



Work programme for the European Union Reference Laboratory for Mycotoxins, 2012 Overview on major objectives for the period January - December 2012

1. Organisation of a proficiency test in 2012 (PT2012) with a material containing at least 3 regulated mycotoxins (multi-mycotoxin contamination) in at least two different products (food and feed). In addition, a pure test solution with the corresponding mycotoxins will be prepared for calibration control.
2. Organisation of a proficiency test (PT) as follow-up action respectively iteration of previous PTs (2010 or 2011). The subject and layout of the PT will be discussed with the NRL network during the annual workshop.
3. Organisation of a workshop for the NRL network. The workshop will focus on the discussion/follow-up of the results of the PT organised in 2011 and the further strengthening of the network of NRLs. It will serve to identify the needs of the NRLs, to address pertinent scientific issues and to plan the work programme for 2013. An additional focus will be put on technical details what approach is used in MS for the estimation of uncertainty and recovery.
4. Meeting with external Experts on analytical issues relevant for the NRL network. The meeting will focus on the experience in the implementation and accreditation of analytical methods in official control.
5. Training/Hands-On workshop for NRL delegates on LC-MS. This will be the 2nd workshop on this topic with NRL delegates that could not participate in the workshop 2011. The workshop will focus on practical aspects of LC-MS method implementation for use in the food or feed control laboratory. It will address issues that laboratories face, which start to implement LC-MS technology for mycotoxin determination, but also those issues relevant for laboratories with experience. This event will be announced at the annual workshop and is foreseen to last 3 days (incl. lectures, round table discussions and practical demonstrations).
6. Extension of the liquid-chromatography mass-spectrometry (LC/MS) method to more mycotoxins. On the basis of the current method, which covers deoxynivalenol, zearalenone, and T-2&HT-2 toxins, the extension of the applicability will be elucidated with the aim to provide NRLs with a method that covers a wider scope.
7. Training of laboratory personnel on analytical methodology for mycotoxins (on request of the NRLs).
8. Providing support to standardisation bodies such as CEN for the standardisation of analytical methods for the determination of mycotoxins in food and feed. This will require a regular participation in the meetings of CEN TC 275/WG5 and CEN TC327/WG1.
9. Providing support to DG SANCO in technical matters concerning analytical methodology for mycotoxins, if requested.