Bundesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit

European Reference Laboratory for Residues

WORK PROGRAMME

FOR THE EUROPEAN REFERENCE LABORATORY FOR RESIDUES, Berlin

2012

Group of substances: A5-B2a-B2b-B2e

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WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE COMMUNITY REFERENCE LABORATORY FOR RESIDUE TESTING, 2012

Group of substances: A5-B2a-B2b-B2e

I. LEGAL FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

The functions and duties of the Community Reference Laboratory are described in Article 32 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 (Official Journal of the European Union L 165, 30.04.2004, pp. 1 – 141, corrected and republished in Official Journal of the European Union L 191, 28.05.2004, pp. 1 - 52).

1. OBJECTIVES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY - DECEMBER 2011

A **General tasks**

B **Development and validation of analytical methods**
Article 32, paragraph 1(c)

C **Quality assurance and quality control including the development of incurred test material and the organisation of a proficiency test**
Article 32, paragraph 1(b)

D **Technical and scientific support to Member States, the Commission, including arbitration and training activities**
Article 32, paragraphs 1(a)(d)(e)(f)

2. WORKING PLAN FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY - DECEMBER 2012

Activities

1. **Meeting 4 EURLs**

   4 EURL for residues management

2. **EC/CRL related EC and International Bodies; Co-operation with international organisations**

   Technical and scientific support will be provided to the Commission institutions DG SANCO (e. g. the evaluation of the NRCPs of the MS), DG JRC and EFSA.

   The cooperation with international organisations is an ongoing task and will be intensified to the largest extent possible. At the moment the EURL is participating in ISO working groups for standardisation, in CEN working groups for standardisation, in the Codex alimentarius committee CCMAS and in the CCQM working group OAWG of the CIPM.

3. **Reports, cost estimate, documentation**

   Several reports will be issued, e.g. the workshop report, the report on proficiency test 2012, the technical and financial reports on CRL working period 2011, the interim report 2012 as well as the cost estimate and work plan 2013, the evaluation of the NRCPs of the Member States. Other reports will be provided upon request.

4. **Revalidation of a method for beta-agonists in liver and urine**

   A multi-residue method for beta-agonists in liver and urine exists at the EURL since years. However due to the exchange of LC-MSMS instrument a revalidation has to be carried out. The existing method does not produce the same sensitivity and reproducibility at the new instrument. Consequently instrument parameters have to be adapted and the method has to be validated again.

5. **Beginning of the validation of a multi-substance group method**

   At the EURL Berlin the development of a multi-substance group method for screening purposes was started a few years ago. The substance groups B2a, B2b, and B2e for which we are responsible for have been included. The development of this method is in such a state now that the validation can be started. Since the high number of substances included the validation cannot be finalised in 2012.

6. **Development of method for nitroimidazoles in hair/feathers**

   Hair in general has a high potential to accumulate drug residues and to keep them for a longer time than any other matrix therefore being a very interesting matrix for control purposes. In order to be able to test whether Nitroimidazole residues are also accumulated in pig hair and poultry feathers (the two most relevant applications) a respective method has to be established.

7. **Revalidation of a method for basic NSAIDs in muscle, liver and kidney**

   A multi-residue method for basic NSAIDs in muscle, liver and kidney exists at the EURL since years. However due to the exchange of LC-MSMS instrument a revalidation has to be carried out. The existing method does not produce the same sensitivity and reproducibility at the new instrument. Consequently instrument parameters have to be adapted and the method has to be validated again.

8. **Purity testing for selected substances**

The knowledge of the purity of standard substances is required by accreditation bodies and a prerequisite for reliable testing and for a correct estimation of the measurement uncertainty. Experience showed that the values indicated at the bottles or certificates of commercial providers are sometimes not valid. Thus the EURL Berlin decided to start a project on purity testing of selected standard substances. Criteria for the selection are especially important substances, substances often used but no purity is provided or substances for which irregularities were observed. For purity testing new kind instruments are to be purchased and established like HCN analyser, Karl-Fischer- titration etc. The purity figures will be spread among the relevant NRLs and routine laboratories to support their QA system and to enhance the reliability of measurements.

9. **Stability studies for all substance groups**

The stability testing of analytes in solution and in matrix is required by CD 2002/657. It was agreed upon that it is not necessary for each individual laboratory to carry out these investigations separately, but that they can use stability data provided by the EURLs. Therefore and for the production of proficiency test material and in-house reference material as well as for the EURL's own needs, stability studies are and will be carried out for all analytes we are responsible for in several incurred matrices and in solutions.

10. **Research and identification of unknown compounds**

It is and ongoing task to investigate possible new veterinary drugs, their metabolisation or degradation products as well as adequate internal – preferably isotopically labelled – standards.

11. **Proficiency test on beta-agonists in hair**

A proficiency test on beta-agonists in hair will be organised depending on the availability of appropriate material with sufficient concentration levels. Beforehand a questionnaire will be spread among the NRLs to get an overview which MS is using hair as a control matrix and has a method for hair established. If there were too few laboratories to carry out a reasonable PT another matrix like liver, or urine could be used.

12. **Participation in PTs by commercial providers**

In order to document our proficiency not only in the framework of our own proficiency tests, it is necessary to participate in commercially offered PTs as well. Furthermore, this way, PT providers can be checked for quality. Participation depends on the choice of PTs offered by commercial providers. So far the programmes are not published so that we cannot say in how many and in which PT we will participate.

13. **Production of incurred sample material**

In 2009 MLs for unavoidable carry-over of coccidiostats in food of non-target animals were published (Regulation (EC) No. 124/2009). In one MS it was observed that contaminations of coccidiostats can reach MRL levels already. Therefore a study will be carried out in hens to determine the concentrations in eggs after feeding the hens with contaminated feed.

14. T**echnical, scientific support and training**

Technical and scientific support and training will be provided on request to NRLs and official routine labs as well as to official laboratories of Third Countries. The support via internet (FIS-VL) will be continued where all relevant information is available on validated methods, standard substances, reference materials, reports and many more. Email and telephone support will be provided.

15. **Follow-up of PT**

    Follow-up measures will be carried out if necessary in compliance with the Commission draft guidelines of 2007. An overview of the last years' performances per lab and MS will be produced.

16. **Provision of standard substances incl. procuring, storage, administration, documentation, shipment**

    Small amounts of standard substances will be provided to official laboratories on request.

17. **Analysis of official samples**

    Official samples will be analysed in case of disputes between MS.

18. **Visit to NRLs**

    In general one NRL will be visited per year after consultation with the Commission on necessity. Scientific information and technical support in form of methods, SOPs etc will be provided and discussions on specific problems like QA, QC, validation, legislation etc will be led.

19. **Organisation and performance of a workshop**

    A workshop will be organised. The following subjects are possible:

    - Validation of multi-residue/multi-substance group methods
    - Measurement uncertainty
    - European accreditation schemes – state of play
    - Ideas of NRLs (collected at the beginning of 2012)

    The evaluation of the 2011 PT and forthcoming 2012 PT will be treated and further specific questions will be discussed depending on the needs of the participants. For this purpose a questionnaire will be distributed beforehand.

It is understood that the above-mentioned objectives are not exclusive of other work of more immediate priority which may arise during the reference period in question.