

Food Microbiology Proficiency Testing

A sample of food that is contaminated with pathogens or high levels of hygiene indicator organisms presents a potential hazard to people's health. There are many reasons why contamination may occur, such as a process failure, deviation from standard practices, cross-contamination or human error. Occasionally, the laboratory result may provide the only indication that something has gone wrong. Our proficiency test samples are real food samples with target organisms for detection or enumeration. Our test materials are designed to simulate real laboratory samples with varying levels of target organisms and background flora, they provide challenging, high quality and innovative proficiency tests. Food matrices include beef, chicken, fish, soft cheese, milk powder, salad, rice and others.

In addition we have environmental swabs for organism identification and enumeration. Target organisms include pathogens, indicator micro-organisms and spoilage organisms. We have a flexible programme of 10 distributions a year, where samples are sent by courier worldwide in a controlled environment with detailed instructions for their reconstitution. Results from each proficiency test receive rigorous statistical analysis, ensuring you have clear feedback on your performance. Comprehensive reports give information on microbiological methods used by other participants.



Food Microbiology Proficiency Testing Schedule

Details of Accredited PTs

Materials/Product	Scheme Name/Type of Test/ Properties Measured
Meat	Enumeration <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Aerobic plate count- <i>Bacillus cereus</i>- <i>Campylobacter</i> spp- <i>Clostridium perfringens</i>- Coagulase positive Staphylococci- Coliforms- <i>E. coli</i>- Enterobacteriaceae- Enterococci- Lactic Acid Bacteria- Pseudomonads- Yeasts and Moulds- <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> Detection <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Campylobacter</i> spp- <i>E. coli</i> O157- <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>- <i>Salmonella</i> spp- <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i>- <i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i>
Chicken	
Milk & Milk powder	
Rice	
Flour	
Salad	
Fruit juice	
Environmental and sponge swabs	
Egg	
Fish	
Pepper	
Confectionery	
Cocoa powder	
Soft cheese	
Herbs and spices	
Animal feed	

