUPT Protocol](#):

- 1) Every laboratory that has registered for EUPT-SRM21 and received the PT material in good condition must pay the full fee, regardless of whether results are not submitted. This includes cases where a laboratory finds that none of the compounds it targeted in the PT are present at quantifiable levels, or if it cannot perform any analyses or submit results for any reason.
- 2) Invoices will be issued digitally in PDF format only, without an electronic signature. If, due to local legal requirements, a laboratory requires an electronic invoice (e.g., a certified or signed XML e-invoice, or a specific billing platform), it must provide the PT organisers with a suitable, free tool to generate the required e-invoice and provide full support if the tool requires a language other than English. Otherwise, the organisers will not issue an e-invoice. Additional charges may apply for this service depending on the extra workload incurred.
- 3) Additional costs may also occur if extra services are requested related to payment, such as completing additional paperwork or generating a modified invoice to correct or include missing information from registration.
- 4) The EURLs will not complete any special forms required by a laboratory’s financial or payment office. If such forms are necessary for payment, the laboratory or its payment office must complete them based on the data in the [Financial Identification Note](#) and send the pre-filled forms to the EUPT organisers. The EURLs can provide readily available information for the form but will not provide any personalized/private data. After verification and, if necessary, correction of the information, the EUPT organisers will return the form with signature and stamp.

Payment is expected within 30 days of the invoice issue date, unless otherwise agreed during registration or with the organisers.

If payment cannot be made by this date, participants must contact the organisers with an explanation.

If no payment or proof of payment is received and no explanation is provided, the organisers reserve the right to withhold the participation certificate for the laboratory, to exclude its results and name from the Final EUPT Report, and to refuse participation in future EUPT-SRMs.

Bank Details:

Bank account holder:	Landesoberkasse Baden Wuerttemberg
Bank Name :	Baden Wuerttembergische Bank
IBAN:	DE 02 6005 0101 7495 5301 02
BIC/SWIFT:	SOLADESTXXX
Payee identification text:	See invoice <i>(This number MUST be indicated in the payment!)</i>
VAT of CVUA Stuttgart	DE 811 600 510

Important Payment Instructions:

- **Do not process any payment until you have received the invoice containing the Payee Identification Text.**
- Note: EURL-AO (CVUA Freiburg) and EURL-SRM (CVUA Stuttgart) operate under the same ministry and thus share the same bank account. This is also the reason why the fees are slightly different.
If your laboratory is participating in both proficiency tests (EUPT-SRM21 and EUPT-AO21), please instruct your finance department to **transfer the fee for each PT separately, using the respective Payee Identification Text (invoice number)** provided on each invoice. Payments made without this text may be difficult to allocate to the correct EURL or to any of the EURLs.

Calendar of EUPT-SRM21

(please see https://www.eurl-pesticides.eu/userfiles/file/EurlSRM/EUPT-SRM21_Calendar.pdf)

Target Pesticides List of EUPT-SRM21

(please see https://www.eurl-pesticides.eu/userfiles/file/EurlSRM/EUPT-SRM21_TargetPesticideList.xlsx)

Contact Information

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