

PROFICIENCY TESTING SCHEMES 2023

THE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Our schemes for FOOD and WATER, that are offered 4 times a year, will include various challenges throughout the year. This is about the use of different strains of target organisms, background flora and varying quantitative levels. For the food schemes, it is also about different matrices through the year.

The hygiene scheme will be offered also in 2023

This scheme will ensure that you have an external quality assessment for the analysis of environmental samples. The scheme consists of a non-pathogenic and/or a pathogenic sample set. The scheme will simulate samples taken from surfaces in a food production or processing environment and will have relevant sample matrix.

Please note that this scheme requires an early registration in December 2022.

Matrix Seafood

The food scheme with seafood as matrix, is recommended for laboratories that analyze seafood regularly. The target organisms in combination with this matrix will be a good supplement to the other food schemes.

Water

The water scheme with pathogenic target organisms; *Salmonella* spp., enteropathogenic *Vibrio* spp. and *Campylobacter* spp., will still be offered in 2023. Please note that a sufficient number of participants is a prerequisite for this program.

Please read the scheme overview together with the registration form to get a full overview of the schemes, frequency, target organisms and matrices.

Why participate in PTs?

- To have the quality of your test results assessed by an external partner
- To identify needs for training, maintain competence and indicate areas of improvement
- To make sure that the laboratory is able to deliver reproducible results to its customers
- To meet the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025. PTs must cover all accredited analyzes if such programs exists

Eurofins offer

- Accredited PT schemes for food, water and hygiene microbiology according to ISO/IEC 17043. An overview of our accredited scope is available [here](#)
- A wide range of target organisms
- Natural food as testing material. The food samples will contain their natural flora, in addition to the inoculated cultures. These samples are designed to challenge you as a laboratory and will be the best tool to assess the quality of your daily analyzes

Overview of FOOD schemes

Description	Available targets
Food Non-pathogens 3 x 25g dry, natural food ingredients Offered 4 times a year	Enumeration of: - Aerobic colony count - Lactic acid bacteria - Contaminating microorganisms <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> - Coliform bacteria - Thermotolerant coliform bacteria <i>Escherichia coli</i> - Moulds - Yeasts - Presumptive <i>Bacillus cereus</i>
Food pathogens 3 x 130g dry, natural food ingredients Offered 4 times a year	Enumeration of: <i>Enterococcus</i> - Coagulase positive <i>Staphylococcus</i> <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> - Anaerobic sulfite reducing bacteria <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> Detection of: <i>Salmonella</i> spp. <i>Listeria</i> spp. <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> <i>Escherichia coli</i> O157:H7 (stx negative)
Extension pathogens 3 x vials (freeze dried material) Offered 2 times a year	Enumeration of: <i>Campylobacter</i> spp. Detection of: - Enteropathogenic <i>Vibrio</i> spp. (<i>V. cholera</i> and <i>V. parahaemolyticus</i>) <i>Campylobacter</i> spp.
Target organisms for seafood 2 x 40g dry, natural food ingredients Offered once a year	Enumeration of: - Aerobic colony count - H₂S producing bacteria - Coliform bacteria <i>Escherichia coli</i> - Coagulase positive <i>Staphylococcus</i> - Anaerobic sulfite reducing bacteria

Overview of WATER schemes

Description	Available targets
Target organisms for all types of water* 3 x vials (freeze dried material) Offered 4 times a year	Enumeration of: • Culturable microorganisms (22°C and 36°C) • Coliform bacteria • Thermotolerant coliform bacteria • <i>Escherichia coli</i> • Intestinal enterococci • <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> • <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> • Moulds • Yeasts • Coagulase positive <i>Staphylococcus</i>
Water pathogens** 3 x vials (freeze dried material) Offered once a year	Detection of (by filtration): • <i>Salmonella</i> spp. • <i>Campylobacter</i> spp. • Enteropathogenic <i>Vibrio</i> spp. (<i>V. cholera</i> and <i>V. parahaemolyticus</i>)

**Pseudomonas* spp. will not be offered in 2023

**Sufficient number of participants is a prerequisite to provide the program.

Overview of HYGIENE schemes

Description	Available targets
Hygiene Non-pathogens 2 samples (swab) Offered once a year	Enumeration of: • Aerobic colony count • <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> • Coliform bacteria • <i>Escherichia coli</i> • Moulds • Yeasts Detection of: • <i>Escherichia coli</i>
Hygiene Pathogens 2 samples (cloth) Offered once a year	Detection of: • <i>Salmonella</i> spp. • <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> • Coagulase positive <i>Staphylococcus</i>

For General Terms, please visit our website eurofins.no.