AGLAE 2025

CATALOGUE OF EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Medical biology – Hospital hygiene

Water microbiology

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Content

New in 2025 and special features	2
EQA in the fields of medical biology, hospital hygiene and water microbiology	3
Participate in AGLAE's External Quality Control	4
Additional services	5
Programmes' description: content, caption, glossary of the matrices	6
Description of the programmes, fees	7 - 47
Medical biology	7 - 23
Waters for medical use	24 - 30
Water microbiology	31 - 46
General conditions of registration for the proficiency tests	47 - 48

New in 2025 and special features

New EQA / New PTS

Medical biology:

84A *Clostridium difficile* in stool

131 Manual cytology - Approach to uncertainty of measurements

Water microbiology:

39 Vegetative cells and spores of *Clostridium perfringens* in clean waters

New in some EQA

(introduced in programmes existing in 2024)

Increase to 2 EQA / year:

118 Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by diffusion - disk method

119 Screening for *Streptococcus agalactiae* or streptococcus B

Possible assessment of several technicians / techniques, report of referent results and up to 5 additional results:

80A Urinary antigens - *Legionella*

80B Urinary antigens - pneumococcus

External Quality Assessments in medical biology

AGLAE provides some EQA enabling the **check of the analytical phase for each biological sample (matrix)** and other EQA oriented towards the **control of some critical steps** (sub-process).

Should there be any differences between the French and English versions of this document, the French version shall prevail.

EQA in the fields of medical biology, hospital hygiene and water microbiology

⇨ *Click on the programme's name to read its description*

Medical biology	page
80 Cytobacteriology of urines	8
80A Urinary antigens - *Legionella*	9
80B Urinary antigens - pneumococcus	10
84 Bacteriology of stool: culture and PCR	11
84A *Clostridium difficile* in stool New	12
85 Blood culture - bacteraemia – Complete analysis: culture and PCR	13
85A Blood culture - qualitative culture	14
87 Cytobacteriology of the cerebrospinal fluid - Bacteriology: culture and PCR	15
88 Bacteriology of sputum	16
89 Blood culture - fungaemia: culture and PCR	17
119 Screening for *Streptococcus agalactiae* or streptococcus B	18
Control of some critical steps (sub-process)	page
117 Bacteriology - Microscopic examination **in neutral solution** - Wet mount and Gram stain	19
117A Bacteraemia - Microscopic examination **in blood** - Wet mount and Gram stain	20
118 Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by diffusion - disk method	21
118A Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by diffusion - gradient method (MIC strips)	22
131 Manual cytology - Approach to measurement uncertainties New	23

Waters for medical use	page
82 Endotoxins in waters as described in the pharmacopoeia	25
83A Microbiology in waters similar to dialysate	26
83B Microbiology in waters similar to endoscope verification solutions	27
86 Indicator germs by filtration in bacteriologically controlled waters	28
86A Non-tuberculous mycobacteria in waters for medical use	29
86B Indicator germs in waters similar to pharmaceutical process waters	30

Water microbiology	page
11 Microbial indicators of faecal contamination by MPN method	32
30 Microbiology in clean waters	33
30A Spores of sulfite-reducing anaerobes in fresh waters and waste waters	35
31 *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and pathogenic staphylococci in clean waters	36
31A Pathogenic staphylococci in saline waters	37
32 *Legionella* and *Legionella pneumophila* in clean waters by culture	38
33 *Legionella* and *Legionella pneumophila* in waste waters by culture	39
35 *Legionella* and *Legionella pneumophila* in clean waters by PCR	40
36 *Legionella* and *Legionella pneumophila* in waste waters by PCR	41
37 *Salmonella* in fresh waters	42
38 Yeasts in clean waters	43
38A Mould in clean waters	44
39 Vegetative cells and spores of *Clostridium perfringens* New	45
130 Bacteriophages in waters	46

In red: modifications compared to the 2024 scheme.

Conduct of the programmes subject to a sufficient number of participants.

For each programme's description, you will find the technical content of the test: volumes, parameters, matrices, delivery month…
The samples' delivery months are given for information only.

Note that transport costs are not included in the EQA price and are invoiced in addition.

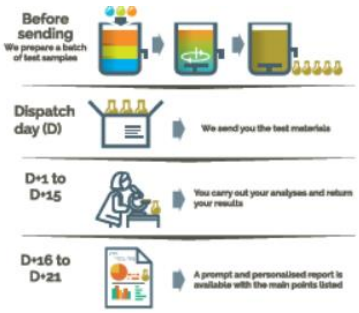
Find the programmes related to Cosmetics - Environment in the second catalogue of AGLAE's tests

Participate in AGLAE's External Quality Control

A WAY OF WORKING THAT PROVIDES YOU WITH THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF RESULTS WITH CONFIDENTIALITY AND IMPARTIALITY

Each step of the way, AGLAE is there supporting you.

REGISTRATIONS FOR PROFICIENCY TESTING ARE DONE KNOWING THE WHOLE PROCESS, WITH A DETAILED AND RIGOUROUS SCHEDULE



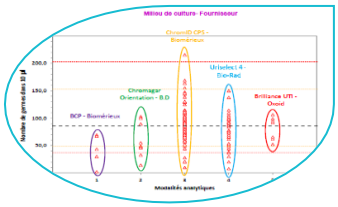
- ✓ The number of evaluations per year for each parameter is specified in the catalogue.
- ✓ AGLAE uses "express" shipments for your samples and makes sure of their distribution to your laboratory.
- ✓ A sufficient delay for reporting your analytical results.
- ✓ Via your member area, **enter your results and find instructions, assigned codes, reports, summaries of your results, certificate of participation**…

THE OPTIMISATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT FOR YOUR LABORATORY

You receive test samples close to those analysed in routine (materials ready for analysis) which enable you to validate the analytical chain from the receipt of the sample to the report of the result.

You have a better visibility of potential anomalies through:

- ✓ An appropriate test design (duplicate samples, repeated measurements),
- ✓ A large number of participants: around 200 laboratories for the blood culture (complete analysis) and 110 for the cytobacteriology of urines.



AGLAE's detailed study:

- ✓ Influence of the analytical methods, manufacturers (equipment and consumables)? Differences between pair groups? … factors that we study to help you identify the origin of any anomalies.
- ✓ For waters intended for medical use and water microbiology, estimation of your own uncertainties in microbiology.
- ✓ In medical biology, for some specific strains, the expertise of the French Reference Centre concerned enables you to compare your results with those of an entity recognised by the profession.
- ✓ **A personalized report validated by experts of the field** for most tests (list of the members at the end of the report).

ATTRACTIVE DISCOUNTS, PAYMENT CONDITIONS MADE EASIER

- Choose among the various programmes and benefit from discounts up to 15%,
- A possible payment in 2 or 3 folds depending on the amount your participation.
- Payment possible by cheque (in €), bank transfer, credit card on https://www.helloasso.com/associations/a-g-l-a-e/paiements/aglae

Amount of your invoice *(excluding transport cost)*	Discount
3000 ≤ Amount < 6000 € excl. VAT	**5%**
6000 ≤ Amount < 9000 € excl. VAT	**10%**
Amount ≥ 9000 € excl. VAT	**15%**

Additional services

ADDITIONAL TEST SAMPLES TO TEST ANOTHER METHOD, EVALUATE A TECHNICIAN

- ✓ Test samples available for almost all the tests at half price.
- ✓ Besides your usual distribution, you receive one (or several) additional parcel(s).
- ✓ The results of these samples are not statistically processed by AGLAE but for most tests you get a sheet **in your results file** where to **calculate your z-score**. Note that this sheet can also be used in case of unit error, incorrect results' report, etc.

⇒ *Check the **list of samples and their price on your Member Area** (Downloads / Catalogues) and contact us to receive a quote. These additional samples need to be ordered after you registration for the test and up to 2 weeks before the shipment.*

TRAINING SESSIONS IN MICROBIOLOGY: ONE TOPIC POSSIBLY PROVIDED IN ENGLISH

Two-day on-line session to become operational for:

- ✓ Characterising a microbiological method according to ISO 13843 in order to validate it

⇒ *Should you be interested in such a session, please get back to us.*

CUSTOMIZED SERVICE: 'PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS OF MICROBIOLOGICAL METHODS'

Do you need to characterise specific methods?

AGLAE can provide you support to establish methods performance characteristics, in conformity with ISO 13843*. Benefit from AGLAE's technical and statistical experience to validate your microbiological method.

* Water quality — Requirements for establishing performance characteristics of quantitative microbiological methods

⇒ *Should you have such needs, contact us to study your request together and issue a quote.*

SUMMARY OF YOUR RESULTS FOR WATER MICROBIOLOGY AND WATER FOR MEDICAL USE TESTS

Gather at any time your results and performance: for a selected period, your results are grouped in an Excel file; this is a tool to support you in your Internal Quality Control, your audits…

Programmes' description

One programme includes from 1 to 4 proficiency tests (= rounds).
Prices specified in the catalogue are for the complete programme, which corresponds to several rounds most of the time.
When purchasing a complete programme, the price per test is lower.

Caption

This logo shows that the programme is accredited by LABORATORIES section in compliance with ISO/IEC 17043.

Glossary of the matrices used

Name of the matrix for **environmental biology**	**Below the matrices that can be used, alone or mixed, to comply with the representativity of the specified matrix**									
	public drinking waters	bottled waters	waters from rivers or lakes	water from well or drill	waste waters from WWTP	sea water	domestic hot waters	water from industrial origin	swimming pool waters	Synthetic waters
Bathing freshwaters			X							
Bathing saline waters						X				
Saline waters						X				X
Surface waters Fresh waters			X							X
Clean waters	X	X		X			X		X	
Waste waters					X					X
Waste waters (for *Legionella* tests)			X non-filterable					X		X

WWTP: Waste Water Treatment Plant

Name of the matrix for **Biology of waters for medical use**	**Below the matrices that can be used, alone or mixed, to comply with the representativity of the specified matrix**		
	Apyrogen sterile distilled water	Deionised water	Water for injectable preparations
Waters for medical use	X	X	X
Pharmaceutical waters	X		X

MEDICAL BIOLOGY

PROGRAMME 80: CYTOBACTERIOLOGY OF URINES

Synthetic urine containing a pathogenic strain for bacteriological analysis and cytological examination (after reconstitution of a concentrate).

€ 392 excl. VAT - total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

113 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE > 10 YEARS

4 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - URINE SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test	25M80.1			25M80.2					25M80.3			25M80.4

Parameters to analyse for each EQA	Number of tubes	Volume per tube	Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
Cytology: enumeration of red and white blood cells	1	7 mL	1
Bacteriology: bacterial count, identification, AST*	2	8 mL	2

*AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Bacteriology:
- Assessment of colony counts and / or abacus according to your practices,
- Assessment of the strain's identification,
- Assignment of discrepancies (minor, major or very major) for antibiotics tested by more than 20 participants,
- Overview of the resistance phenotype and conclusion on the resistance mechanisms.

Cytology:
- Assessment all methods together (z-score and qualitative ranking),
- Assessment per peer group (manual analysis / automated systems Sysmex / automated systems IRIS Beckman / other automated systems subject to the number of users).

SPECIAL FEATURES

Assessment of several technicians / several techniques: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results (cytology, identification and semi-quantitative enumeration).

Other recommended External Quality Assessments:

- **Programme 117** 'Bacteriology - Microscopic examination in neutral solution - Wet mount and Gram stain'
- **Programme 80A** 'Urinary antigens - *Legionella*'
- **Programme 80B** 'Urinary antigens - pneumococcus'
- **Programme 131** 'Manual cytology – Approach to measurement uncertainties'

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Bacteriology, cytology	$D_0 + 1$

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 80A: URINARY ANTIGENS - *LEGIONELLA*

Detection using urine antigen tests for Legionella pneumophila serogroup 1 (positive or negative) on several batches presenting different concentration levels.

€ 192 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

63 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 50 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - URINE SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test	**25M80A.1**						**25M80A.2**					

Parameters to analyse for each EQA	Number of tubes	Volume per tube	Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
Detection of *Legionella pneumophila* urinary antigens	3	5 ml	1

DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA

3 tubes with different levels of bacterial load are to be analysed.
The targets are *Legionella pneumophila* serogroup 1 strains only.
The reading methods (manual (by eye) or automatic) are systematically compared and taken into account in the assessment.

Performance assessed with the assignment of a “qualitative ranking” per EQA.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Assessment of several technicians / several techniques: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results.

Other recommended External Quality Assessment:
↳ **Programme 80B** ‘Urinary antigens – pneumococcus’

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT): time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)	
Detection of *Legionella pneumophila* urinary antigens	D_0 + 1

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 80B: URINARY ANTIGENS - PNEUMOCOCCUS

Detection using urine antigen tests for pneumococcus (positive or negative) on several batches presenting different concentration levels.

€ 194 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

50 participants in 2024 – EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 50 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - URINE SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	**4**	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	**12**
Test				**25M80B.1**								**25M80B.2**

Parameters to analyse for each EQA	Number of tubes	Volume per tube	Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
Detection of pneumococcal urinary antigens	3	5 ml	1

DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA

3 tubes with different levels of bacterial load are to be analysed.
The reading methods (manual (by eye) or automatic) are systematically compared and taken into account in the assessment.

Performance assessed with the assignment of a “qualitative ranking” per EQA.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Assessment of several technicians / several techniques: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results.

Other recommended External Quality Assessment:
↳ **Programme 80A** ‘Urinary antigens – Legionella’

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Detection of pneumococcal urinary antigens	$D_0 + 1$

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 84: BACTERIOLOGY OF STOOL: CULTURE AND PCR

Synthetic stool containing a pathogenic strain and commensal flora for bacteriological analysis.

cofrac COMPARAISONS INTERLABORATOIRES Accreditation n°1-1664 Scope available on www.cofrac.fr

€ 607 excl. VAT - total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

39 participants in 2024 – EXPERIENCE > 10 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 80 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

4 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - STOOL SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test	25M84.1					25M84.2			25M84.3			25M84.4

Parameters to analyse for each EQA	Number of tubes	Quantity per tube	Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
Bacteriology: detection and identification of the pathogenic bacterial strain, AST*	1	a few grams	1

*AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Bacteriology: assessment of the strain's identification

AST: assignment of discrepancies (minor, major or very major) for antibiotics tested by more than 20 participants, overview of the resistance phenotype and conclusion on the resistance mechanisms

Assessment of the pathogen's detection by PCR [(1)]. The materials sent imitate biological samples containing strains that reflect daily practice.

[(1)] parameter not covered by accreditation (see general conditions of registration)

SPECIAL FEATURES

Other recommended External Quality Assessments:

- **Programme 117** 'Bacteriology - Microscopic examination in neutral solution - Wet mount and Gram stain'
- **Programme 84A** '*Clostridium difficile* in stool'

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Bacteriology	$D_0 + 1$

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 84A: *CLOSTRIDIUM DIFFICILE* IN STOOL

Synthetic diarrhoeal stool for Clostridium difficile detection

€ 152 excl. VAT - total amount for 1 test (excluding transport costs)

New in 2025

1 SHIPMENT / YEAR - STOOLS SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	**6**	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test						**25M84A.1**						

Parameters to analyse for each EQA	Number of tube	Quantity per tube	Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
Clostridium difficile and toxins detection	3	a few grams	1

DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

3 tubes with different levels of bacterial load are to be analysed.

Testing for *Clostridium difficile* and/or toxins A and B using various methods:
- Molecular methods (PCR or isothermal amplifications),
- GDH detection using enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays or chromatographic immunosorbent assays,
- Detection of toxins using enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays or chromatographic immunosorbent assays,
- Culture (results may not be evaluated if the number of results is too low).

Performance evaluation with the assignment of a “qualitative ranking”.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Assessment of several technicians / several techniques: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results.

Other recommended External Quality Assessments:

↳ **Programme 84** ‘Bacteriology of stool’: culture and PCR’

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT): time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)	
Clostridium difficile and toxins	$D_0 + 1$

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 85: BLOOD CULTURE – BACTERAEMIA
COMPLETE ANALYSIS: CULTURE AND PCR

Human blood containing a pathogenic strain for microbiological analysis.

cofrac COMPARAISONS INTERLABORATOIRES Accreditation n°1-1664 Scope available on www.cofrac.fr

€ 553 excl. VAT - total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

194 participants in 2024 – EXPERIENCE > 10 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 70 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

4 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - BLOOD SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	**2**	3	4	5	**6**	7	8	**9**	10	**11**	12
Test		**25M85.1**				**25M85.2**			**25M85.3**		**25M85.4**	

Parameters to analyse for each EQA	Number of tubes	Volume per tube	Number of measurements per parameter and per sample
Bacteraemia: detection, identification, AST*	2 tubes = 1 sample	10 mL	1 (aerobic) and 1 (anaerobic)

*AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Detection of the strain, assessment of the strain's identification and statistical appraisal of blood culture time-to-positivity[1].

AST: assignment of discrepancies (minor, major or very major) for antibiotics tested by more than 20 participants, overview of the resistance phenotype and conclusion on the resistance mechanisms.

Assessment of the strain's detection by PCR [1]. The materials sent imitate biological samples containing strains that reflect daily practice.

[1] parameter not covered by accreditation (see general conditions of registration)

SPECIAL FEATURES

EQA incompatible with the Rapid method for Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (RAST) directly from positive blood culture bottles.

Other recommended proficiency tests:
- **Programme 89** 'Blood culture – fungaemia: culture and PCR'
- **Programme 85A** 'Blood culture - qualitative culture'
- **Programme 117A** 'Bacteraemia - Microscopic examination in blood - Wet mount and Gram stain'

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Bacteraemia	$D_0 + 1$

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 85A: BLOOD CULTURE - QUALITATIVE CULTURE

Blood containing a pathogenic strain for the detection of a bacteraemia or fungaemia (presence/absence).

cofrac COMPARAISONS INTERLABORATOIRES Accreditation n°1-1664 Scope available on www.cofrac.fr

€ 284 excl. VAT - total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

59 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE: 4 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 40 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

4 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - BLOOD SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	**2**	3	4	5	**6**	7	**8**	9	10	**11**	12
Test		**25M85A.1**				**25M85A.2**		**25M85A.3**			**25M85A.4**	

Parameters to analyse for each EQA	Number of tubes	Volume par tube	Number of measurements per parameter and per sample
Bacteraemia/ fungaemia : detection of bacterial or fungal growth	4 tubes: 2 tubes per sample	10 mL	1 (aerobic) and 1 (anaerobic)

DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA

Two batches of samples are sent out to validate the detection of bacterial or fungal growth but also to prove the control of non-contamination of the samples.

A statistical appraisal of blood culture time-to-positivity is assigned[1].

[1] parameter not covered by accreditation (see general conditions of registration)

SPECIAL FEATURES

Other recommended External Quality Assessments:

- **Programme 89** 'Blood culture - fungaemia: culture and PCR'
- **Programme 85** 'Blood culture - bacteraemia - complete analysis: culture and PCR'
- **Programme 117** 'Bacteriology - Microscopic examination in neutral solution - Wet mount and Gram stain'
- **Programme 117A** 'Bacteraemia - Microscopic examination in blood - Wet mount and Gram stain'

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Bacteraemia/ fungaemia	D_0 + 1

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 87: CYTOBACTERIOLOGY OF THE CEREBROSPINAL FLUID
BACTERIOLOGY: CULTURE AND PCR

Synthetic cerebrospinal fluid containing a pathogenic strain for bacteriological analysis and cytological examination (after reconstitution of a concentrate).

€ 306 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

57 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 80 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - CEREBROSPINAL FLUID SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	**2**	3	4	5	6	7	8	**9**	10	11	12
Test		**25M87.1**							**25M87.2**			

Parameters to analyse for each EQA	Number of tubes	Volume par tube	Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
Cytology: enumeration of red and white blood cells	2	2 mL	2
Bacteriology: bacterial count, identification and AST*	2	2 mL	2

*AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English

Bacteriology:
- Enumeration of colonies (z-score and ranking) to check that there is no tendency for underestimation leading to absence of detection at the detection threshold.
- Assessment of the strain's identification.
- Assignment of discrepancies (minor, major, very major) for antibiotics tested by more than 20 participants), restitution of the resistance phenotype and conclusions on resistance mechanisms.

Cytology: assessment all methods together (z-score and ranking).

Assessment of the strain's detection by PCR [1]. The materials sent imitate biological samples containing strains that reflect daily practice.

[1] parameter not covered by accreditation (see general conditions of registration)

SPECIAL FEATURES

Other recommended External Quality Assessment:

- **Programme 117** 'Bacteriology - Microscopic examination in neutral solution - Wet mount and Gram stain'
- **Programme 131** 'Manual cytology – Approach to measurement uncertainties'

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Bacteriology, Cytology	$D_0 + 1$

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 88: BACTERIOLOGY OF SPUTUM

Synthetic sputum containing a pathogenic strain for bacteriological analysis.

€ 266 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

48 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 70 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - EXPECTORATIONS SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	**2**	3	4	5	6	7	8	**9**	10	11	12
Test		**25M88.1**							**25M88.2**			

Parameters to analyse for each EQA	Number of tubes	Volume par tube	Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
Bacteriology: bacterial count, identification and AST*	2	5 mL	2

*AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English

A guidance about the bacteria cultivation will be provided in the instructions of each test.

Evaluation of the bacterial count (z-score and ranking) to assess whether the bacterial load is above or below the significance threshold. The additional step of fluidification can lead to a significant bias that must be controlled.

AST: assignment of discrepancies (minor, major, very major) for antibiotics tested by more than 20 participants), restitution of the resistance phenotype and conclusion on resistance mechanisms.

PARTICULARITIES

Other recommended External Quality Assessments:

- **Programme 117** 'Bacteriology - Microscopic examination in neutral solution - Wet mount and Gram stain'
- **Programme 117A '**Bacteraemia - Microscopic examination in blood - Wet mount and Gram stain'

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Bacteriology	$D_0 + 1$

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 89: BLOOD CULTURE - FUNGAEMIA: CULTURE AND PCR

Human blood containing a pathogenic strain for fungal analysis.

€ 289 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

69 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 75 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - BLOOD SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	**1**	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	**10**	11	12
Test	**25M89.1**									**25M89.2**		

Parameters to analyse for each EQA	Number of tubes	Volume par tube	Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
Fungaemia: detection, identification and antifungal susceptibility testing	2 tubes = 1 sample	10 mL	1 (aerobic) and 1 (anaerobic)

CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Statistical appraisal of blood culture time-to-positivity[1].

Laboratories participating in these EQA should treat the samples with the method implemented in routine. Laboratories process the samples with specific flasks/media or with standard bacteriology flasks both aerobic and anaerobic.

Assessment of the strain's detection by PCR [1]. The materials sent imitate biological samples containing strains that reflect daily practice.

[1] parameter not covered by accreditation (see general conditions of registration)

SPECIAL FEATURES

Other recommended External Quality Assessments:

- **Programme 85** 'Blood culture - bacteraemia - complete analysis : culture and PCR'
- **Programme 85A** 'Blood culture - qualitative culture'

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Fungaemia	$D_0 + 1$

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 119: SCREENING OF *STREPTOCOCCUS AGALACTIAE* OR STREPTOCOCCUS B

Detection of group B streptococcus using culture and/or rapid method from swabs (synthetic matrix) presenting different concentration levels.

€ 191 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

12 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE: 2 YEARS

2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - SWABS SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	**1**	2	3	4	5	6	7	**8**	9	10	11	12
Test	**25M119.1**							**25M119.2**				

Parameters to analyse for each EQA	Number of swabs	Volume per swab	Number of measurements per parameter and per swab
Streptococcus B detection	3	-	1

DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA

3 swabs with different levels of bacterial load are to be analysed.

Performance assessed with the assignment of a “qualitative ranking” of the results obtained by culture or by rapid method (antigens or gene amplification).

Evaluation of the Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by assigning discrepancies (minor, major, very major).

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT): time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)	
Streptococcus B detection	D_0 +1

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 117: BACTERIOLOGY - MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION IN NEUTRAL SOLUTION - WET MOUNT AND GRAM STAIN

Neutral solution containing a strain for microscopic analysis (wet mount and Gram stain)

€ 65 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

46 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE: 3 YEARS

2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - NEUTRAL SOLUTION SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	**1**	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	**9**	10	11	12
Test	**25M117.1**								**25M117.2**			

Parameters to analyse for each EQA	Number of tubes	Volume per tube	Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
Morphology, cell arrangement, mobility, Gram stain and orientation of the bacterial type	1	10 mL	1

CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT

Qualitative assessment of the microscopic examination as a whole (ranking) in order to better evaluate the microscopic observations which must be carried out without an identification test.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Assessment of several technicians / several techniques: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results.

Other recommended External Quality Assessment:

↳ **Programme 117A** 'Bacteraemia - Microscopic examination in blood - Wet mount and Gram stain'

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Morphology, cell arrangement, mobility, Gram stain and orientation of the bacterial type	$D_0 + 1$

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 117A: BACTERAEMIA - MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION IN BLOOD - WET MOUNT AND GRAM STAIN

Human blood containing a strain for microscopic analysis (wet mount and Gram stain)

€ 67 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

17 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE: 2 YEARS

2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - BLOOD SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	**2**	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	**11**	12
Test		**25M117A.1**									**25M117A.2**	

Parameters to analyse for each EQA	Number of tubes	Volume per tube	Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
Morphology, cell arrangement, mobility, Gram stain and orientation of the bacterial type	1	10 mL	1

CONTENTS OF THE EQA REPORT

Qualitative assessment of the microscopic examination as a whole (ranking) in order to better evaluate the microscopic observations which must be carried out without an identification test.

PARTICULARITIES

Assessment of several technicians / several techniques: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results.

Other recommended External Quality Assessment:

↳ **Programme 117** 'Bacteriology - Microscopic examination in neutral solution - Wet mount and Gram stain'

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT): time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)	
Morphology, cell arrangement, mobility, Gram stain and orientation of the bacterial type	D_0 +1

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 118: ANTIMICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING BY DIFFUSION - DISK METHOD

Measurements of inhibition zone diameters and report of raw and interpreted clinical categorisations for each antibiotic tested

€ 190 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

22 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE: 3 YEARS

2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - NEUTRAL SOLUTION SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	**7**	8	9	10	11	**12**
Test							**25M118.1**					**25M118.2**

Parameters to analyse for each EQA	Number of tubes	Volume per tube	Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
Antibiotics: inhibition zone diameters and report of raw and interpreted clinical categorisations	1	10 mL	1

DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Receipt of a neutral solution contaminated with an identified strain, accompanied by a clinical scenario.

Isolation, preparation of the inoculum and implementation of an Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST) by diffusion (list of antibiotics defined by AGLAE).

Global evaluation with:
- Evaluation of clinical categorisations considering the dispersion around the diameter for each antibiotic,
- Evaluation of the measurement of inhibition zone diameters for each antibiotic,
- Evaluation of overall trends to over or underestimate the diameter measurement across all antibiotics.

SPECIAL FEATURES

Assessments provided for several operators or analytical equipment: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results.

Other recommended External Quality Assessment:

↳ **Programme 118A** 'Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by diffusion - gradient method (MIC strips)'

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Antibiotics: inhibition zone diameters, raw and interpreted clinical categorisations	D_0 +1

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 118A: ANTIMICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING BY DIFFUSION – GRADIENT METHOD (MIC STRIPS)

Measurements of inhibition zone diameters and report of raw and interpreted clinical categorisations for each antibiotic tested

€ 128 excl. VAT - total amount for 1 test (excluding transport costs)

25 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE: 2 YEARS

1 SHIPMENT / YEAR - NEUTRAL SOLUTION SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	**9**	10	11	12
Test									**25M118A.1**			

Parameters to analyse for each EQA	Number of tubes	Volume per tube	Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
Antibiotics: Minimum Inhibitory Concentrations (MIC) and report of raw and interpreted clinical categorisations	1	10 mL	1

DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA

Receipt of a neutral solution spiked with a strain of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae**, accompanied by a clinical scenario.

Isolation, preparation of the inoculum and implementation of an Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST) by application of MIC strips (Cefixime – Ceftriaxone – Azithromycin - Ciprofloxacin – Ofloxacin - Gentamicin – Tetracycline).

For each antibiotic tested: reading of the MIC, report of raw and interpreted clinical categorisations.

**Subject to technical changes. In the event of a change, this will be communicated to you at least 3 months before the sample dispatch date.*

SPECIAL FEATURES

Assessments provided for several operators: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results (measurement of diameters).

Other recommended External Quality Assessment:

↳ **Programme 118** 'Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by diffusion - disk method'

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT): time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)	
Antibiotics: MIC, raw and interpreted clinical categorisations	D_0 +1

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 131: MANUAL CYTOLOGY - APPROACH TO MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTIES

Biological liquid for cytological examination after reconstitution with a concentrate.

New to catalogue

€ 152 excl. VAT - - total amount for 1 test (excluding transport costs)

10 participants in 2024

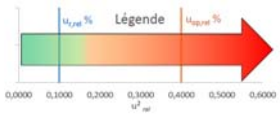
1 SHIPMENT / YEAR – BIOLOGICAL LIQUID SENT IN A REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	**7**	8	9	10	11	12
Test							**25M131.1**					

Parameters to analyse	Number of tubes	Volume per tube	Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
Enumeration of red and white blood cells	4 tubes: 2 tubes per sample	7 mL	2

DESCRIPTION OF THE EQA - The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

- Receipt of 2 samples composed each of 2 tubes of 7 mL of biological fluid; each of the two samples have different cellular concentrations levels of leukocytes and red blood cells.
- 2 counting wells per operator → *Obtain repeatability indicator*
- Maximum number of operators requested (up to 9) → *Obtain inter-operator indicator*
- Repeatability and inter-operator indicators are presented in graphic form to be monitored over time.



- Evaluation of analytical performance (z-scores) per operator considering inter-laboratory error.
- An overall assessment is assigned when at least 10 analytical results have been evaluated, based on the percentage of “satisfactory” analyses obtained during the test.

SPECIAL FEATURES

- The number of cells counted per square is required for statistical purposes.
- Different counting cells can be used (Kova slides, Kova Glasstic, Malassez, Fast read, ...).
- To enable analysis by as many operators as possible, 2 tubes per sample are sent for analysis on two different half-days (1 tube per half-day), keeping the samples cool between each reading.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Enumeration of red and white blood cells	D_0 +1

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

WATERS FOR MEDICAL USE

PROGRAMME 82: ENDOTOXINS IN WATERS AS DESCRIBED IN THE PHARMACOPOEIA

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in waters as described in the pharmacopoeia, waters for irrigation, hemodialysis waters, dialysates, substitution fluids, as well as waters in health care, pharmaceutical and cosmetic establishments.

€ 331 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

60 participants in 2023 - EXPERIENCE > 10 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 85 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	**3**	4	5	6	7	**8**	9	10	11	12
Test			**25M82.1**					**25M82.2**				
Matrix			**Waters intended for medical use**					**Waters intended for medical use**				

Parameters to analyse for each shipment	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
Bacterial Endotoxins	2	30 mL	2

PARTICULARITIES

Bacterial endotoxins (LAL enumeration) in accordance with the current pharmacopoeia PE 2.6.14 or USP <85> and <161>.

Please note that only quantitative methods and methods giving results like <X, >Y or [x; y] are taken into account for the statistical processing of data.
Results coming from qualitative methods (presence / absence) cannot be statistically processed.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Bacterial Endotoxins	$D_0 + 3$

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 83A: MICROBIOLOGY IN WATERS SIMILAR TO DIALYSATE

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in hemodialysis waters, dialysates, generator loop outflow waters, substitution fluids, as well as fresh waters, waters in health care, pharmaceutical and cosmetic establishments.

cofrac COMPARAISONS INTERLABORATOIRES Accreditation n°1-1664 Scope available on www.cofrac.fr

€ 371 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

76 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE > 10 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 95 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

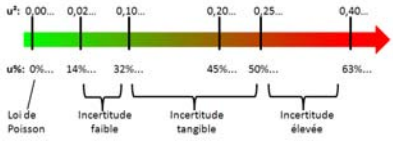
2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	**2**	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	**10**	11	12
Test		**25M83A.1**								**25M83A.2**		
Matrix		**Waters intended for medical use**								**Waters intended for medical use**		

Parameters to analyse	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
25M83A.1			
Culturable micro-organisms at 22°C - 7 days with identification	2	500 mL	2
Pseudomonas aeruginosa	2	500 mL	2
25M83A.2			
Culturable micro-organisms at 22°C - 7 days with identification	2	500 mL	2
Yeasts	2	500 mL	2

PARTICULARITIES

Aerobic flora culturable at 22°C during 7 days (by filtration): advised culture media R2A.



For this programme, uncertainties are calculated and provided to the participants. The indicators are the repeatability uncertainty ur^2 and the reproducibility uncertainty uR^2 specific to each participant. The uncertainty evaluated for the whole profession is also presented.

Other recommended proficiency tests:

- **Programme 31** '*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and pathogenic staphylococci in clean waters'
- **Programme 38** 'Yeasts in clean waters'

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Culturable micro-organisms at 22°C - 7 days, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and yeasts	$D_0 + 1$

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 83B: MICROBIOLOGY IN WATERS SIMILAR TO ENDOSCOPE VERIFICATION SOLUTIONS

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in fresh waters, waters in health care, pharmaceutical and cosmetic establishments.

€ 308 excl. VAT – total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

103 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE > 10 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 80 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

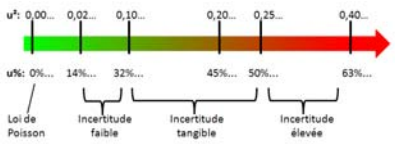
2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	**3**	4	5	6	7	8	9	**10**	11	12
Test			**25M83B.1**							**25M83B.2**		
Matrix			**Waters intended for medical use**							**Waters intended for medical use**		

Parameters to analyse for each shipment	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
Culturable micro-organisms at 30°C - 5 days and identification	2	500 mL	2

PARTICULARITIES

Total aerobic mesophile flora culturable at 30°C during 5 days including yeasts: none-selective culture media advised such as PCA or TS.



For this programme, uncertainties are calculated and provided to the participants. The indicators are the repeatability uncertainty ur^2 and the reproducibility uncertainty uR^2 specific to each participant. The uncertainty evaluated for the whole profession is also presented.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

culturable micro-organisms at 30°C - 5 days	$D_0 + 1$

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 86: INDICATOR GERMS BY FILTRATION IN BACTERIOLOGICALLY CONTROLLED WATERS

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in fresh waters, waters in health care, pharmaceutical and cosmetic establishments.

€ 245 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

73 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 65 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

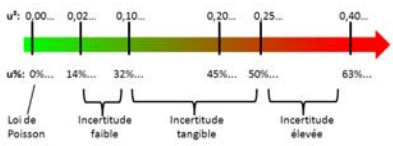
2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	**3**	4	5	6	7	8	9	**10**	11	12
Test			**25M86.1**							**25M86.2**		
Matrix			**Waters intended for medical use**							**Waters intended for medical use**		

Parameters to analyse for each shipment	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
Culturable micro-organisms at 22°C Culturable micro-organisms at 36°C	2	500 mL	2

PARTICULARITIES

Aerobic flora culturable at 22°C and at 36°C on PCA or TS media by filtration of 100 mL.



For this programme, uncertainties are calculated and provided to the participants. The indicators are the repeatability uncertainty ur^2 and the reproducibility uncertainty uR^2 specific to each participant. The uncertainty evaluated for the whole profession is also presented.

Other recommended proficiency tests:

- **Programme 30** 'Microbiology in clean waters' for the analysis of culturable micro-organisms at 22°C and at 36°C by the plate incorporation method
- **Programme 31** '*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and pathogenic staphylococci in clean waters'

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Culturable micro-organisms at 22°C Culturable micro-organisms at 36°C	$D_0 + 1$

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 86A: NON-TUBERCULOUS MYCOBACTERIA IN WATERS FOR MEDICAL USE

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in fresh waters, waters in health care, pharmaceutical and cosmetic establishments.

€ 108 excl. VAT - total amount for 1 test (excluding transport costs)

21 participants in 2024 – EXPERIENCE: 3 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 55 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

1 SHIPMENT / YEAR - REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	**11**	12
Test											**25M86A.1**	
Matrix											**Waters intended for medical use**	

Parameters to analyse	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
Non-tuberculous mycobacteria	2	500 mL	1

PARTICULARITIES

In the frame of this test, participating laboratories will detect, and quantify if their method enables it, non-tuberculous mycobacteria in waters for medical use.

This is a **methodological comparison** test, which will enable participants to estimate the reliability of their analytical protocol.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Non-tuberculous mycobacteria	$D_0 + 1$

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 86B: INDICATOR GERMS IN WATERS SIMILAR TO PHARMACEUTICAL PROCESS WATERS

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in waters as described in the pharmacopoeia, healthcare waters (purified and highly purified waters …) as well as pharmaceutical and cosmetic establishments.

cofrac COMPARAISONS INTERLABORATOIRES Accreditation n°1-1664 Scope available on www.cofrac.fr

€ 247 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

23 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 65 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

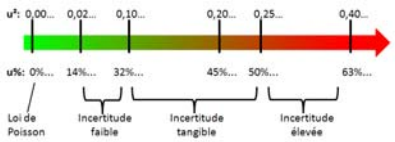
2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	**3**	4	5	6	7	8	9	**10**	11	12
Test			**25M86B.1**							**25M86B.2**		
Matrix			**pharmaceutical process water**							**pharmaceutical process water**		

Parameters to analyse for each shipment	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
Culturable micro-organisms at 30-35°C on R2A medium during 5 days	2	500 mL	2

PARTICULARITIES

Aerobic flora culturable at 30-35°C on R2A medium during 5 days **after filtration.**



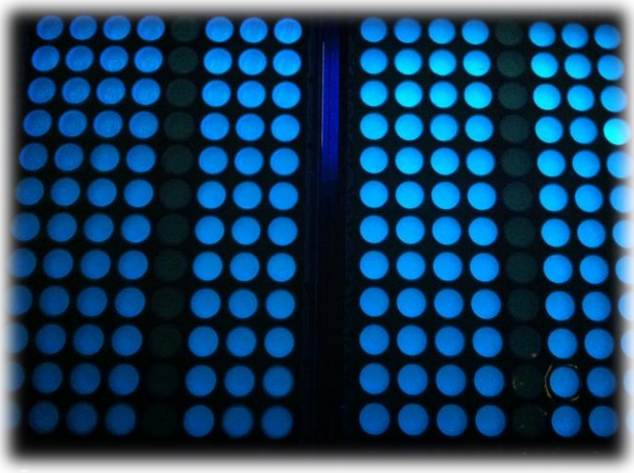
For this programme, uncertainties are calculated and provided to the participants. The indicators are the repeatability uncertainty ur^2 and the reproducibility uncertainty uR^2 specific to each participant. The uncertainty evaluated for the whole profession is also presented.

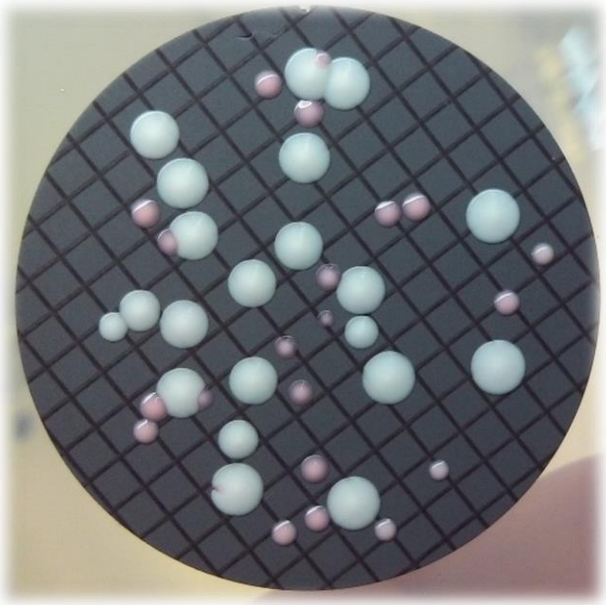
Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

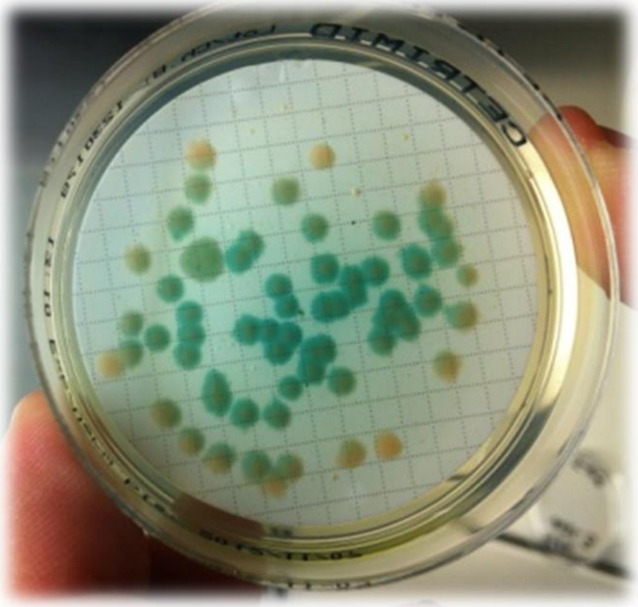
Culturable micro-organisms at 30-35°C	$D_0 + 1$

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

WATER MICROBIOLOGY







PROGRAMME 11: MICROBIAL INDICATORS OF FAECAL CONTAMINATION BY MPN METHOD

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in fresh waters, saline and brackish waters and waste waters.

€ 425 excl. VAT - total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

127 participants in 2024 – EXPERIENCE: 30 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 55 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

4 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	**2**	3	4	5	**6**	7	**8**	9	10	**11**	12
Test		**25M11.1**				**25M11.2**		**25M11.3**			**25M11.4**	
Matrix		**Surface water**				**Bathing freshwater**		**Saline water**			**Waste water**	

Parameters to analyse in surface water and bathing freshwater	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
Coliform bacteria, *Escherichia coli,* Intestinal enterococci	2	500 mL	2

Parameters to analyse in sea water and waste water	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
Escherichia coli, Intestinal enterococci	2	500 mL	2

PARTICULARITIES

Coliform bacteria: parameter compatible with (NF EN) ISO 9308-2 and NF T90-413.
***Escherichia coli*:** parameter compatible with (NF EN) ISO 9308-2 and (NF EN) ISO 9308-3.
Intestinal enterococci: parameter compatible with (NF EN) ISO 7899-1 and Enterolert E.

Assessment all methods together (z-score and ranking).
Assessment per methodological group, subject to a sufficient number of results.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Escherichia coli, coliform bacteria, Intestinal enterococci	D_0+1

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 30: MICROBIOLOGY IN CLEAN WATERS

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in public drinking waters, non-atypical natural mineral waters, swimming pool waters, waters for whirlpool baths, waters for multi-jet showers, healthcare waters as well as fresh waters, waters in health care, pharmaceutical and cosmetic establishments. *Clear fresh waters for the spores of sulfite-reducing anaerobes.*

€ 758 excl. VAT - total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

273 participants in 2024 – EXPERIENCE > 30 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 95 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

4 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	**3**	4	**5**	6	7	8	**9**	10	11	**12**
Test Matrix			**25M30.1** **Clean water**		**25M30.2** **Clean water**				**25M30.3** **Clean water**			**25M30.4** **Clean water**

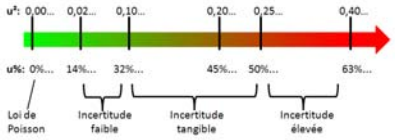
Parameters to analyse for each shipment	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
Culturable micro-organisms at 22°C, Culturable micro-organisms at 36°C	2	10 mL	2
Escherichia coli, coliform bacteria, Intestinal enterococci, spores of sulfite-reducing anaerobes	2	500 mL	2

PARTICULARITIES

Culturable micro-organisms at 22°C and culturable micro-organisms at 36°C: by incorporation.

Coliform bacteria, *Escherichia coli*: parameters compatible with (NF EN) ISO 9308-1 (2000), ISO 9308-1 (2014), ISO 9308-2 (2012) and (NF EN) ISO 9308-2 (2014).

Intestinal enterococci: parameter compatible with (NF EN) ISO 7899-2 and Enterolert DW.



For all the parameters of this programme, uncertainties are calculated and provided to the participants. The indicators are the repeatability uncertainty ur^2 and the reproducibility uncertainty uR^2 specific to each participant. The uncertainty evaluated for the whole profession is also presented.

Assessment all methods together (z-score and ranking).
Assessment per methodological group, subject to a sufficient number of results.

Other recommended proficiency tests:

- **Programme 30A** 'Spores of sulfite-reducing anaerobes in fresh waters and waste waters'
- **Programme 39** 'Vegetative cells and spores of *Clostridium perfringens* in clean water'
- **Programme 86** 'Indicator germs by filtration in bacteriologically controlled waters' for the analysis of culturable micro-organisms at 22°C and at 36°C after filtration

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT): time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)	
Culturable micro-organisms at 22°C, Culturable micro-organisms at 36°C, *Escherichia coli*, coliform bacteria, Intestinal enterococci, spores of sulfite-reducing anaerobes	D_0+1

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 30A: SPORES OF SULFITE-REDUCING ANAEROBES IN FRESH WATERS AND WASTE WATERS

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in fresh waters and in waste waters.

€ 245 excl. VAT - total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

17 participants in 2024 – EXPERIENCE: 4 YEARS

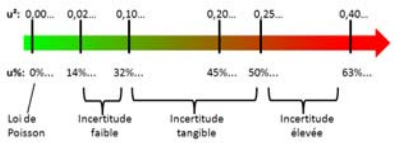
Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 35 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

4 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	**3**	4	**5**	6	7	8	**9**	10	11	**12**
Test Matrix			**25M30A.1** **Surface water**		**25M30A.2** **Waste water**				**25M30A.3** **Surface water**			**25M30A.4** **Waste water**

Parameters to analyse for each shipment	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
Spores of sulfite-reducing anaerobes	2	250 mL	2

PARTICULARITIES



For this programme, when the bacterial load enables it, uncertainties are calculated and provided to participants. The indicators are the repeatability uncertainty ur^2 and the reproducibility uncertainty uR^2 specific to each participant. The uncertainty evaluated for the whole profession is also presented.

Other recommended proficiency test:

- **Programme 30** 'Microbiology in clean waters'
- **Programme 39** 'Vegetative cells and spores of *Clostridium perfringens* in clean water'

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Spores of sulfite-reducing anaerobes	D_0+1

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 31: *PSEUDOMONAS AERUGINOSA* AND PATHOGENIC STAPHYLOCOCCI IN CLEAN WATERS

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in public drinking waters, non-atypical natural mineral waters, swimming pool waters, waters for whirlpool baths, waters for multi-jet showers, healthcare waters and bacteriologically controlled waters as well as fresh waters, waters in health care, pharmaceutical and cosmetic establishments.

cofrac COMPARAISONS INTERLABORATOIRES Accreditation n°1-1664 Scope available on www.cofrac.fr

€ 516 excl. VAT – total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

226 participants in 2024 – EXPERIENCE: 30 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 65 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

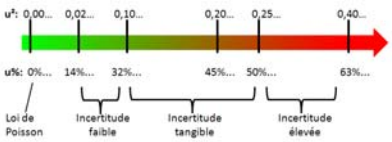
4 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test Matrix	**25M31.1** Clean water			**25M31.2** Clean water					**25M31.3** Clean water			**25M31.4** Clean water

Parameters to analyse for each shipment	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
Pseudomonas aeruginosa, pathogenic staphylococci (coagulase positive)	2	500 mL	2

PARTICULARITIES

Pseudomonas aeruginosa: parameter compatible with (NF EN) ISO 16266 and ISO 16266-2.



For this programme, uncertainties are calculated and provided to the participants. The indicators are the repeatability uncertainty ur^2 and the reproducibility uncertainty uR^2 specific to each participant. The uncertainty evaluated for the whole profession is also presented.

Assessment all methods together (z-score and ranking).
Assessment per methodological group, subject to a sufficient number of results.

Other recommended proficiency tests:
↳ **Programme 31A** 'Pathogenic staphylococci in saline waters'

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Pseudomonas aeruginosa, pathogenic staphylococci (coagulase positive)	D_0+1

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 31A: PATHOGENIC STAPHYLOCOCCI IN SALINE WATERS

€ 196 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

8 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE: 3 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 50 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	**4**	5	6	7	8	**9**	10	11	12
Test				**25M31A.1**					**25M31A.2**			
Matrix				**Sea water**					**Sea water**			

Parameters to analyse for each shipment	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
pathogenic staphylococci (coagulase positive)	2	250 mL	2

PARTICULARITIES

Other recommended proficiency tests:

↳ **Programme 31** '*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and pathogenic staphylococci in clean waters

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

pathogenic staphylococci (coagulase positive)	D_0+1

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 32: *LEGIONELLA* AND *LEGIONELLA PNEUMOPHILA* IN CLEAN WATERS BY CULTURE

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in public drinking waters, domestic hot waters, natural mineral waters for thermal use, swimming pool waters and equivalent, waters from misting systems as well as fresh waters and process waters except coloured and/or unfilterable water requiring centrifugation or following the 'waste water' protocol.

€ 573 excl. VAT - total amount for 3 tests (excluding transport costs)

224 participants in 2024 – EXPERIENCE: 25 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 100 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

3 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	**2**	3	4	**5**	6	7	8	9	**10**	11	12
Test Matrix		**25M32.1** **Clean water**			**25M32.2** **Clean water**					**25M32.3** **Clean water**		

Parameters to analyse for each shipment	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
Legionella pneumophila, Legionella	2	500 mL	2

PARTICULARITIES

Refrigerated parcel to favour the reception of similar samples in France and internationally.

Legionella and *Legionella pneumophila*: parameters compatible with NF T90-431 and ISO 11731 (2017) [Matrix A; Procedures 1 and 7; Medium C].

Assessment all methods together (z-score and ranking).
Assessment per methodological group, subject to a sufficient number of results.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Legionella pneumophila, Legionella	D_0+2

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 33: *LEGIONELLA* AND *LEGIONELLA PNEUMOPHILA* IN WASTE WATERS BY CULTURE

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in surface waters, in industrial waters, in waters from cooling installations by water dispersion in air flows, in natural waters as well as fresh waters and process waters coloured and/or unfilterable requiring centrifugation or following the 'waste water' protocol.

cofrac COMPARAISONS INTERLABORATOIRES Accreditation n°1-1664 Scope available on www.cofrac.fr

€ 604 excl. VAT - total amount for 3 tests (excluding transport costs)

122 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE > 15 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 105 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

3 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test	25M33.1			25M33.2						25M33.3		
Matrix	Waste water			Waste water						Waste water		

Parameters to analyse for each shipment	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
Legionella pneumophila, Legionella	2	1030 mL	2

PARTICULARITIES

Refrigerated parcel to favour the reception of identical samples in France and internationally.

Legionella, Legionella pneumophila: parameters compatible with NF T90-431 and ISO 11731 (2017) [Matrix B; Procedures 1, 8, 9, 10 and 11; Medium C].

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Legionella pneumophila, Legionella	D_0+2

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 35: *LEGIONELLA* AND *LEGIONELLA PNEUMOPHILA* IN CLEAN WATERS BY PCR

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in public drinking waters, domestic hot waters, natural mineral waters for thermal use, swimming pool waters and equivalent, waters from misting systems as well as fresh waters.

€ 614 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

23 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE 15 > YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 155 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	**2**	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	**10**	11	12
Test Matrix		**25M35.1** **Clean water**								**25M35.2** **Clean water**		

Parameters to analyse for each shipment	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
Legionella, Legionella pneumophila	2	500 mL	2

PARTICULARITIES

Legionella, Legionella pneumophila: parameters compatible with NF T90-471 and ISO/TS 12869.

The analysis method used must lead to quantitative results. Presence/absence type results cannot be processed.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Legionella, Legionella pneumophila	D_0+2

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 36: *LEGIONELLA* AND *LEGIONELLA PNEUMOPHILA* IN WASTE WATERS BY PCR

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in surface waters, industrial waters, waters for cooling installations by water dispersion in an air flow, natural waters as well as in process waters.

€ 714 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

12 participants in 2024 – EXPERIENCE: 10 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 180 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	**6**	7	8	9	**10**	11	12
Test						**25M36.1**				**25M36.2**		
Matrix						**Waste water**				**Waste water**		

Parameters to analyse for each shipment	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
Legionella, Legionella pneumophila	2	500 mL	2

PARTICULARITIES

Legionella, Legionella pneumophila: parameters compatible with NF T90-471 and ISO/TS 12869.

The analysis method used must lead to quantitative results. Presence/absence type results cannot be processed.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Legionella, Legionella pneumophila	D_0+2

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 37: *SALMONELLA* IN FRESH WATERS

€ 141 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

80 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE > 15 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 40 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	**3**	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	**11**	12
Test			**25M37.1**								**25M37.2**	
Matrix			**Clean water**								**Surface water**	

Parameters to analyse for each shipment	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
Salmonella	2	1000 mL	1

PARTICULARITIES

Clean water: test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in public drinking waters and non-atypical natural mineral waters.

Surface water: test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in fresh surface waters used for the production of waters intended for human consumption and non-atypical natural mineral waters.

Qualitative analysis: presence / absence.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Salmonella	D_0+1

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 38: YEASTS IN CLEAN WATERS

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in public drinking waters, non-atypical natural mineral waters and bacteriologically controlled waters as well as fresh waters, waters in health care, pharmaceutical and cosmetic establishments.

€ 143 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

22 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS

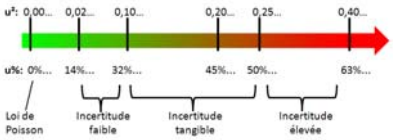
Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 40 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	**1**	2	3	4	5	**6**	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test	**25M38.1**					**25M38.2**						
Matrix	**Clean water**					**Clean water**						

Parameters to analyse for each shipment	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
Yeasts	2	510 mL	2

PARTICULARITIES



For this programme, uncertainties are calculated and provided to the participants. The indicators are the repeatability uncertainty ur^2 and the reproducibility uncertainty uR^2 specific to each participant. The uncertainty evaluated for the whole profession is also presented.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Yeasts	D_0+1

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 38A: MOULD IN CLEAN WATERS

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in public drinking waters, non-atypical natural mineral waters and bacteriologically controlled waters as well as fresh waters, waters in health care, pharmaceutical and cosmetic establishments.

€ 196 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

30 participants in 2024 - EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS

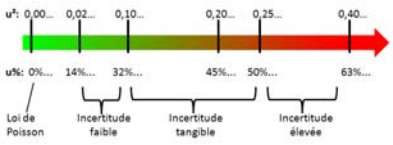
Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 50 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Test	25M38A.1					25M38A.2						
Matrix	Clean water					Clean water						

Parameters to analyse for each shipment	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
Mould	2	500 mL	2

PARTICULARITIES



For this programme, uncertainties are calculated and provided to the participants. The indicators are the repeatability uncertainty ur^2 and the reproducibility uncertainty uR^2 specific to each participant. The uncertainty evaluated for the whole profession is also presented.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Mould	D_0+1

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 39: VEGETATIVE CELLS AND SPORES OF *CLOSTRIDIUM PERFRINGENS* IN CLEAN WATERS

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in public drinking waters according to ISO 14189.

New to catalogue

€ 335 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

15 participants in 2024 – EXPERIENCE: 1 YEAR

2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	4	5	**6**	7	8	**9**	10	11	12
Test Matrix						**25M39.1** **Clean water**			**25M39.2** **Clean water**			

Parameters to analyse for each shipment	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
Vegetative cells and spores of *Clostridium perfringens*	2	500 mL	2

PARTICULARITIES

You will receive dehydrated materials 'Qualities' in addition to the bottles of clean water (one dehydrated material for each bottle of clean water). Resuspension of the materials have to be carried out following a protocol provided by AGLAE.

Analyses of vegetative cells and spores of *Clostridium perfringens* have to be carried out according to (NF EN) ISO 14189 standard.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT): time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)	
Vegetative cells and spores of *Clostridium perfringens*	Analyse upon receipt

PROGRAMME 130: BACTERIOPHAGES IN WATERS

€ 728 excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

16 participants in 2024 – EXPERIENCE: 2 YEARS

Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?
Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **€ 185 excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

2 SHIPMENTS AVAILABLE / YEAR - REFRIGERATED PARCEL

Month	1	2	3	**4**	5	6	7	8	**9**	10	11	12
Test Matrix				**25M130.1** **Waste water**					**25M130.2** **Fresh water**			

Parameters to analyse for each shipment	Number of bottles	Volume of bottles	Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
Somatic coliphages	1	Waste water : 250 mL Fresh water : 500 mL	2
F-specific RNA bacteriophages	1	Waste water : 250 mL Fresh water : 500 mL	2

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Somatic coliphages	D_0+1
F-specific RNA bacteriophages	D_0+1

D_0: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

General conditions of registration for the proficiency tests

When registering for a scheme any laboratory accepts the following general conditions.

1. Registration for the proficiency tests

AGLAE is a non-profit-association governed by the French 1901 law.

Any analytical or testing laboratory in the chemical, biological, physical... field can register for the tests; it is then a member of the Association.

Any member wishing to participate actively in the operation of the Association may apply (contact us).

AGLAE's proficiency testing scheme is conducted from January to December. It is adapted every year to the needs of laboratories and to French regulation in force. However, registrations are possible all the year through, as long as proficiency tests are still available. Registration for one programme includes the participation in all the tests left when registering. Because regulations vary according to the country, international laboratories are allowed to order proficiency tests as separate units.

AGLAE's service offers are provided as part of a subscription. There is no withdrawal period as samples can deteriorate quickly.

Registration is effective when AGLAE sends the registration certificate.

Once registered, a laboratory shall not withdraw and ask for a refund, even if the laboratory requests not to receive the samples.

When registering, the laboratory shall agree to receive the samples any working day (according to French legislation). After registration, participants receive their schedule.

AGLAE might be brought to modify the scheme content during the year (shipment date, change of packaging, analytical periods…).

Without involving AGLAE's liability, any programme might be cancelled if the number of registered participants is considered insufficient or in case of feasibility problem. Should a programme be cancelled, invoiced fees will be reimbursed.

2. Quality Control Materials

AGLAE provides "Quality Control Materials" to any laboratory registered for the current scheme. These materials come from proficiency tests in solid matrices.

Any member may order these materials whether the laboratory has participated or not in the proficiency test from which the test material comes from.

The laboratory can order them at any time during the year, up to a limit of 5 materials from the same batch.

On receipt of a purchase order or of a validated quote, AGLAE informs the laboratory of the date the quality control materials are sent.

The conditions of transport, receipt and payment of quality control materials follow the ones of test materials.

3. Additional test samples

AGLAE provides additional samples for almost all the tests. These samples are sent at the same time as interlaboratory samples, to the same address and no statistical treatment is carried out from them. The laboratory should be registered for the concerned programme to purchase them. The conditions of transport, receipt and payment of additional test samples follow the ones of test materials.

4. Payment of the due amounts

The laboratory has to pay the amount of its invoice. The invoice includes: participation fees, transport and possibly VAT, management fees, discounts.

Invoicing of participation fees is established proportionally to the number of tests left, increased by 10% when the entire set of tests for a programme is no more available or for the purchase of separate units for international laboratories.

Transport costs are not included in the cost of the proficiency tests, they are charged in addition.

Management fees can be applied in particular in case of bank transfer costs to be paid by AGLAE.

Payments have to be done without causing any fees for AGLAE within a fixed schedule specified on the invoice.

Any delay or absence of payment leads to, by right and without formal notice, the immediate payability of the due sums as well as the payment of penalties of one and a half times the legal interest rate, based on unpaid sums and without prejudice of damages and other costs that the Association may require. All sums are due from the deadline of payment until they are actually paid.

AGLAE reserves the right to withhold the access to the Member Area or shipment of test materials to any laboratory not respecting the deadlines of payment and not replying to reminders. In case of temporary suspension of the sending of test materials, the laboratory will not be entitled to claim the refund of the proficiency tests not performed. In case of late payment or payment anomaly, payments will then be requested upon receipt of the quote.

Invoicing is done at the time of registration, independently from the conduct of the tests. It may not be required to be made out once the service has been provided.

5. Accreditation and confidentiality

AGLAE meets the requirements of ISO / IEC 17043 standard and Cofrac rules of application for the provision of interlaboratory comparisons *(Cofrac accreditation No. 1-1664 – scope available on www.cofrac.fr).*

Laboratories cannot use AGLAE's logo jointly with AGLAE's Cofrac accreditation mark.

AGLAE is committed to assuring the **confidentiality of information** it owns. Anonymity of participants in a test is assured by the coding of results, all the test documents containing results are issued with a laboratory code.

AGLAE may not provide a performance assessment for parameters not implemented under accreditation.

6. Communication with the participants

Communication between the Association and participants are mainly in **electronic** format: sending and receiving emails, documents to download from the dedicated area of AGLAE's web site ("Member Area").

Many messages and test documents are translated into English, but the official version remains the French version.

The laboratory is responsible for updating its contact details via the members' area or by e-mail if necessary.

AGLAE accepts no liability for the non-receipt of emails. Laboratories shall follow the conduct of proficiency tests and react to reminders.

7. Transport of test materials

Transport is performed by **express delivery** service by a courier selected by AGLAE.

Delivery of the samples is scheduled the day after the shipment before 1pm for laboratories located in metropolitan France. For other destinations, delivery times depend on the carrier and the location of the laboratory (contact us if need be). Laboratories should be able to receive deliveries from 7.30 am as well as during lunch breaks.

AGLAE's liability towards deliveries is limited to late deliveries of more than 2 working days compared to the delays specified by the courier, not attributable to laboratories and in normal period of activity. The date to which all the parcels are handed over to the courier is considered to calculate possible late deliveries.

AGLAE will not be liable for:

- malfunctioning attributable to the laboratory (no receipt of the parcel handed over by the carrier or loss of the parcel within the laboratory or address change without prior notice),
- delays at customs,
- social conflicts, national or local,
- case of force majeure preventing correct delivery (weather problems…),
- unjustified claim about the integrity of the received products.

In every instance, when AGLAE's liability is involved, the compensation shall be limited to the price for the proficiency test giving rise to such liability (adding the transport fees invoiced).

Attention: depending on the destination, **a custom duty may be requested to the laboratory by the local customs. The laboratory shall take any necessary action to meet the customs' requirements and get the test materials as soon as possible.**

8. Receipt and quality of the test materials

The aim of the PTS preparation is to prepare materials as close as possible to the samples analysed in routine: the contamination levels can therefore be very low or very high.

The preparation and packaging of the test materials are mainly carried out by AGLAE. Subcontracting can be used for some programmes.

In case of major failure found on receipt of the test materials, the laboratory shall contact AGLAE as quickly as possible so that AGLAE can take the appropriate actions. Anomalies notified by the laboratory more than 24 hours after receipt will not be accepted.

The objective aimed during the proficiency testing preparation is to prepare test materials as close as possible to the ones regularly analysed: the contamination levels can thus be very low or on the opposite very high.

In case of major defect of test samples quality, AGLAE has the possibility to cancel the concerned parameter or the whole proficiency test; without the laboratories being able to claim any compensation.

Should a proficiency test be cancelled based on the decision of the Management or of the Administration Board, the test would then be postponed.

In case one or several parameters of a test are cancelled, the concerned parameters will not be systematically provided again, unless otherwise decided by the Administration Board.

9. Analysis of the test materials

The laboratory should start analyses as soon as possible, during the recommended period to start the sample treatment (P.R.D.T.). This period corresponds to the time interval during which the materials' quality is optimal under the recommended preservation conditions. After this period, failures may occur and interfere with the assessment of the analytical performance of laboratories, without involving AGLAE's liability.

For laboratories outside France, delivery times may be systematically superior to the recommended period to start the sample treatment. Laboratories should check their delivery delay in comparison with the P.R.D.T.

The laboratory shall return results. For almost all tests, results are entered via the Member Area. They must be reported and validated by the deadline defined by AGLAE. Beyond this deadline, results that have not been validated will not be statistically treated. AGLAE will not be liable for that. Should the number of results be insufficient, AGLAE reserves the right to not assess the participants' analytical performance, but comments on the results will be made based on the information in our possession.

The laboratory shall not, in any case, disclose its results to any party (other than AGLAE); anyway before test reports are issued.

10. Test reports

The objective is to issue test reports as soon as possible. The delay varies between 1 and 10 weeks depending on the difficulty met with data processing (number of parameters, deviations between methods). Our average delay to issue test reports is 2.3 weeks. A provisional date is given for each test: however, these dates are not contractual.

Note that test reviews and test reports have to be downloaded from the Member Area of AGLAE's web site. They are available for all the participants registered for the test. If the laboratory wishes to appeal following its performance assessment, it must contact AGLAE's Quality Manager in writing (email or postal mail).

11. Data ownership

Produced data (in particular precision values) belong solely to the Association. They are only aimed at laboratories which participated in the test, for internal use of quality management and check or evidence* of their analytical performance.

Report's reproduction is authorised in its entirety only.

Any use other than those defined above requires preliminary approval from AGLAE under penalty of prosecution; whether it is a usage or communication (full or partial) by laboratories which participated in the test or by third parties.

12. Data protection

AGLAE processes personal data that you provide when registering but also during the proficiency testing scheme in compliance with legal obligations.

For more information with regard to the processing of personal data, you may read the section about personal data on www.association-aglae.fr.

13. Safety policy and respect for the environment

When registering for our tests, laboratories agree to handle samples and dispose of their waste in accordance with the usual caution and current regulations.

Should there be any differences between the French and English versions of this document, the French version shall prevail.

*: evidence to their clients, accreditation bodies or Ministries in the frame of approvals