



Geel, 23.09.2015

Work Programme of the European Union reference laboratory for Mycotoxins for the Years 2016 and 2017

- Objective:** Organisation of 4 proficiency tests (PTs) on mycotoxins in food and/or feed. The mycotoxin topics will be selected upon agreement with DG SANTE. At least 2 PTs will include more than one test material to allow an evaluation of results for bias or random effects. Further the use of different test materials will allow an evaluation of the measurement capability at different levels.

The first two PTs – to be conducted in 2016 – will concern the determination of a number of regulated mycotoxins in a cereal material by means of multi-mycotoxin methods, including the determination of beauvericin and enniatins. The second PT will include the determination of aflatoxins, taking into account recent issues of aflatoxin occurrence as well as the fact that aflatoxins are identified in the RASFF system as most relevant mycotoxin leading to notifications.

For the following two PTs – to be conducted in 2017 – the EURL suggests first the determination of deoxynivalenol in a cereal product taking note that cereals are equally important for food and feed and a variety of screening methods are available for deoxynivalenol and NRLs will be requested to apply such screening methods in order to be able to judge their reliability. Second the determination of ergot alkaloids is considered, as this topic has been a request during a EURL/NRL workshop.
- Objective:** Organisation of 2 proficiency tests (PTs) on plant toxins in food or feed. The plant toxin topics will be agreed with DG SANTE. PTs will include more than one test material sample to ensure evaluation of results for bias or random effects as well as use of some test materials for measurement capability at different levels. The first PT will be on tropane alkaloids in food at a level concerning the implementation of the currently discussed legislative limit of 1 µg/kg for each tropane alkaloid (atropine and scopolamine).
- Objective:** Organisation of follow-up actions (either follow-up PTs or investigation by Root-Cause-Analysis, Corrective Action and Prove of Effectiveness actions) on results that indicate an unsatisfactory performance in the NRL PT.
- Objective:** Organisation of two annual workshops (one each year) for the NRL network. The workshop will focus on the discussion/follow-up of the results of the PT organised in previous years 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 actions of the EURL.
- Objective:** Experts working group meetings on analytical topics. These are concerning mycotoxins in particular the finalisation of a best practice document, laboratory sub sampling and Identification criteria in LC-MS/MS for the determination of mycotoxins. Concerning plant toxins 2 expert meetings will be called discussing the current state of the art in plant toxin determination in the EU and how to establish the necessary network providing a high level of measurement capacity in the Member States. Further this objective includes support to DG SANTE in technical matters concerning analytical methodology for mycotoxins, on request.

6. **Objective:** Two Training/Hands-On workshop for up to 6 NRL delegates on LC-MS. The workshop will focus on practical aspects of LC-MS method implementation for use in the food or feed control laboratory or other relevant topics upon agreement with DG SANTE. This event will be announced at the annual workshop and is foreseen to last 3 days (incl. lectures, round table discussions and practical demonstrations). Further training of laboratory personnel on analytical methodology for mycotoxins on the premises of the EURL or the NRLs concerned (both on request of the NRLs or in agreement with the EURL in case of underperformance).
7. **Objective:** Providing support to DG SANTE and 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/WG 5 (food) and CEN TC 327/WG5 (feed).
8. **Objective:** Allocation of test materials for the PTs of 2017 and 2018 and suitability testing. For that purpose suitable test materials have to be identified and a study on the preparation of test samples has to be conducted.
9. **Objective:** Representing the EURL and dissemination of information concerning the EURL activities on International Conferences in agreement with DG SANTE such as the annual symposium of AOAC international, the mycotoxin workshop and/or the MYTOX conference.