



SPECIFIC PROTOCOL

for the 1st EU Proficiency Test on PFAS Pesticides requiring both Single- and Multi Residue Methods EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM (2025)

Introduction

This protocol is complementary to the General Protocol of EU Proficiency Tests (EUPTs) for Pesticide Residues in Food and Feed (11th Edition). This EUPT 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), named “organisers” in the following.

The EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM deals with the analysis of both MRM and SRM-pesticides in tomato homogenate. Participation was voluntary for all National Reference Laboratories as well as for all official EU laboratories (OfLs) involved in the official control of pesticide residues in food or feed of plant origin.

The registration of the labs to the PT took place within the DataPool website.

Communication

On matters concerning the EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM, the organisers will communicate with the participating laboratories via emails to the respective “Main Contact Persons” and “Alternative Contact Person(s)” stated in the EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM registration form. The most important documents related to this PT are available on the [EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM - Website](#).



PT item

This proficiency test is based on the analysis of **tomato homogenate** containing spiked pesticide residues. Unless double amount of material was ordered, each participating laboratory will receive one bottle of PT Item containing approximately 300 g of tomato homogenate with spiked analytes. NO Blank material will be sent to the participants of this PT. Using randomly chosen bottles, the Organisers will check the PT Item to assess whether the analytes meet the criteria for homogeneity and stability over the period of the exercise. Should any issues this regarding come up, the participants will be informed in due time.

Target Analytes and MRLs

The PT Item will contain several analytes from the EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM Target Pesticides List (TPL), which was published together with the [PT-Announcement](#) and the [PT-Calendar](#). Laboratories should read the TPL carefully as it shows how the residues should be reported as well as the Minimum Required Reporting Levels (MRRLs). The MRRL values will be used to help identify false positive and false negative results.

Make sure to download and carefully study the latest version of the TPL before starting the analysis and reporting of results. For this please visit the [EUPT-PFAS-FV/SRM Website](#)

Shipment of Test item

The shipment of the test item will be on 14th October 2025, and will be made at low temperature (with dry ice). The Organiser will try to ensure that all the packages arrive on the same day at each laboratory. An information message will be sent out by e-mail as regards 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, as well as making the necessary arrangements for receiving the shipment, even if the laboratory is closed.

Instructions on Handling the PT Item

Once arrived, the PT Item should be kept deeply frozen (at -18°C or lower) until analysis in order to avoid any possible deterioration/spoilage of the sample material and to minimize analyte losses.

Participating laboratories are recommended 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 purposes. Laboratories may



also employ methods not yet implemented routinely, for example, if they are in the test-phase of implementing them.

Steps to follow

This Proficiency Test will be made up of the following steps:

1. **Participation in this proficiency test is on a voluntary basis.** To participate, each laboratory had to complete the Application Form (<https://www.eurl-pesticides-datapool.eu/Account/LogOn>), before the deadline stipulated in the [Calendar](#). Details on participation costs for EU-OfLs (incl. NRLs) and for other laboratories are given below. Given the limited material available, the registration forms were accepted on a first come first served basis.
2. Laboratories were then sent an e-mail confirming their participation in this exercise and assigning them each a Laboratory Code.
3. The sample delivery to the participant laboratories was set to take place on October 14th, 2025.
4. **The results of this exercise are to be entered into an Excel file provided by the organizer and submitted via e-mail to the organiser (see details below)**
5. The Organiser will evaluate the results received once the deadline for the receipt of results has passed. The Organiser will upload an electronic version of the PT-Report onto the [EUPT-FAS-FV/SRM webpage](#) and will send the electronic copy of the Final Report to each participant laboratory. This report will include information regarding the design of the test, the homogeneity and stability results, a statistical evaluation of the participant's results as well as graphical displays of the results and any conclusions. Further relevant information considered to be of value may also be included.



Test item Receipt

If any laboratory has not received the test item by 17th October 2025, it must inform the Organiser by e-mail (cferrer@ual.es) immediately.

Submission of results:

The results and method information of the PT are to be submitted via an Excel file provided by the Organisers. The completed Excel file is to be sent via e-mail to **by the 10th of November 2025** the following e-mail address: **cferrer@ual.es**.

All analyte concentrations must be expressed in mg/kg together with the associated recovery expressed as a percentage.

The number of significant figures should be:

- Two, for residue levels <0.010 mg/kg (e.g. 0.0086 mg/kg).
- Three, for residue levels ≥ 0.010 mg/kg (e.g. 0.0673, 0.245, 1.32, 10.1 mg/kg).

Results should not be reported where a pesticide was not detected or was detected below the laboratory's LOQ. In both cases, this will be considered as 'ND' (Not Detected). If a pesticide was not sought, it will be considered as 'NA' (Not Analysed). The actual results/residue levels measured must be reported in the numbers format.

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

False Negatives

After the receipt of results, participant laboratories that have reported that they sought for a pesticide considered present in the test item with reporting its presence at a level >MRRL (false negative) will be asked via e-mail about the analytical method used to determine that specific pesticide.



Calendar

ACTIVITY	DATE
Registration period	15 th July 2025 - 25 th August 2025
Specific Protocol published on the Web site.	29 th September 2025 at the latest
Sample distribution.	14 th October 2025
Deadline for receiving results	10 th November 2025 23:30 pm CEST
Preliminary Report: (containing preliminary assigned values and z scores)	December 2025
Final Report uploaded in the website.	August 2026

Cost of test item shipment.

The participation cost was set at **350 € for EU National Reference Laboratories and EU Official Laboratories and at 450 € for the rest of laboratories.** 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 your Laboratory Code in the subject of the bank transfer.

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: Invoice No. or Lab Code



Contact information

EURL-FV

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EURL-SRM

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AGES GmbH, Institute for Food Safety
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QCG: Quality Control Group

AG: Advisory Group