

WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE EU REFERENCE LABORATORY FOR NEWCASTLE DISEASE, 2012

I. LEGAL FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

1. The functions and duties of the EU Reference Laboratory for Newcastle disease (EURL) are specified in Annex V of Council Directive 92/66/EEC (Official Journal of the European Communities No L 260 of 5.9.1992).
2. Detailed rules for the granting of EU financial assistance to the EURL for Newcastle disease are laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 1754/2006 (Official Journal of the European Union of 29.11.2006, No L 331 p.8.).

II. OBJECTIVES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY – DECEMBER 2012

1. Characterising viruses submitted to the EURL by Member States and third countries listed in Commission Regulation (EC) No 798/2008. This will, at the request of the European Commission or the submitting National Reference Laboratory for Newcastle disease (NRL in the following) or at the discretion of the EURL, include:
 - a) Determining the intracerebral pathogenicity index (ICPI);
 - b) Determining basic amino acids composition adjacent to the cleavage site of the F0 protein in the virus and phylogenetic analysis;
 - c) Antigenic grouping of viruses;
 - d) Limited phylogenetic analysis to assist in epidemiological investigations.
2. Maintain and distribute virus repository and reagents necessary for virus characterisation.
3. Prepare and distribute antisera, antigens and reagents for the inter-laboratory comparison tests.
4. Analyse results submitted by NRLs for the inter-laboratory comparison tests.
5. Assist MS on the use of PCR techniques and organise the inter-laboratory comparison tests for PCR.
6. Conduct work to evaluate reported problem areas in diagnosis.
7. Supporting by means of information and technical advice NRLs and the European Commission during epidemics.
8. Prepare programme and working documents for the Annual Meeting of NRLs.
9. Collecting and editing of material for a report covering the annual meeting of NRLs.

10. Provide targeted training in the light of developments for new diagnostic methodology.
11. Where appropriate develop collaborative programmes of investigation with NRLs to address laboratory issues as relevant to this work programme.
12. Prepare and publish articles and reports associated with the above work.
13. Submit to the Commission a financial and technical report on the operation of the laboratory no later than 31 March 2013 (Article 10 of Regulation (EC) No 1754/2006). In case the time-limit is not respected, the financial assistance shall be reduced by 25% on 1 April, 50% on 1 May, 75% on 1 June and 100% on 1 July.

It is understood that the above mentioned objectives are not exclusive to other work of more immediate priority which may arise during the given period.