



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements
European Union Reference Laboratory for Mycotoxins

Geel, 22 March 2013
JRC/D5/JS/acs/ARES(2013)

Agenda for the NRL/EURL mycotoxin workshop at ISS in Rome 10th to 11th of June 2013

Time	Duration [minutes]	Topics day 1: June 10 th
10.00	15	Welcome and useful information (C. Brera)
10:15	10	Workshop introduction (J. Stroka)
10:25	30	Monitoring recommendation for Ergot Alkaloids (J. A. Gomez Ruiz, EFSA)
10:55	30	Prevalent fungal metabolites escaping routine analysis (M. Sulyok, IFA Tulln)
11:25	15	Coffee break
11:40	20	Update on current plans and development for new legislation (F. Verstraete)
12:00	20	Method validation study OTA in paprika (Z. Kunsagi)
12:20	20	Mandate of the Commission to CEN for the preparation of standardized methods of analysis for mycotoxins (M. de Vreeze)
12:40	30	Trends in Method Performance – (M. Sykes, FAPAS)
13:10	75	Lunch break
14:25	20	Comments raised by assessors/auditors in NRLs during ISO 17025 assessments (J. Keegan)
14:45	60	Comments raised by assessors/auditors in NRLs during ISO 17025 assessments (Discussion)
15:45	15	Coffee break
16:00	30	Sample preparation (A. Solyakov)
16:30	30	Sample preparation (Discussion)
17:00		End of 1 st Day

All NRL delegates are kindly asked to have details on hand for the topics marked as Discussion items. Times allocated for these topics shall allow having different situations in the NRLs discussed on a round table with crucial information ready for discussion and comparison with situations in other NRLs.

Retieseweg 111, B-2440 Geel - Belgium. Telephone: (32-14) 571 211
Telephone: direct line (32-14) 571 229. Fax: (32-14) 571 783.

E-mail: jrc-irrm-imep@ec.europa.eu
Web site: <http://irrm.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

Time	Duration [min]	Topics day 2: June 11 th
10:00	15	Outcome of a current PT on LC-MS/MS methods (to be determined)
10:15	30	Identification criteria in LC-MS/MS determination of mycotoxins (H. Mol)
10:45	60	Identification criteria in LC-MS/MS determination of mycotoxins (Discussion)
11:45	20	Update on the Guidance Document for Screening Methods (J. Stroka)
12:05	75	Lunch
13:20	60	Trends in Method Performance (Discussion)
14:20	20	Future PT rounds for NRLs and Workprogram of the EURL (J. Stroka)
14:40	30	Future PT rounds for NRLs – Call for needs (Discussion)
15:10	15	Coffee break
15:25	30	Result of the PT 2012 (Z. Kunsagi & J. Stroka)
15:55	20	AOB
16:15	15	Summary and Closure of the meeting (J. Stroka)
16:30		End of The workshop

Specific information for some Agenda items (very important for Discussion items!):

In order to be able identifying communalities as well as differences between labs and to find a good basis for a common statement please find below some background information on the topics in the agenda. Times allocated for these topics shall allow having different situations in the NRLs discussed and each NRL delegate having the voice in a round table discussion.

Mandate of the Commission to CEN for the preparation of standards for methods of analysis for mycotoxins:

The European Commission has given a mandate to CEN (European Committee for Standardization) for the preparation of standardized methods of analysis for several mycotoxins. CEN and NEN (secretariat of CEN TC 275 WG 5) will publish in the near future a call for tender for project leaders for the development of these standardized methods on their website, to which qualified laboratories can apply. The EURL mycotoxins will send out a circular with the details of the call to all NRLs once published. Marcel de Vreeze from NEN will give important information on the individual work items of the call as the mandate will result in a number of new CEN standards for mycotoxins.

Comments raised by assessors/auditors in NRLs during ISO 17025 assessments:

Members of the NRL group experienced sometimes too sensible or incomprehensible non-conformances during ISO 17025 inspections. In order to allow NRLs learn from each other from their experiences and prepare/be aware of what may give rise to future non-conformances/expectations of auditors this discussion should provide comments and suggestions from NRL delegates if they experienced incomprehensible or sensible situations and how they were solved.

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Sample preparation:

Since the milling process is very time/labour consuming it should be operated in the most effective way. Therefore in this discussion item experiences (and hints) that NRLs can share to get most efficiently a sample portion for mycotoxin analysis out of ten kilograms of cereal kernels should be evaluated. What types of mills are used in each NRL and which ones seem to be suitable? What particle size is small enough to achieve sufficient homogeneity for a test portion? How do you best subsample your sample?

For this topic the EURL will send out a questionnaire investigating how sample preparation is been practically executed in the NRLs. This questionnaire will also ask for the equipment used and experience the NRL wants to share.

Identification criteria in LC-MS/MS determination of mycotoxins:

LC-MS/MS is rapidly becoming a common method for (multi)mycotoxin analysis in the EU. When it comes to identification, there are no specific requirements set for mycotoxins in food/feed (except for afla M1). For that reason, in literature and in the CEN criterion document CEN/TR 16059:2010, reference is made to other areas such as 2002/657 (veterinary drugs/contaminants in products of animal origin) or SANCO/12495/2011 (pesticides in food/feed). These criteria are not very convincingly scientifically underpinned and seem more based on expert experience/insights. It appears that these criteria seem to be adequate to avoid false positives (although there are examples of exceptions), but can result in a significant number of false negatives, especially at the lower levels (which may depend on the analyte, the matrix, sample prep, instrument etc.). What is the situation for mycotoxins analysed by LC-MS/MS (typically with extraction and minimal clean up as sample prep)? What is the variation in retention times and ion ratios, and how do these compare to existing identification criteria?

For this topic the EURL will send out a questionnaire investigating what criteria NRL/OFL have in place for their LC-MS/MS SOPs (if any). This questionnaire will also ask for the LC-MS Methods in use, the mycotoxin matrix combinations found to be applicable and achieved LOQs.

Trends in Method Performance:

For more than 2 decades laboratories participate in proficiency tests for mycotoxins which should aid to improve performance where it can. Some literature concluded that over a period of several years no improvement of measurement performance in a pool of laboratories was observed for certification studies. Each NRL should contribute by shortly laying down their experience how they improved where possible their own performance.

Future PT rounds for NRLs – Call for needs:

Delegates should discuss with the EURL what proficiency test combinations (Matrix/Mycotoxin/Concentration) are most needed. This should also include information on the scale of future PTs (number of test materials) that is feasible.