

Terms and conditions of sale for proficiency tests

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PURPOSE

This document provides the information required to participate in proficiency tests organised by the French Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Authority (ASNR) at environmental analysis and metrology department (SAME). This information covers the main commitments of the ASNR, the presentation of the tests, the conditions for registration, the routing of test entities and the methods of communication with participants.

ASNR'S KEY COMMITMENTS

ASNR is committed to carrying out the planned proficiency tests, regardless of the number of participants.

Accreditation

SAME is accredited by the Laboratoires section of COFRAC in accordance with the LAB CIL REF 02 standard and the NF EN ISO/CEI 17043 under accreditation number 1-7436 for the organization of proficiency test (scope available at www.cofrac.fr).

Please note that some matrix/determination pairs are not included in the scope of accreditation. Please refer to the test presentation sheets and proficiency test reports for more information on accreditation.

Confidentiality

The confidentiality of participants' identities is preserved by the following privacy measures:

- Each participant will be allocated a random code that is known only to them and available in the CILEI laboratory area.
- Proficiency testing coordinators will only have restricted access to the CILEI website.
- Please note that access to computerized proficiency testing data is restricted for personnel involved in organizing the test.
- Participating laboratories are at liberty to choose whether or not to appear on the list of participants.

Please note that confidentiality does not apply to the various prescribers (ASNR, DGS, DGAL), who have access to participants' identities in order to facilitate exchanges relating to the issue of approvals.

The results of the proficiency test may be used for internal purposes by ASNR departments, without breaching confidentiality obligations concerning the identity of participants.

Scope of proficiency testing

The proficiency testing campaigns proposed by SAME meet the needs of laboratories measuring radioactivity in environmental samples, water intended for human consumption and food intended for human or animal consumption.

A proficiency test may cover one or more test items or one or more determinations.

Deliverable

On completion of the proficiency test, the organizer will provide the participating laboratory with a final document, known as the "proficiency test report".

The organizer authorizes the participating laboratories to reproduce in full the proficiency test reports in which they have participated.

Participating laboratories are not authorized to use the COFRAC accreditation mark other than to reproduce the proficiency test reports in full.

PRESENTATION OF PROFICIENCY TESTS

A test presentation sheet will be published on the CILEI website when the test begins. This sheet describes the test and sets out the conditions for participation. To consult this sheet, interested laboratories must first create a laboratory space on the CILEI website.

REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR PROFICIENCY TESTING

Laboratories may register for proficiency testing at any time during the year. They agree to pay the costs and accept the conditions of participation described in the test presentation sheet.

Once registration for a proficiency test has been completed, laboratories may not withdraw and request a refund.

In case of registration after the deadline specified in the presentation sheet, and after agreement by the ASNR on the number of test units prepared, a financial surcharge may be applied if the test units have already been sent.

OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTICIPANTS

By agreeing to participate in proficiency testing, each laboratory undertakes not to communicate its results to other participating laboratories and to demonstrate that the values submitted to the ASNR are true measurement results. The ASNR reserves the right to investigate any suspicion of collusion or falsification of results.

DELIVERY OF TEST ITEMS

ASNR uses the services of a carrier who guarantees tracking of deliveries. However, ASNR cannot be held responsible in the event of labor disputes, malfunctions attributable to the laboratories or force majeure (bad weather, etc.).

COMMUNICATION WITH PARTICIPANTS

All communication with the organiser must be made by e-mail to irsn.essais-interlaboratoires@irsn.fr or by telephone (01.30.15.52.88) or via the CILEI website. All telephone requests must be confirmed in writing (e-mail or letter).

Laboratories will be informed about the progress of the proficiency tests by e-mail. Laboratories are responsible for following the progress of the test on the CILEI website and for responding to reminders.

Participants will be informed of any changes in the design or operation of the proficiency testing scheme.

No additional technical information on the manufacture, composition of test items or methods used will be provided before the proficiency test report is sent.

Complaints and requests for redress should be sent by email to: irsn.essais-interlaboratoires@asnr.fr and will be dealt with by the test coordinators. A complaint is an expression of dissatisfaction (partial or total) during or after the performance of a test.

Following the review of their accreditation file by the prescribing authorities, laboratories whose results exceed the performance acceptance criteria may request an interlaboratory comparison. This request must be made in writing. The organiser will examine the feasibility of the request and, if it is feasible, will make a technical and financial proposal.