WORK PROGRAMMES

FOR

COMMUNITY REFERENCE LABORATORIES

2008

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VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH

(Residues)

1. Berlin **(Group of substances: A5, B2a, B2b, B2e)**
2. Fougères **(Group of substances: A6, B1, B3e)**
3. Bilthoven **(Group of substances: A1, A2, A3, A4, B2d and B3d)**
4. Rome **(Group of substances: B3c)**

WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE COMMUNITY REFERENCE LABORATORY FOR RESIDUE TESTING, 2008

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 2008

A **General tasks (~ 9 %)**

B **Development and validation of analytical methods (~ 25 %)**

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 (~ 27 %)**

Article 32, paragraph 1(b)

D **Technical and scientific support to Member States, the Commission, including arbitration and training activities (~ 39 %)**

Article 32, paragraphs 1(a)(d)(e)(f)

2. WORKING PLAN FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY - DECEMBER 2008

A General Tasks

sub items

1. Meeting 4 CRLs;
   EC-4 CRL for residues management

2. EC/CRL related EC and International Bodies; Co-operation with international organisations, e. g. CCMAS, BIPM, CEN/ISO, IRMM

3. Reports, cost estimate, documentation, e. g. evaluation NRCPs, Codex MRLs, work plan, cost estimate, technical report, financial report, interim report

B Development and Validation of Analytical Methods

sub items

1. Investigation of distribution/depletion of 3 nitroimidazoles in hens, depletion study in muscle and eggs

2. Development and validation of a method for 29 beta-agonists in hair and urine by LC-MSMS

3. Validation of a method for 29 beta-agonists in retina by LC-MSMS

4. Optimisation and validation of a method for 5 avermectins in aquaculture products

5. Long-term stability studies for all substance groups

6. Research and identification of unknown
   compounds

C Quality assurance and quality control including the development of incurred test material and the organisation of a proficiency test

sub items

1. Quality management, documentation, servicing of equipment

2. Proficiency test on benzimidazoles in milk: characterisation of the material, shipment, evaluation
3. Cooperation with IRMM for the production of CRM for nitroimidazoles

4. Production of incurred sample material; treatments of aquaculture (2 avermectins); hens with 3 nitroimidazoles; 3 beta-agonists in cattle hair and urine

   avermectins: for the production of reference material
   nitroimidazoles: in 2006 only eggs were produced; for further knowledge about behaviour in muscle a new set of hens have to be treated; to be compared with results from turkeys
   beta-agonists: production of reference material; when sufficient in amount and concentration and when homogeneity can be achieved it is to be used for a PT in 2009

D Technical and scientific support to Member States, the Commission, including arbitration and training activities

sub items

1. Technical, scientific support and training
2. Follow-up of proficiency test
   (this includes i.a. the following measures: distribution and evaluation of follow-up questionnaire, distribution of methods with discussion, searching of mistakes, correspondence by e-mail and telephone as well as training courses for participants having failed the proficiency test)

3. Provision of standard substances incl. procuring, storage, administration, documentation, shipment etc.
4. Analysis of official samples

5. Visit of NRLs
6. Organisation and performance of a workshop

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.

COMMUNITY REFERENCE LABORATORY

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE COMMUNITY REFERENCE LABORATORY AT THE FRENCH FOOD SAFETY AGENCY (AFSSA)

Antimicrobials and dyes

Group of substances: B1, A6, B3e

Laboratoire d'études et de recherches sur les médicaments vétérinaires et les désinfectants

Contract period: January 2008 – December 2008

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LEGAL FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

The functions and duties of the 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 No L 191, 28.05.2004, pp. 1-52).

3. OBJECTIVES FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY - DECEMBER 2007

A General tasks
Article 32, paragraph 1 (e)

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

C Quality assurance and quality control including the organisation and implementation of proficiency tests.
Article 32, paragraph 1 (b, c)

D. Technical and scientific support to NRLs and third countries
Article 32, paragraph 1(a, d, e, f)

4. WORKING PLAN FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY - DECEMBER 2008

A. General Tasks
Article 32, paragraph 1 (e)

1. Meeting 4 CRLs, CRLs residues management,
2. Technical and scientific support to the Commission,
3. Compilation of annual report and cost estimate,
4. Co-operation with international organisations,
5. Documentation services, inter change of information via the website.

B. Development and Validation of Analytical Methods

A *Article 32, paragraph 1 (a, c)*

6. Development and Confirmatory method for antimicrobials in different matrices (muscle, milk, eggs).

6.1 Multi-antimicrobial family method by LC-MSMS

The transfer of the method for analysis of more than 50 antimicrobials in muscle tissue is now completed. Being initially developed on a LC/MSMS API2000 instrument, it is now optimized on a LC/MSMS API4000. The validation of the 1st step analysis of the method regarding the selective identifying screening is now completed in muscle. A workshop with a hands-on training session is proposed to the EU-NRLs at the end of 2007.
Some adaptations of the method before further validation with some specific antibiotics are still on-going for milk matrix. Validation will have to be extended for milk during early 2008.
The 2nd step for confirmation in muscle and in milk will start in 2008 with taking into account the appropriate strategy depending on the discussions with the NRLs experts during the 2007 Workshop held at the CRL and dedicated to this method.
The complete extension to other matrices (egg, honey) will be started after the completion of the validation steps in the two main food matrices.

6.2 Confirmatory method for quinolones in fish matrix

Taking into account the changes in MRLs from Annex III to Annex I in the 2002-2005 period for some fluoroquinolones (sarafloxacine, difloxacin, enrofloxacin, ciprofloxacin, danofloxacin), a reevaluation of our methodology for monitoring quinolones and fluoroquinolones by HPLC-FLD will be investigated and extended to fish tissues.

6.3 Eggs : Proposal of working limits

As a follow-up of the state of the art for the residue control of the egg products in the Member States and of the analytical methods in place in the NRLs, proposition of working limits for European regulations will be discussed with the Commission.

7. Study of screening tests.

The performance of different screening kits for antimicrobial residue testing (either microbiological or immunological) proposed by manufacturers to be applied on different matrices (eggs, fish and eventually honey) will be investigated.

In 2007, the determination of the best simulated tissue as proposed in the guide for validation of screening methods is in progress. Then the validation of the STAR protocol for the screening of antimicrobials in muscle will start at the end of 2007 and go on during 2008. The objective of this study will be to evaluate the performances of the STAR protocol (Five Plate Test) for the detection of antibiotic residues in muscle from different animal species. The validation will be organised according to the guide of validation established at the CRL level. The STAR protocol will be validated for a list of representative antimicrobials, with simulated tissues.

The study of an ELISA kit for the detection of malachite green is programmed for 2008.
If any new kits for antimicrobials come to the market of residue analysis, validation studies could be undertaken for evaluating these kits during year 2008.

C. Quality Assurance and Quality Control
Article 32, paragraph 1 (b, c)

8. Organisation of proficiency tests (characterisation of the material, packaging, evaluation, report)

According to our agreement with the network of NRLs, the CRL will proceed in 2008 to the organisation of 2 Proficiency Testing Studies, one dedicated to authorized antimicrobial substances and one dedicated to banned antimicrobials.

8.a Antimicrobials

The antimicrobials of choice should be tetracyclines registered in Annex I of Directive 2377/90/EC. The matrix of choice might be the meat or milk (depending on 2008 possible CRM implementation with JRC-IRMM).

8.b Banned substances

The banned susbtances of choice shall be the nitrofurans as a come back four year later after the last 2004 PT for nitrofurans and after having proceeded to interlaboratory analysis of malachite green (2004-05), carbadox/olaquindox (2006) and chloramphenicol (2007). The matrix of choice might be cattle/pig meat or aquaculture products flesh tissue (depending on 2008 possible CRM implementation with JRC-IRMM).

8.c Proficiency test in relation with coordinated monitoring programme

No coordinated monitoring programme for 2008 was defined by the Commission.

9 Production of incurred sample material

9.a According to the previous point, the sampling materials will be produced by the CRL in accordance with the standards of testing material preparation (homogeneity and stability studies).

9.b Following the August-2007 meeting of the CRLs with DG-JRC-IRMM (Reference Material Unit), and according to the need in the Quality Control of analytical methods for antibiotic residues in food, new CRM will be investigated by CRL-AFSSA-LERMVD-Fougères with starting studies in 2008.
One CRM could be developed for a banned antimicrobial incurred material (for example: nitrofurans in meat or in aquaculture product) and one for an authorized antimicrobial incurred material (tetracyclines in meat or in milk).

D. Technical and Scientific Support to NRLs in the Member States, the Commission and Third Countries
Article 32, paragraph 1 (a, d, e, f)

10. Analytical support and training

10.a Participation to SARAF training courses (June 2008, October 2008).

10.b Organisation of CRL-AFSSA-LERMVD training courses for scientists from Member States, Acceding Countries and/or Candidate Countries and from Third Countries, on request.

11. Missions to NRLs and Third Countries - diffusion of scientific information

11.a Projection of 3 visits to NRLs from the New Member States

11.b International missions for scientific information dissemination

11.c Follow-up and improvement of the 5-year-old CRL Website

12. Provisions of standard substances including storage, administration, documentation, shipment, etc

13. Analysis of official samples

As a CRL, the AFSSA-LERMVD laboratory will go on with analysing at a reference status some of the official samples coming from the NRLs and at their demand.

The specific requests rising from certain NRLs to analyze a part or all of their confirmatory sets of samples in their place especially for confirmation of Group B1 compounds will not be accepted as this kind of workload is neither a priority in CRL activities nor a specific task requested by the Directive 96/23/EC.

14. Organisation of a workshop

Main subject: Proficiency Testing Studies - the state of the art and CRL/NRLs collaborative perspectives.

Other possible issues to be taken into account:

- Advances in Validation of Screening and Confirmatory Methods for Antimicrobial Residue Monitoring (Group B1).

- Dissemination to the NRLs of the BIOCOP-workpackage8 SPR-fluoroquinolone assay

15. Analysis of the National Residue Monitoring Plans of the Member States

According to the request of the Commission, the CRL will consult on line the RESIDUE database dealing with proposed National Residue Monitoring Plans and their Year n-1 Results. Existing tables will be loaded and information will be extracted and analysed by a CRL scientist to check for the adequateness of methods/matrices/combinations proposed by each of the Member States and at the European level. The CRL will publish a report for the Commission before the end of February 2009.

National Institute
for **Public Health and**
the Environment

COMMUNITY REFERENCE LABORATORIES IN THE FIELD OF VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH WITHIN THE EUROPEAN UNION

CRL for residues RIVM-ARO at Bilthoven, NL

Workprogramme

January 1st, 2008 – December 31st, 2008

Status 16 October 2007

WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE COMMUNITY REFERENCE LABORATORY FOR RESIDUE TESTING, RIVM, Bilthoven

HORMONAL GROWTH PROMOTING COMPOUNDS, SEDATIVES AND MYCOTOXINS

January 2008 – December 2008

LEGAL FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

The functions and duties of the 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, 30.04.2005, 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 2008 – DECEMBER 2008

A. General Tasks

B. Development and validation analytical methods

Article 32, paragraph 1(c)

C. Quality Assurance and Quality control including the organisation and implementation of proficiency tests

Article 32, paragraphs 1 (a)(d)(e)(f)

D. Technical and scientific support to NRLs and third countries

2. WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 2008 – DECEMBER 2008

A. General Tasks

1) Meeting 4 CRLs, CRLs for residues management*)*

Participation in annual co-ordination meeting and general management activities

2) Technical and scientific support to the Commission

Upon request, technical assistance will be given to the European Commission and its offices and its related institutes like the Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products (EMEA).

3) Compilation of annual report and cost-statement)

Annual reports and cost statements will be prepared before 1 April, 2008.

4) Co-operation with international organisation

Specific: EC/CRL related co-operation with International Bodies (e.g. AOACi, Eurachem, Codex, CVMP, TAIEX, EMEA, EFSA, JRCs, IRMM) on method validation, analytical methodology, reference materials and performance quality criteria (communication, co-ordination, and harmonisation).

5) Documentation and information services

Specific: Developments with respect to analytical methodology. (EU) legislation and the results of relevant scientific studies are constantly monitored. In addition, information on the use of new compounds or alternative approaches to improve the growth of livestock will be collected and used as input for future studies. Communication about issues of interest for NRLs will be through the annual workshop.

This CRL-website is maintained by the CRL-documentation services. Its further development is an ongoing activity conducted in dialogue with the NRLs, mainly during the annual workshop. Similar activities are foreseen for 2008.

An evaluation of the Annual National Plans of 2007 will be produced. A more direct response is possible now that the information is available on-line through the internet. A list of matrix/method combination which was prepared by the CRLs, has been distributed as a reference that will be the basis for further evaluations. When necessary, specific suggestions for improvement will be included in the report. This product is scheduled for February 2008.

Specific products related to A:

Topic	Product	Planned for
1	Meeting minutes prepared by the Commission	January 2008
2	Advises (reports, e-mails or letters)	Ongoing on an Ad Hoc basis
3	Annual report and cost statement	1 April 2008
4	Coordination	Ongoing on an Ad Hoc basis
5	Documentation and Information Services Evaluations of ANPs and results reported	Ongoing on an Ad Hoc basis February 2008

B. Development and validation of analytical methodology (Article 32, paragraph 1c)

Development and validation of analytical methods is one of the major tasks of the CRL. New analytes, or metabolites of compounds, will have to be included on a regular basis, new technologies will have to be implemented, based on the results of research activities within the CRL-NRL network and methods will have to be re-evaluated on specific aspects. Adequately validated methods for all analyte: matrix combinations included in the list of MRPL-values will be maintained and made available on request. Regular updates are foreseen.

General Issues

- Determining and reducing measurement uncertainly, especially in those cases where the MRPL will be a mass concentration that will be used to decide about follow-up actions after non-compliant results have been obtained (e.g. Commission Decision 2005/34/EC in case of import control)

- Responding to urgent needs for validated methods, e.g. based on new EMEA-evaluations or acquired information with respect to use and metabolism of compounds.

Specific topics.

6) *Continuation from the 2006 workprogramme – with reference to the progress report. – measuring conjugated steroids.*

The work on the development of confirmatory methods for steroids, without enzymatic or chemical deconjugation steps started in 2006. In 2006 the focus was primarily on the application of methods for the analyses of e.g. hair samples for esters of natural hormones. This method was made available during the 2006 workshop. For 2007 the focus was on methods for urine (glucuronide/sulphate conjugates). Several studies indicate the importance of avoiding the use of enzymes and directly measuring the conjugated forms. The work within this topic is directly linked to research with respect to the natural formation of nortestosterone and boldenone. In addition, potentially it has applicability in the area of control for abuse of natural hormones. The work on improving performance characteristics of the methods and collecting actual data, which started in 2007, will be continued in 2008. In 2008 the number of conjugated compounds included will be maximized and recently acquired samples will be analysed. Collaboration with other research institutes is foreseen and the topic will be discussed in more dept, e.g. during the 2007 annual workshop. Results will be presented during the EuroResidue VI conference and published in the peer reviewed proceedings.

7) *Continuation from the 2006 workprogramme – with reference to the progress report – (natural) hormones in serum and plasma.*

Development and validation of analytical methods necessary for effective inspection and control. In 2006 a start was made with the development of new and improved methods for the analyses of samples of serum, with a focus on the natural hormones. Preliminary studies were undertaken for some of the exogenous hormones. This work was continued in 2007 with the inclusion of a large number of additional compounds, partly based on spiked samples and partly on incurred materials produced in 2007. In 2008 the method will be fully validated for research purposes and a direct link with the procedure for conjugated compounds will be established by harmonizing the preliminary extraction step.

8) *Continuation from the 2006 – workprogramme – with reference to the progress report. – identification of new compounds*.

Identification of new and unknown compounds illegally used for growth promoting purposes. On the basis of sample materials received (biological samples, cocktails or animal feed) or information obtained through other sources, studies will be undertaken to identify individual compounds. When necessary, based on *in vitro* studies, the metabolism will be studied. Special attention will be given to the use of e.g. pro-hormones.

9) *Validating a confirmatory method for anabolic* steroids in muscle tissue samples.

In 2006 values were set necessary for effective control for detection and confirmation of residues of several steroids in samples of muscle tissue. In response to requests from Member States, analytical methods for detection and confirmation will be made available. The major problem for many NRLs currently is confirmation of the identity, based on the CD 2002/657 criteria. In 2007 the CRL will develop an alternative confirmation strategy based on GC-MSMS or LC-MSMS techniques. It is foreseen that this work will be finalized by the end of 2007, early 2008.

10) *Extending databases of natural hormone levels in various species (inclusive breeds) and matrices.*

Information with respect to levels of endogenous hormones in a variety of species is limited. Frequently, apparently deviating levels of endogenous hormones are found, but a reference database is missing. In 2006 information was gathered among the NRLs and a beginning of a database was established. In 2007 a large study on this topic was performed in the UK (HFL), sponsored by DEFRA. The outcome of this study will be presented during the 2007 CRL annual workshop. Information from these studies will be used to direct further studies. A database with qualitative information on natural hormones in different species was included in the CRL website by the end of 2007.

11) *Studies on natural hormones. Approaches to detect abuse*.

Based on previous studies several approaches for detecting the abuse of the use of natural hormones are identified. Methods for the detection of hormone-esters in samples of hair have been developed, validated and implemented. Such methods are useful, but their applicability is not guaranteed under all conditions. Alternative approaches can be (1) setting reference values for specific compound for specified animals and specified conditions (2) the use of Isotope Ratio MS and (3) profiling techniques (metabolomics and proteomics). The latter technique potentially also is applicable for procedures for the detection of Growth Hormone (somatotropine). In 2008 the CRL will be involved in several activities related to this subject. With this workprogramme, data will be collected using the methods developed and validated under 6 and 7.

12) *Development of multi residue methods based on Time Of Flight MS.*

During the past two years RIVM has been working on analytical methods for steroid hormones using LC-TOF-MS. From these studies it is concluded that the TOF-approach will become more widely used in the future, amongst others because of its generic character. In 2008, with the CRL workprogramma, a multi residue method for a large range of steroids, will be developed and validated. The preliminary results will be demonstrated during the 2007 workshop, but further method improvement, extension and validation are foreseen for 2008. Further, since of specific identification criteria are currently available for this techniques, the CRL will further develop and propose such criteria for inclusion on EU legislation (update CD 2002/657)

Specific products related to B:

Topic (since)	Product	Planned for
6 (2006)	Publication on the results of urine analyses for conjugated steroids	Method to be presented during the 2007 annual CRL-workshop. Limited finalizing activities in 2008, presentation and publication within EuroResidue VI
7 (2006)	Analytical methods for serum and plasma	Method to be presented during 2the 2007 annual CRL-workshop. Limited finalizing activities in 2008, presentation and publication within EuroResidue VI
8 ongoing	Identification of new compounds, inclusive studies on metabolism	Ongoing activity, progress report December 2008
9 (2007)	Validation report steroids in muscle tissue samples – evaluation of the possibilities of GC-MSMS analyses for confirmation	Method to be presented during 2the 2007 annual CRL-workshop. Limited finalizing activities in 2008, presentation and publication within EuroResidue VI
10 (2006)	Database on natural hormones as part of the CRL website	October 2007: activities to be continued under 11
11 (2008)	Studies on natural hormones. Approaches to detect abuse.	Progress report December 2008
12 (2008)	Development of multi residue methods based on Time of Flight MS.	Progress report December 2008

PM activities within sixth framework projects, participation in BIOCOP

- Support and activities within the follow up of the workshop on “The impact of quantitative chemical analysis in the 6th Framework program” (IQAILAN-NAS project, contract 96MA-CT-2002-04043).

- Support and consultation within the BIOCOP project on rapid screening methods, workpackage

C. Quality Assurance and Quality Control.

13) Maintenance of in-house QA/QC activities in consequence of the ISO 17025 accreditation of all analytical work done within the CRL (not costs included).

14) Organisation of proficiency tests for corticosteroids in bovine urine. Further, research studies will be organized for 1-testosterone and/or methyl-chlorotestosterone. Proficiency tests are organized on a regular basis, on average 3 tests per period of 2 years. Priorities are set on an annual basis, after consultation of the NRLs, amongst others during the workshops. As a rule, the proficiency tests are based on incurred materials, obtained during a controlled animal experiment.

15) Production of incurred sample material.

An animal studies in preparation of future proficiency tests are scheduled for 2008. Priorities will be set during the 2007 annual workshop.

Specific products related to C:

Topic	Product	Planned for
13	Annual re-accreditation	November 2008
14	Report proficiency study corticosteroids in bovine-urine Report research study 1-testosterone or methyl-chlorotestosterone in bovine urine	Preliminary reports are prepared within 2 months after conclusion of the proficiency tests. Full reports within 6 months
15	Technical report animal study	Following animal study

D. Technical and scientific support to Member States and the Commission, inclusive arbitration and training activities.

16) Analytical support and training. Analytical support, both by means of advise or training, will be given to NRLs upon their request.

17) Missions to NRLs and diffusion of scientific information. Missions will be undertaken to specific NRLs on the basis of their individual needs, e.g. in order to discuss and evaluate the results of a proficiency test. Analytical support. For 2008 a visit of the NRL on one or more of the Baltic states is foreseen.

18) Provision of standard substances including storage, administration, documentation and shipment. Annex V, Chapter 2, section 1 (j). When necessary and possible, selected compounds will be purchased or (custom) synthesised.

19) Analyses of official samples. Samples submitted by EU Member states in case of dispute between Member States or in case of analytical problems within a responsible NRL will be analysed.

20) Organisation of annual workshop on residue analysis. The topic will be selected on the basis of a consultation of the NRLs during the 2007 workshop.

Specific products related to D:

Topic	Product	Planned for
16	Training documentation and/or report	On an Ad Hoc basis
17	Visit report	December 2008
18	Ongoing	Annual overview
19	Ongoing written reports	On an Ad Hoc basis
20	Workshop proceedings	January 2008 (2007 workshop)

Work Programme and budget request of the Community Reference Laboratory for Chemical Elements in Food of Animal Origin at the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (CRL-ISS) Viale Regina Elena 299, 00161 Rome, Italy for the period 1 January– 31 December 2008

Work Programme based on the financial aid of 269,840 Euro (one Workshop included)

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).

5. OBJECTIVES FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2008 - 31 DECEMBER 2008

A General tasks

A*rticle 32, paragraph 1 (a, c, e, f)*

B Development and validation of analytical methods

A*rticle 32,paragraph 1 (a, c)*

C Organisation and implementation of proficiency tests.

Article 32, paragraph 1 (b)

D Technical and scientific support to NRLs and Third countries

A*rticle 32, paragraph 1 (a, b, c, d, e, f)*

6. WORKING PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2008 - 31 DECEMBER 2008

E. General Tasks

A*rticle 32, paragraph 1 (a, c, e, f)*

(anticipated break-down of all activities: 5 %)

1. Meeting of all CRLs.

Article 32, paragraph 1 (c, e)

The CRL-ISS will participate in the coordination meeting of the CRLs in order to exchange information on the activities performed during the established period. The outcome of activities will be discussed to harmonise the approaches adopted to assist the National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) and to optimise their interaction with the Commission services.

(anticipated break-down of these activities: 1%; anticipated duration: as requested by the meeting and preparation of the relevant documents)

2. Technical and scientific support to the Commission.

Article 32, paragraph 1 (e, f)

The CRL-ISS will provide the Commission with all the necessary support as regards the administrative duties and coordination services with the Commission in order to harmonise approaches and performance of activities among the NRLs. Technical and financial reports will be prepared. Whenever a dispute should arise between two Member States (MSs) or between an MS and a non-EU country on the results of the determination of substances under its responsibility, the CRL-ISS will offer its assistance in solving the problem.

(anticipated break-down of these activities: 1 %; anticipated duration: throughout the year, as necessary)

3. Compilation of annual report and cost estimate.

Article 32, paragraph 1 (e)

The reports on the activities carried out for the relevant contract period will be regularly submitted to the Commission.

The Work-programme with the future work to be undertaken, together with the cost estimates, will be sent to the Commission as well.

(anticipated break-down of these activities: 1 %; anticipated duration: throughout the year, as necessary)

4. Co-operation with international organisations.

Article 32, pragraph 1 (c, e)

The CRL-ISS will cooperate with EC/CRL related co-operation and International Organizations as regards the conduct of various tasks among which the Proficiency Testing Schemes (PTSs).

(anticipated break-down of these activities: 1 %; anticipated duration: throughout the year, as necessary)

5. Documentation services, interchange of information.

Article 32, paragarph 1 (a, c, e)

Information on consolidated and innovative analytical methods will be made available to the NRLs on request. The CRL-ISS will also provide any information and/or technical and scientific assistance requested by the NRLs.

A visit to two NRLs will be carried out to exchange information on their technical capabilities and scientific expertise in the analytical field and to provide them with any support needed.
All the activities performed by the CRL-ISS are available in the web site. In particular, in the Restricted Area the NRLs can have access to: the results of the Proficiency Tests carried out, information on the Workshop organized and the for chemical elements.
The NRLs in the MSs will be requested to submit to the CRL-ISS the revised information on the analytical methods already in use, as well as on the new methods adopted. This information will be collected for the NRLs in the for chemical elements.
(anticipated break-down of these activities: 1%; anticipated duration: throughout the year, as necessary)

F. Development and Validation of Analytical Methods

Article 32, paragraph 1 (a, c)

(anticipated break-down of all activities: 55 %)

6. Analytical methods.

Article 32, paragraph 1 (a, c)

According to the Commission Regulation (EC) no.333/2007 a method for As, Cd and Pb determination in meat will be validated by Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS).

(anticipated break-down of these activities: 30 %; anticipated duration: 6 months)

7. Development of methods.

Article 32, paragraph 1 (a, c)

A method for the quantification of As, Cd and Pb in milk by ETA-AAS will be developed.

(anticipated break-down of all activities: 15%; anticipated duration: 3 months)

8. Research on and identification of unknown compounds.

Article 32, paragraph 1 (a, c)

Considering the very high value of the maximum level for tin in canned food, stated by the Regulation 1881/2006, a method will be developed for determination of total tin in food by means of ICP-AES and/or F-AAS.

(anticipated break-down of these activities: 10 %; anticipated duration: 5 months)

G. Organisation and implementation of proficiency tests

Article 32, paragraph 1 (b)

(anticipated break-down of all activities: 28 %)

9. Organisation of proficiency tests.

Article 32, paragraph 1 (b)

Proficiency tests on trace elements will be organised and conducted for the designated NRLs and the candidate countries.

The PT will consist in two runs on As, Cd, Hg, Pb determination in two matrices/products to be agreed with the NRLs needs expressed during the Annual CRL-ISS Workshop 2007.

The candidate materials will be tested for homogeneity and analysed before the shipping to participants. After completion of each run of the exercise, the evaluation report will be prepared for distribution to the Commission and to the NRLs. This PT is the 12th of the series.

(anticipated break-down of these activities: 28 %; anticipated duration: throughout the year, as necessary)

H. Technical and Scientific Support to NRLs and Third Countries

A*rticle 32, section 1 (a, b, c, d, e, f)*

(anticipated break-down of all activities: 12%)

10. Analytical support and training.

Article 32, paragraph 1 (a , b, c, d)

The technical personnel of the NRLs in the MSs will be supported through their participation in the proficiency test. All problems related to performance detected by such proficiency test will be examined with the interested parties in order to minimise their occurrence in future activities. NRLs will also be assisted in the implementation of the the performance of analytical methods and the interpretation of results.

Technical and scientific support will be also provided to the NRLs of the Candidates Member States, on request.

(anticipated break-down of these activities: 3 %; anticipated duration: throughout the year, as necessary)

11. Missions to NRLs and diffusion of scientific information.

Article 32, paragraph 1 (a , b, c)

Technical assistance will be given to the NRLs as required by circumstances, including visits to their premises, facilities and laboratories at the appropriate locations.

Two visits will be carried out in Portugal and Romania; details about the date will be agreed upon with the NRLs.

The full reports on the visits will be sent to the Commission and to the relevant NRLs.

(anticipated break-down of these activities: 3 %; anticipated duration: 2 months)

12. Provisions of standard substances including storage, administration, documentation, shipment.

Article 32, paragraph 1 (a , c)

The information on reference materials and certified reference materials will be made available to the NRLs with particular regard to their proper use, subsampling, storage and general management.

(anticipated break-down of these activities: 1 %; anticipated duration: throughout the year, as necessary)

13. Analysis of official samples.

Article 32, paragraph 1 (e, f)

When a dispute between two MSs or between an MS and a non-EU country arises, the CRL-ISS will perform the official analyses of the samples for which there is disagreement.

(anticipated break-down of these activities: 1 %; anticipated duration: throughout the year, as necessary)

14. Organisation of workshops.

Article 32, paragraph 1 (a , b, c)

The results of the proficiency test mentioned under point 10 will be fully discussed during the relevant Annual Workshop.

(anticipated break-down of these activities: 4 %; anticipated duration: 3 months)