

AGLAE 2023

CATALOGUE OF EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSESSMENT

Medical biology – Hospital hygiene

Water microbiology



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New in 2023

External Quality Assessments in medical biology

AGLAE provides some EQA enabling the **check of the analytical phase for each matrix** and other EQA oriented towards the **control of some critical steps** (sub-process such as the Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing)

New EQA / New PTS

Medical biology

- ✓ 117A Bacteraemia - Microscopic examination in blood - Wet mount and Gram stain
- ✓ 118 Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by diffusion - disk method
- ✓ 118A Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by diffusion - gradient method (MIC strips)
- ✓ 119 Screening for *Streptococcus agalactiae* or streptococcus B

Water microbiology

- ✓ 130 Bacteriophages in waters: enumeration of somatic coliphages and F-specific RNA bacteriophages

Modifications of programmes

(introduced in programmes existing in 2022)

Medical biology

- ✓ 117 Bacteriology - Microscopic examination **in neutral solution** - Wet mount and Gram stain
Conduct of 2 tests per year instead of 4
→ *Creation of the programme 117A Bacteraemia - Microscopic examination **in blood***

Water microbiology

- ✓ 38A Mould in clean waters: increase to 2 tests per year instead of 1

2023 registrations will be possible from the beginning of November 2022 (week 45)

Should there be any differences between the French and English versions of this document, the French version shall prevail.

EQA in the fields of medical biology, hospital hygiene and water microbiology

⇒ [Click on the programme's name to read its description](#)

Medical Biology	page
80 Cytobacteriology of urines	8
80A Urinary antigens - <i>Legionella</i>	9
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Control of some critical steps (sub-process)	page
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In red: modifications compared to the 2022 scheme.

Conduct of the programmes subject to a sufficient number of participants.

The test documents of the medical biology field are not provided in English.

Waters for medical use	page
82 Endotoxins in waters as described in the pharmacopoeia	23
83A Microbiology in waters similar to dialysate	24
83B Microbiology in waters similar to endoscope verification solutions	25
86 Indicator germs by filtration in bacteriologically controlled waters	26
86B Indicator germs in waters similar to pharmaceutical process waters	27

Water microbiology	page
11 Microbial indicators of faecal contamination by MPN method	29
30 Microbiology in clean waters	30
30A Spores of sulfite-reducing anaerobes in fresh surface waters and waste waters	32
31 <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> and pathogenic staphylococci in clean waters	33
31A Pathogenic staphylococci in saline waters	34
32 <i>Legionella</i> and <i>Legionella pneumophila</i> in clean waters by culture	35
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35 <i>Legionella</i> and <i>Legionella pneumophila</i> in clean waters by PCR	37
36 <i>Legionella</i> and <i>Legionella pneumophila</i> in waste waters by PCR	38
37 <i>Salmonella</i> in fresh waters	39
38 Yeasts in clean waters	40
38A Mould in clean waters	41
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For each programme's description, you will find the technical content of the test: volumes, parameters, matrices, dispatch month...

The samples' dispatch months are given for information only.

Transport costs depend on the destination and tests selected within the programmes; contact us to get a quote.

**Find the programmes related to Cosmetics - Environment
in the second catalogue of AGLAE's tests**

Participate in AGLAE's External Quality Control



A WAY OF WORKING THAT PROVIDES YOU WITH THE HIGHEST STANDARD OF RESULTS WITH CONFIDENTIALITY AND IMPARTIALITY

Each step of the way, AGLAE is there supporting you.

REGISTRATIONS FOR PROFICIENCY TESTING ARE DONE KNOWING THE WHOLE PROCESS, WITH A DETAILED AND RIGOROUS SCHEDULE



- ✓ The number of evaluations per year for each parameter is specified in the catalogue.
- ✓ AGLAE uses "express" shipments for your samples and makes sure of their distribution to your laboratory.
- ✓ A sufficient delay for reporting your analytical results.
- ✓ Via your member area, **enter your results and find instructions, assigned codes, reports, summaries of your results, certificate of participation...**

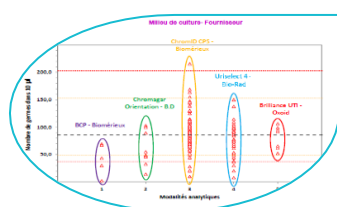
THE OPTIMISATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT FOR YOUR LABORATORY



You receive test samples close to those analysed in routine (materials ready for analysis) which enable you to validate the analytical chain from the receipt of the sample to the report of the result.

You have a better visibility of potential anomalies through:

- ✓ An appropriate test design (duplicate samples, repeated measurements),
- ✓ A large number of participants: around 240 laboratories for the blood culture (complete analysis), over 100 for the cytbacteriology of urines.



AGLAE's detailed study:

- ✓ Influence of the analytical methods, manufacturers (equipment and consumables)? Differences between pair groups? ... factors that we study to help you identify the origin of any anomalies.
- ✓ For waters intended for medical use and water microbiology, estimation of your own uncertainties in microbiology.
- ✓ In medical biology, for some specific strains, the expertise of the French Reference Centre concerned enables you to compare your results with those of an entity recognised by the profession.
- ✓ **A personalized report validated by experts of the field** for most tests (list of the members at the end of the report).

ATTRACTIVE DISCOUNTS, PAYMENT CONDITIONS MADE EASIER

- Choose among the various programmes and benefit from discounts up to 15%,
- A possible payment in 2 or 3 folds depending on the amount your participation.
- Payment possible by cheque (in €), bank transfer, credit card on <https://www.helloasso.com/associations/a-g-l-a-e/paiements/aglae>

Amount of your invoice (excluding transport fees)	Discount
3000 ≤ Amount < 6000 € excl. VAT	5%
6000 ≤ Amount < 9000 € excl. VAT	10%
Amount ≥ 9000 € excl. VAT	15%

**And exclusively for AGLAE's members:
experimental tests at an attractive price during the year**

Additional services



ADDITIONAL TEST SAMPLES TO TEST ANOTHER METHOD, EVALUATE A TECHNICIAN

- ✓ Test samples available for almost all the tests at half price.
- ✓ Besides your usual distribution, you receive one (or several) additional parcel(s).
- ✓ The results of these samples are not statistically processed by AGLAE but for most tests you get a sheet **in your results file** where to **calculate your z-score**. Note that this sheet can also be used in case of unit error, incorrect results' report, etc.

⇒ Check the **list of samples and their price on your Member Area** (Downloads / Catalogues) and contact us to receive a quote. These additional samples need to be ordered after you registration for the test and before the shipment.



TRAINING SESSIONS IN MICROBIOLOGY: ONE TOPIC PROVIDED IN ENGLISH

Two-day on-line session to become operational for:

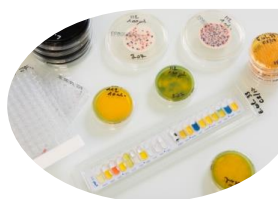
- ✓ Characterising a microbiological method according to ISO 13843 in order to validate it: **24 - 25 May 2023**

⇒ Check the programmes and registration form on AGLAE's web site, section 'Training sessions'.



SUMMARY OF YOUR RESULTS FOR WATER MICROBIOLOGY AND WATER FOR MEDICAL USE TESTS

Gather at any time your results and performance: for a selected period, your results are grouped in an Excel file; this is a tool to support you in your Internal Quality Control, your audits...



CUSTOMIZED SERVICE: 'PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS OF MICROBIOLOGICAL METHODS'

Do you need to characterise specific methods?

AGLAE can provide you support to establish methods performance characteristics, in conformity with ISO 13843*. Benefit from AGLAE's technical and statistical experience to validate your microbiological method.

* Water quality — Requirements for establishing performance characteristics of quantitative microbiological methods

⇒ Should you have such needs, contact us to study your request together and issue a quote.



FORUM OF AGLAE'S MEMBERS: COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER MEMBERS WITH CONFIDENTIALITY

- ✓ Check your field of interest: environment chemistry, environment microbiology and medical biology,
- ✓ Give your opinion or ask questions on various themes: analytical, accreditation, need of other tests...

⇒ Find the forum on the home page of your Member Area.

Programmes' description

Caption



This logo shows that the programme is accredited by LABORATORIES section in compliance with ISO/IEC 17043.

Glossary of the matrices used

Name of the matrix for environmental biology	Below the matrices that can be used, alone or mixed, to comply with the representativity of the specified matrix									
	public drinking waters	bottled waters	waters from rivers or lakes	water from well or drill	waste waters from WWTP	sea water	domestic hot waters	water from industrial origin	swimming pool waters	Synthetic waters
Bathing freshwaters			x							
Bathing saline waters						x				
Saline waters						x				x
Surface waters			x							
Clean waters	x	x		x			x		x	
Waste waters					x					x
Waste waters (for Legionella tests)			x					x		x

WWTP: Waste Water Treatment Plant

Name of the matrix for Biology of waters for medical use	Below the matrices that can be used, alone or mixed, to comply with the representativity of the specified matrix		
	Apyrogen sterile distilled water	Deionised water	Water for injectable preparations
Waters for medical use	x	x	x
Pharmaceutical waters	x	x	x

MEDICAL BIOLOGY



PROGRAMME 80: CYTOBACTERIOLOGY OF URINES

Synthetic urine containing a pathogenic strain for bacteriological analysis and cytological examination (after reconstitution of a concentrate).



381 € excl. VAT – total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport fees)

102 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE > 10 YEARS

Parameters to analyse	Tube		Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
	Volume	Number	
23M80.1 - Urine - sent in January 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Cytology: enumeration of red and white blood cells	7 mL	1	1
Bacteriology: bacterial count, identification, AST*	8 mL	2	2
23M80.2 - Urine - sent in April 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Cytology: enumeration of red and white blood cells	7 mL	1	1
Bacteriology: bacterial count, identification, AST*	8 mL	2	2
23M80.3 - Urine - sent in September 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Cytology: enumeration of red and white blood cells	7 mL	1	1
Bacteriology: bacterial count, identification, AST*	8 mL	2	2
23M80.4 - Urine - sent in November 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Cytology: enumeration of red and white blood cells	7 mL	1	1
Bacteriology: bacterial count, identification, AST*	8 mL	2	2

*AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

PARTICULARITIES



Cytology is statistically processed with results obtained from all methods and per peer group (manual analysis / automated systems Sysmex / automated systems IRIS Diagnostics / other automated systems subject to the number of users).

An overview of the resistance phenotype and a conclusion on the resistance mechanisms will be provided in the test report.

Assessment of several technicians / several techniques: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results (cytology, identification and semi-quantitative enumeration).

☞ Find the Gram stain in two specific EQA: programme 117 (neutral solution) and 117A (blood).

The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Bacteriology, Cytology

D₀ + 1

D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 80A: URINARY ANTIGENS - *LEGIONELLA*

Detection using urine antigen tests for *Legionella* (positive or negative) on several batches presenting different concentration levels.



186 € excl. VAT – total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

52 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE 5 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **50 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Tube		Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
	Volume	Number	
23M80A.1 - Urine - sent in January 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Detection of <i>Legionella</i> urinary antigens	5 ml	3	1
23M80A.2 - Urine - sent in July 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Detection of <i>Legionella</i> urinary antigens	5 ml	3	1

PARTICULARITIES



Performance assessed with the assignment of a “qualitative ranking” per EQA.

👉 Find the detection of pneumococcal urinary antigens in the programme 80B.

The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Detection of <i>Legionella</i> urinary antigens	D ₀ + 1
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D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 80B: URINARY ANTIGENS - PNEUMOCOCCUS

Detection using urine antigen tests for pneumococcus (positive or negative) on several batches presenting different concentration levels.



188 € excl. VAT – total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

39 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE 4 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **50 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Tube		Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
	Volume	Number	
23M80B.1 - Urine - sent in April 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Detection of pneumococcal urinary antigens	5 ml	3	1
23M80B.2 - Urine - sent in November 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Detection of pneumococcal urinary antigens	5 ml	3	1

PARTICULARITIES



Performance assessed with the assignment of a “qualitative ranking” per EQA.

👉 Find the detection of *Legionella* urinary antigens in the programme 80A.

The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Detection of pneumococcal urinary antigens

D₀ + 1

D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 84: STOOL CULTURE

Synthetic stool containing a pathogenic strain and commensal flora for bacteriological analysis.



561 € excl. VAT – total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

49 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **75 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Tube		Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
	Volume	Number	
23M84.1 - Stools - sent in January 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Bacteriology: detection and identification of the pathogenic bacterial strain, AST*	a few grams	1	1
23M84.2 - Stools - sent in April 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Bacteriology: detection and identification of the pathogenic bacterial strain, AST*	a few grams	1	1
23M84.3 - Stools - sent in September 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Bacteriology: detection and identification of the pathogenic bacterial strain, AST*	a few grams	1	1
23M84.4 - Stools - sent in December 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Bacteriology: detection and identification of the pathogenic bacterial strain, AST*	a few grams	1	1

*AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

PARTICULARITIES



The resistance phenotype and a conclusion on the resistance mechanisms will be provided in the test report.

🔑 Find the Gram stain in two specific EQA: programme 117 (neutral solution) and 117A (blood).

The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Bacteriology

D₀ + 1

D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 85: BLOOD CULTURE – BACTERAEMIA COMPLETE ANALYSIS OF THE PROCESS

Human blood containing a pathogenic strain for microbiological analysis



511 € excl. VAT - total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

240 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **65 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Tube		Number of measurements per parameter and per sample
	Volume	Number	
23M85.1 - Blood - sent in February 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Bacteraemia: detection, identification, AST*	10 mL	2 tubes = 1 sample	1 (aerobic) and 1 (anaerobic)
23M85.2 - Blood - sent in June 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Bacteraemia: detection, identification, AST*	10 mL	2 tubes = 1 sample	1 (aerobic) and 1 (anaerobic)
23M85.3 - Blood - sent in September 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Bacteraemia: detection, identification, AST*	10 mL	2 tubes = 1 sample	1 (aerobic) and 1 (anaerobic)
23M85.4 - Blood - sent in November 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Bacteraemia: detection, identification, AST*	10 mL	2 tubes = 1 sample	1 (aerobic) and 1 (anaerobic)

*AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

PARTICULARITIES



A statistical appraisal is assigned to the positivity delay.

An overview of the resistance phenotype and a conclusion on the resistance mechanisms will be provided in the test report.

EQA incompatible with the Rapid method for Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (RAST) directly from positive blood culture bottles.

- ☞ Find the other EQA related to blood culture:
 - Programme 89: Blood culture – Fungaemia
 - Programme 85A: Blood culture – Bacteraemia – Qualitative culture (presence/absence)
- ☞ Find the Gram stain in two specific EQA: programme 117 (neutral solution) and 117A (blood).

The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Bacteraemia	D ₀ + 1
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D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 85A: BLOOD CULTURE - BACTERAEMIA - QUALITATIVE CULTURE

Blood containing a pathogenic strain for the detection of a bacteraemia (presence/absence).



276 € excl. VAT – total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

49 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE 2 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **35 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Tube		Number of measurements per parameter and per sample
	Volume	Number	
23M85A.1 - Blood - sent in January 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Bacteraemia: detection of bacterial growth	10 mL	4 tubes: 2 tubes per sample	1 (aerobic) and 1 (anaerobic)
23M85A.2 - Blood - sent in June 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Bacteraemia: detection of bacterial growth	10 mL	4 tubes: 2 tubes per sample	1 (aerobic) and 1 (anaerobic)
23M85A.3 - Blood - sent in August 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Bacteraemia: detection of bacterial growth	10 mL	4 tubes: 2 tubes per sample	1 (aerobic) and 1 (anaerobic)
23M85A.4 - Blood - sent in November 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Bacteraemia: detection of bacterial growth	10 mL	4 tubes: 2 tubes per sample	1 (aerobic) and 1 (anaerobic)

PARTICULARITIES



A statistical appraisal is assigned to the positivity delay.

☞ Find the other EQA related to blood culture:

- Programme 89: Blood culture – Fungaemia
- Programme 85: Blood culture – Bacteraemia – Complete analysis of the process (detection, identification, Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing)

☞ Find the Gram stain in two specific EQA: programme 117 (neutral solution) and 117A (blood).

The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Bacteraemia

D₀ + 1

D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 87: CYTOBACTERIOLOGY OF THE CEREBROSPINAL FLUID

Synthetic cerebrospinal fluid containing a pathogenic strain for bacteriological analysis and cytological examination (after reconstitution of a concentrate).



283 € excl. VAT – total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

66 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **75 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Tube		Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
	Volume	Number	
23M87.1 - Cerebrospinal fluid - sent in January 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Cytology: enumeration of red and white blood cells	2 mL	2	2
Bacteriology: bacterial count, identification and AST*	2 mL	2	2
23M87.2 - Cerebrospinal fluid - sent in September 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Cytology: enumeration of red and white blood cells	2 mL	2	2
Bacteriology: bacterial count, identification and AST*	2 mL	2	2

*AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

PARTICULARITIES



An overview of the resistance phenotype and a conclusion on the resistance mechanisms will be provided in the test report.

☞ Find the Gram stain in two specific EQA: programme 117 (neutral solution) and 117A (blood).

The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Bacteriology, Cytology

D₀ + 1

D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 88: BACTERIOLOGY OF SPUTUM

Synthetic sputum containing a pathogenic strain for bacteriological analysis.



258 € excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

51 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **65 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Tube		Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
	Volume	Number	
23M88.1 - Expectorations - sent in January 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Bacteriology: bacterial count, identification and AST*	5 mL	2	2
23M88.2 - Expectorations - sent in September 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Bacteriology: bacterial count, identification and AST*	5 mL	2	2

*AST: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

PARTICULARITIES



A guidance about the bacteria cultivation will be provided in the instructions of each test.

An overview of the resistance phenotype and a conclusion on the resistance mechanisms will be provided in the test report.

☞ Find the Gram stain in two specific EQA: programme 117 (neutral solution) and 117A (blood).

The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Bacteriology

D₀ + 1

D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 89: BLOOD CULTURE – FUNGAEMIA

Human blood containing a pathogenic strain for fungal analysis.



268 € excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

74 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **70 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Tube		Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
	Volume	Number	
23M89.1 - Blood - sent in February 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Fungaemia: detection, identification and antifungal susceptibility testing	10 mL	2 tubes = 1 sample	1 (aerobic) and 1 (anaerobic)
23M89.2 - Blood - sent in July 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Fungaemia: detection, identification and antifungal susceptibility testing	10 mL	2 tubes = 1 sample	1 (aerobic) and 1 (anaerobic)

PARTICULARITIES



A statistical appraisal is assigned to the positivity delay.

Laboratories participating in these EQA should treat the samples with the method implemented in routine. Laboratories process the samples with specific flasks/media or with standard bacteriology flasks both aerobic and anaerobic.

👉 Find the other EQA related to blood culture:

- Programme 85: Blood culture – Bacteraemia – Complete analysis of the process (detection, identification and Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing)
- Programme 85A: Blood culture – Bacteraemia – Qualitative culture (presence/absence)

The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Fungaemia	D ₀ + 1
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D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 117: BACTERIOLOGY - MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION **IN NEUTRAL SOLUTION** - WET MOUNT AND GRAM STAIN

Neutral solution containing a strain for microscopic analysis (wet mount and Gram stain)

63 € excl. VAT – total amount for **2** tests (excluding transport costs)

57 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE 1 YEAR

Parameters to analyse	Tube		Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
	Volume	Number	
23M117.1 - sent in January 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Morphology, cell arrangement, mobility, Gram stain and orientation of the bacterial type	10 mL	1	1
23M117.2 - sent in September 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Morphology, cell arrangement, mobility, Gram stain and orientation of the bacterial type	10 mL	1	1

PARTICULARITIES

Qualitative assessment of the morphology, cell arrangement, mobility, result of the Gram stain (Gram positive / negative) and of the orientation of the bacterial type.

☞ Find the microscopic examination in blood - Wet mount and Gram stain: programme 117A.

The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Morphology, cell arrangement, mobility, Gram stain and orientation of the bacterial type	D ₀ + 1
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D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 117A: BACTERAEMIA - MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION IN BLOOD - WET MOUNT AND GRAM STAIN

Human blood containing a strain for microscopic analysis (wet mount and Gram stain)

65 € excl. VAT – total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

New

New in 2023

Parameters to analyse	Tube		Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
	Volume	Number	
23M117A.1 – sent in February 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Morphology, cell arrangement, mobility, Gram stain and orientation of the bacterial type	10 mL	1	1
23M117A.2 - sent in November 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Morphology, cell arrangement, mobility, Gram stain and orientation of the bacterial type	10 mL	1	1

PARTICULARITIES

Qualitative assessment of the morphology, cell arrangement, mobility, result of the Gram stain (Gram positive / negative) and of the orientation of the bacterial type.

☞ Find the microscopic examination in a neutral solution - Wet mount and Gram stain: programme 117A.

The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Morphology, cell arrangement, mobility, Gram stain and orientation of the bacterial type	D ₀ +1
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D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 118: ANTIMICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING BY DIFFUSION - DISK METHOD

Measurements of inhibition zone diameters and report of raw and interpreted clinical categorisations for each antibiotic tested

124 € excl. VAT – total amount for 1 test (excluding transport costs)

New

New in 2023

Parameters to analyse	Tube		Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
	Volume	Number	
23M118.1 – sent in May 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Antibiotics: inhibition zone diameters and report of raw and interpreted clinical categorisations	10 mL	1	1

PARTICULARITIES

Receipt of a neutral solution contaminated by an identified strain, with a clinical scenario.

Isolation, preparation of the inoculum and implementation of an Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST) by diffusion.

Global evaluation with:

- Evaluation of clinical categorisations considering the dispersion around the diameter for each antibiotic,
- Evaluation of the measurement of inhibition zone diameters for each antibiotic,
- Evaluation of overall trends to over or underestimate the diameter measurement across all antibiotics.

Assessments provided for several technicians: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results (measurement of diameters).

☞ Find the Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by diffusion - gradient method (MIC strips): programme 118A.

The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Antibiotics: inhibition zone diameters, raw and interpreted clinical categorisations

D₀+1

D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 118A: ANTIMICROBIAL SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING BY DIFFUSION - GRADIENT METHOD (MIC STRIPS)

Measurements of inhibition zone diameters and report of raw and interpreted clinical categorisations for each antibiotic tested

124 € excl. VAT – total amount for 1 test (excluding transport costs)

New

New in 2023

Parameters to analyse	Tube		Number of measurements per parameter and per tube
	Volume	Number	
23M118A.1 – sent in September 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Antibiotics: Minimum Inhibitory Concentrations (MIC) and report of raw and interpreted clinical categorisations	10 mL	1	1

PARTICULARITIES

Receipt of a neutral solution contaminated by an identified strain, with a clinical scenario.

Isolation, preparation of the inoculum and implementation of an Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST) by application of MIC strips.

For each antibiotic tested: reading of the MIC, report of raw and interpreted clinical categorisations.

Assessment provided for several technicians: report of referent results and up to 5 additional results (measurement of zone diameters).

☞ Find the Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing by diffusion – disk method: programme 118.

The documents of this External Quality Assessment are not translated into English.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Antibiotics: MIC, raw and interpreted clinical categorisations	D ₀ +1
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D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 119: SCREENING OF *STREPTOCOCCUS AGALACTIAE* OR *STREPTOCOCCUS B*

Detection of group B streptococcus using culture and/or rapid method from vaginal swabs (synthetic matrix) presenting different concentration levels.

New

125 € excl. VAT - total amount for 1 test (excluding transport fees)

New in 2023

Parameters to analyse	Swab		Number of measurements per parameter and per swab
	Volume	Number	
23M119.1 – sent in March 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Streptococcus B detection	-	3	1

PARTICULARITIES

Performance assessed with the assignment of a “qualitative ranking” per EQA.

An overview or evaluation of the results obtained by rapid method (antigens or gene amplification) and of the Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing will be provided.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Streptococcus B detection	D ₀ +1
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D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

WATERS FOR MEDICAL USE



PROGRAMME 82: ENDOTOXINS IN WATERS AS DESCRIBED IN THE PHARMACOPOEIA

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in waters as described in the pharmacopoeia, waters for irrigation, hemodialysis waters, dialysates, substitution fluids, *as well as waters in health care, pharmaceutical and cosmetic establishments.*



328 € excl. VAT – total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

60 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE 10 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **85 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Bottle		Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
	Volume	Number	
23M82.1 - Waters intended for medical use - sent in March 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Bacterial Endotoxins	250 mL	2	2
23M82.2 - Waters intended for medical use - sent in August 2023- Refrigerated parcel			
Bacterial Endotoxins	250 mL	2	2

PARTICULARITIES

Bacterial endotoxins (LAL enumeration) in accordance with the current pharmacopoeia PE 2.6.14 or USP <85> and <161>.

Please note that only quantitative methods and methods giving results like <X, >Y or [x; y] are taken into account for the statistical processing of data.

Results coming from qualitative methods (presence / absence) cannot be statistically processed.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Bacterial Endotoxins	D ₀ + 3
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D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 83A: MICROBIOLOGY IN WATERS SIMILAR TO DIALYSATE

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in hemodialysis waters, dialysates, generator loop outflow waters, substitution fluids, as well as fresh waters, waters in health care, pharmaceutical and cosmetic establishments.



356 € excl. VAT – total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

72 participants in 2022 - EXPERIENCE 10 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **90 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Bottle		Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
	Volume	Number	
23M83A.1 - Waters intended for medical use - sent in February 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Culturable micro-organisms at 22°C - 7 days with identification	500 mL	2	2
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	500 mL	2	2
23M83A.2 - Waters intended for medical use - sent in October 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Culturable micro-organisms at 22°C - 7 days with identification	500 mL	2	2
Yeasts	500 mL	2	2

PARTICULARITIES

Aerobic flora culturable at 22°C during 7 days (by filtration): advised culture media R2A.

For all the parameters of this programme, uncertainties are calculated and provided to the participants. The indicators are the repeatability uncertainty ur^2 and the reproducibility uncertainty uR^2 specific to each participant. The uncertainty evaluated for the whole profession is also presented.

👉 Find a specific programme for yeasts: programme 38, as well as a programme for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*: programme 31.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Culturable micro-organisms at 22°C - 7 days,
Pseudomonas aeruginosa and yeasts

$D_0 + 1$

D_0 : Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 83B: MICROBIOLOGY IN WATERS SIMILAR TO ENDOSCOPE VERIFICATION SOLUTIONS

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in fresh waters, waters in health care, pharmaceutical and cosmetic establishments.



296 € excl. VAT – total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

102 participants in 2022 - EXPERIENCE 10 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **75 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Bottle		Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
	Volume	Number	
23M83B.1 - Waters intended for medical use - sent in March 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Culturable micro-organisms at 30°C - 5 days and identification	500 mL	2	2
23M83B.2 - Waters intended for medical use - sent in October 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Culturable micro-organisms at 30°C - 5 days and identification	500 mL	2	2

PARTICULARITIES

Total aerobic mesophile flora culturable at 30°C during 5 days including yeasts: none-selective culture media advised such as PCA or TS.

For all the parameters of this programme, uncertainties are calculated and provided to the participants. The indicators are the repeatability uncertainty ur^2 and the reproducibility uncertainty uR^2 specific to each participant. The uncertainty evaluated for the whole profession is also presented.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

culturable micro-organisms at 30°C - 5 days

$D_0 + 1$

D_0 : Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 86: INDICATOR GERMS BY FILTRATION IN BACTERIOLOGICALLY CONTROLLED WATERS

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in fresh waters, waters in health care, pharmaceutical and cosmetic establishments.



236 € excl. VAT – total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

73 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **60 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Bottle		Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
	Volume	Number	
23M86.1 - Waters intended for medical use - sent in March 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Culturable micro-organisms at 22°C, culturable micro-organisms at 36°C	500 mL	2	2
23M86.2 - Waters intended for medical use - sent in October 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Culturable micro-organisms at 22°C, culturable micro-organisms at 36°C	500 mL	2	2

PARTICULARITIES

Aerobic flora culturable at 22°C and at 36°C on PCA or TS media by filtration of 100 mL.

For all the parameters of this programme, uncertainties are calculated and provided to the participants. The indicators are the repeatability uncertainty u_r^2 and the reproducibility uncertainty u_R^2 specific to each participant. The uncertainty evaluated for the whole profession is also presented.

☞ Find the analysis of culturable micro-organisms at 22°C and at 36°C by the plate incorporation method: programme 30.

☞ Find the analysis of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*: programme 31.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Culturable micro-organisms at 22°C
culturable micro-organisms at 36°C

$D_0 + 1$

D_0 : Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 86B: INDICATOR GERMS IN WATERS SIMILAR TO PHARMACEUTICAL PROCESS WATERS

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in waters as described in the pharmacopoeia, healthcare waters (purified and highly purified waters ...) as well as pharmaceutical and cosmetic establishments.



238 € excl. VAT – total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

22 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **60 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Bottle		Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
	Volume	Number	
23M86B.1 - pharmaceutical process water - sent in April 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Culturable micro-organisms at 30-35°C on R2A medium during 5 days	500 mL	2	2
23M86B.2 - pharmaceutical process water - sent in November 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Culturable micro-organisms at 30-35°C on R2A medium during 5 days	500 mL	2	2

PARTICULARITIES

Aerobic flora culturable at 30-35°C on R2A medium during 5 days **after filtration**.

For all the parameters of this programme, uncertainties are calculated and provided to the participants. The indicators are the repeatability uncertainty u_r^2 and the reproducibility uncertainty u_R^2 specific to each participant. The uncertainty evaluated for the whole profession is also presented.

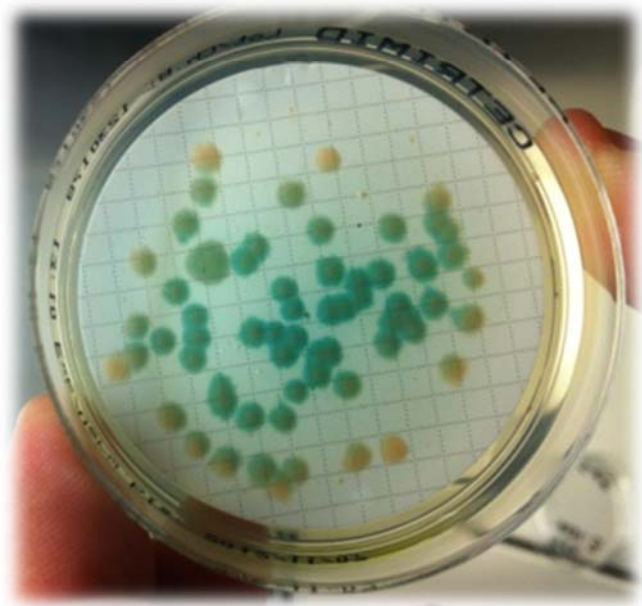
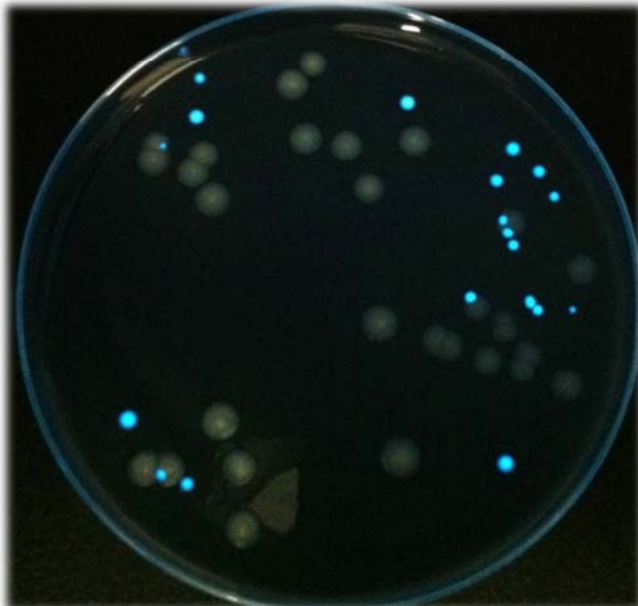
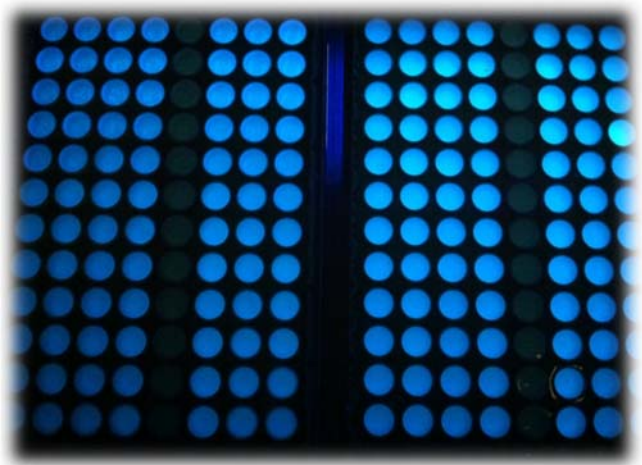
Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Culturable micro-organisms at 30-35°C on R2A medium during 5 days	$D_0 + 1$
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D_0 : Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

WATER MICROBIOLOGY



PROGRAMME 11: MICROBIAL INDICATORS OF FAECAL CONTAMINATION BY MPN METHOD

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in fresh waters, saline and brackish waters and waste waters.



401 € excl. VAT – total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

125 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE > 25 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **55 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse <i>(implemented in each proficiency test except coliform bacteria)</i>	Bottle		Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
	Volume	Number	
23M11.1 - Surface water - sent in February 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Coliform bacteria, <i>Escherichia coli</i> , Intestinal enterococci	500 mL	2	2
23M11.2 - Bathing freshwater - sent in June 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Coliform bacteria, <i>Escherichia coli</i> , Intestinal enterococci	500 mL	2	2
23M11.3 - Sea water - sent in August 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
<i>Escherichia coli</i> , Intestinal enterococci	500 mL	2	2
23M11.4 - Waste water - sent in November 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
<i>Escherichia coli</i> , Intestinal enterococci	500 mL	2	2

PARTICULARITIES

Coliform bacteria are provided only in surface water and bathing freshwater.

Coliform bacteria: parameter compatible with (NF EN) ISO 9308-2 and NF T90-413.

***Escherichia coli*:** parameter compatible with (NF EN) ISO 9308-2 and (NF EN) ISO 9308-3.

Intestinal enterococci: parameter compatible with (NF EN) ISO 7899-1 and Enterolert E.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Escherichia coli, coliform bacteria, Intestinal enterococci

D₀+1

D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 30: MICROBIOLOGY IN CLEAN WATERS

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in public drinking waters, non-atypical natural mineral waters, swimming pool waters, waters for whirlpool baths, waters for multi-jet showers, healthcare waters *as well as fresh* waters, waters in health care, pharmaceutical and cosmetic establishments.* *Clear fresh waters for the spores of sulfite-reducing anaerobes.



720 € excl. VAT – total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

266 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE > 25 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **90 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Bottle		Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
	Volume	Number	
23M30.1 - Clean water - sent in March 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
culturable micro-organisms at 22°C, culturable micro-organisms at 36°C	10 mL	2	2
<i>Escherichia coli</i> , coliform bacteria, Intestinal enterococci, spores of sulfite-reducing anaerobes	500 mL	2	2
23M30.2 - Clean water - sent in June 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
culturable micro-organisms at 22°C, culturable micro-organisms at 36°C	10 mL	2	2
<i>Escherichia coli</i> , coliform bacteria, Intestinal enterococci, spores of sulfite-reducing anaerobes	500 mL	2	2
23M30.3 - Clean water - sent in October 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
culturable micro-organisms at 22°C, culturable micro-organisms at 36°C	10 mL	2	2
<i>Escherichia coli</i> , coliform bacteria, Intestinal enterococci, spores of sulfite-reducing anaerobes	500 mL	2	2
23M30.4 - Clean water - sent in December 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
culturable micro-organisms at 22°C, culturable micro-organisms at 36°C	10 mL	2	2
<i>Escherichia coli</i> , coliform bacteria, Intestinal enterococci, spores of sulfite-reducing anaerobes	500 mL	2	2

PARTICULARITIES

Culturable micro-organisms at 22°C and culturable micro-organisms at 36°C: by incorporation.

Coliform bacteria, *Escherichia coli*: parameters compatible with (NF EN) ISO 9308-1 (2000), ISO 9308-1 (2014), ISO 9308-2 (2012) and (NF EN) ISO 9308-2 (2014).

Intestinal enterococci: parameter compatible with (NF EN) ISO 7899-2 and Enterolert DW.

For all the parameters of this programme, uncertainties are calculated and provided to the participants. The indicators are the repeatability uncertainty u_r^2 and the reproducibility uncertainty u_R^2 specific to each participant. The uncertainty evaluated for the whole profession is also presented.

☞ Find in the other microbiology programmes:

- ✓ programme 30A for the analysis of spores of sulfite-reducing anaerobes in fresh surface waters and waste waters,
- ✓ programme 86 for the analysis of culturable micro-organisms at 22°C and at 36°C after filtration.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

culturable micro-organisms at 22°C,
culturable micro-organisms at 36°C,
Escherichia coli, coliform bacteria,
Intestinal enterococci,
spores of sulfite-reducing anaerobes

D₀+1

D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 30A: SPORES OF SULFITE-REDUCING ANAEROBES IN FRESH SURFACE WATERS AND WASTE WATERS

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in fresh waters and in waste waters.



236 € excl. VAT – total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

16 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE 2 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **30 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Bottle		Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
	Volume	Number	
23M30A.1 - Surface water - sent in March 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Spores of sulfite-reducing anaerobes	250 mL	2	2
23M30A.2 - Waste water - sent in June 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Spores of sulfite-reducing anaerobes	250 mL	2	2
23M30A.3 - Surface water - sent in October 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Spores of sulfite-reducing anaerobes	250 mL	2	2
23M30A.4 - Waste water - sent in December 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Spores of sulfite-reducing anaerobes	250 mL	2	2

PARTICULARITIES

For this programme, uncertainties are calculated and provided to the participants. The indicators are the repeatability uncertainty ur^2 and the reproducibility uncertainty uR^2 specific to each participant. The uncertainty evaluated for the whole profession is also presented.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):
time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Spores of sulfite-reducing anaerobes

D_0+1

D_0 : Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 31: *PSEUDOMONAS AERUGINOSA* AND PATHOGENIC STAPHYLOCOCCI IN CLEAN WATERS

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in public drinking waters, non-atypical natural mineral waters, swimming pool waters, waters for whirlpool baths, waters for multi-jet showers, healthcare waters and bacteriologically controlled waters *as well as fresh waters, waters in health care, pharmaceutical and cosmetic establishments.*



486 € excl. VAT – total amount for 4 tests (excluding transport costs)

224 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE > 25 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **65 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Bottle		Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
	Volume	Number	
23M31.1 - Clean water - sent in January 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> , pathogenic staphylococci (coagulase positive)	500 mL	2	2
23M31.2 - Clean water - sent in April 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> , pathogenic staphylococci (coagulase positive)	500 mL	2	2
23M31.3 - Clean water - sent in October 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> , pathogenic staphylococci (coagulase positive)	500 mL	2	2
23M31.4 - Clean water - sent in December 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> , pathogenic staphylococci (coagulase positive)	500 mL	2	2

PARTICULARITIES

Pseudomonas aeruginosa: parameter compatible with (NF EN) ISO 16266 and ISO 16266-2.

For all the parameters of this programme, uncertainties are calculated and provided to the participants. The indicators are the repeatability uncertainty ur^2 and the reproducibility uncertainty UR^2 specific to each participant. The uncertainty evaluated for the whole profession is also presented.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Pseudomonas aeruginosa,
pathogenic staphylococci (coagulase positive)

D₀+1

D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 31A: PATHOGENIC STAPHYLOCOCCI IN SALINE WATERS

188 € excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

9 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE: 1 YEAR



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **50 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Bottle		Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
	Volume	Number	
23M31A.1 - Saline water - sent in June 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
pathogenic staphylococci (coagulase positive)	250 mL	2	2
23M31A.2 - Saline water - sent in December 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
pathogenic staphylococci (coagulase positive)	250 mL	2	2

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

pathogenic staphylococci (coagulase positive)	D ₀ +1
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D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 32: *LEGIONELLA* AND *LEGIONELLA PNEUMOPHILA* IN CLEAN WATERS BY CULTURE

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in public drinking waters, domestic hot waters, natural mineral waters for thermal use, swimming pool waters and equivalent, waters from misting systems *as well as fresh waters and process waters except coloured and/or unfilterable water requiring centrifugation or following the 'waste water' protocol.*



540 € excl. VAT – total amount for 3 tests (excluding transport costs)

237 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE > 20 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **90 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Bottle		Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
	Volume	Number	
23M32.1 – Clean water - sent in February 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
<i>Legionella pneumophila, Legionella</i>	500 mL	2	2
23M32.2 - Clean water - sent in June 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
<i>Legionella pneumophila, Legionella</i>	500 mL	2	2
23M32.3 - Clean water - sent in October 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
<i>Legionella pneumophila, Legionella</i>	500 mL	2	2

PARTICULARITIES

Refrigerated parcel to favour the reception of similar samples in France and internationally.

Legionella and *Legionella pneumophila*: parameters compatible with NF T90-431 and ISO 11731 (2017) [Matrix A; Procedures 1 and 7; Medium C].

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Legionella pneumophila, Legionella

D₀+2

D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 33: *LEGIONELLA* AND *LEGIONELLA PNEUMOPHILA* IN WASTE WATERS BY CULTURE

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in surface waters, in industrial waters, in waters from cooling installations by water dispersion in air flows ('IRDEFA'), in natural waters *as well as fresh waters and process waters coloured and/or unfilterable requiring centrifugation or following the 'waste water' protocol.*



580 € excl. VAT – total amount for 3 tests (excluding transport costs)

135 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE > 15 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **100 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Bottle		Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
	Volume	Number	
23M33.1 - Waste water - sent in January 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
<i>Legionella pneumophila, Legionella</i>	1030 mL	2	2
23M33.2 - Waste water - sent in March 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
<i>Legionella pneumophila, Legionella</i>	1030 mL	2	2
23M33.3 - Waste water - sent in September 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
<i>Legionella pneumophila, Legionella</i>	1030 mL	2	2

PARTICULARITIES

Refrigerated parcel to favour the reception of identical samples in France and internationally.

Legionella, Legionella pneumophila: parameters compatible with NF T90-431 and ISO 11731 (2017) [Matrix B; Procedures 1, 8, 9, 10 and 11; Medium C].

'IRDEFA': Specific waste waters used, waters similar to waters from cooling installations by water dispersion in air flows.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Legionella pneumophila, Legionella

D₀+2

D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 35: *LEGIONELLA* AND *LEGIONELLA PNEUMOPHILA* IN CLEAN WATERS BY PCR

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in public drinking waters, domestic hot waters, natural mineral waters for thermal use, swimming pool waters and equivalent, waters from misting systems *as well as fresh waters*.



590 € excl. VAT – total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

26 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE 15 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **150 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Bottle		Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
	Volume	Number	
23M35.1 - Clean water - sent in February 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
<i>Legionella, Legionella pneumophila</i>	500 mL	2	2
23M35.2 - Clean water - sent in October 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
<i>Legionella, Legionella pneumophila</i>	500 mL	2	2

PARTICULARITIES

Legionella, Legionella pneumophila: parameters compatible with NF T90-471 and ISO/TS 12869.

The analysis method used must lead to quantitative results. Presence/absence type results cannot be processed.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

<i>Legionella, Legionella pneumophila</i>	D ₀ +2
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D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 36: LEGIONELLA AND LEGIONELLA PNEUMOPHILA IN WASTE WATERS BY PCR

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in surface waters, industrial waters, waters for cooling installations by water dispersion in an air flow (IRDEFA), natural waters *as well as in process waters*.



686 € excl. VAT – total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

13 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **175 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Bottle		Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
	Volume	Number	
23M36.1 - Waste water - sent in May 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
<i>Legionella, Legionella pneumophila</i>	500 mL	2	2
23M36.2 - Waste water - sent in September 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
<i>Legionella, Legionella pneumophila</i>	500 mL	2	2

PARTICULARITIES

Legionella, Legionella pneumophila: parameters compatible with NF T90-471 and ISO/TS 12869.

'IRDEFA': specific waste waters used, waters similar to waters from cooling installations by water dispersion in air flows.

The analysis method used must lead to quantitative results. Presence/absence type results cannot be processed.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Legionella, Legionella pneumophila

D₀+2

D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 37: SALMONELLA IN FRESH WATERS



136 € excl. VAT – total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

87 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE > 15 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **35 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Bottle		Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
	Volume	Number	
23M37.1 - Clean water - sent in March 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
<i>Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in public drinking waters and non-atypical natural mineral waters.</i>			
<i>Salmonella</i>	1000 mL	2	1
23M37.2 - Surface water - sent in November 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
<i>Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in fresh surface waters used for the production of waters intended for human consumption and non-atypical natural mineral waters.</i>			
<i>Salmonella</i>	1000 mL	2	1

PARTICULARITIES

Qualitative analysis: presence / absence.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Salmonella

D₀+1

D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 38: YEASTS IN CLEAN WATERS

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in public drinking waters, non-atypical natural mineral waters and bacteriologically controlled waters *as well as fresh waters, waters in health care, pharmaceutical and cosmetic establishments.*



138 € excl. VAT – total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport costs)

20 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE > 5 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **35 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Bottle		Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
	Volume	Number	
23M38.1 - Clean water - sent in January 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Yeasts	510 mL	2	2
23M38.2 - Clean water - sent in June 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Yeasts	510 mL	2	2

PARTICULARITIES

For this programme, uncertainties are calculated and provided to the participants. The indicators are the repeatability uncertainty u_r^2 and the reproducibility uncertainty u_R^2 specific to each participant. The uncertainty evaluated for the whole profession is also presented.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Yeasts	D ₀ +1
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D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 38A: MOULD IN CLEAN WATERS

Test materials are suitable for the check of analyses in public drinking waters, non-atypical natural mineral waters and bacteriologically controlled waters *as well as fresh waters, waters in health care, pharmaceutical and cosmetic establishments.*

188 € excl. VAT – total amount for **2 tests** (excluding transport costs)

29 participants in 2022 – EXPERIENCE 5 YEARS



Need to test another method, evaluate your staff?

Order **additional test samples** (parcel in its entirety): **50 € excl. VAT** (excluding transport costs)

Parameters to analyse	Bottle		Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
	Volume	Number	
23M38A.1 - Clean water - sent in January 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Mould	500 mL	2	2
23M38A.2 - Clean water - sent in June 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Mould	500 mL	2	2

PARTICULARITIES

For this programme, uncertainties are calculated and provided to the participants. The indicators are the repeatability uncertainty u_{r^2} and the reproducibility uncertainty u_{R^2} specific to each participant. The uncertainty evaluated for the whole profession is also presented.

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Mould	D_0+1
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D_0 : Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

PROGRAMME 130: BACTERIOPHAGES IN WATERS

700 € excl. VAT - total amount for 2 tests (excluding transport fees)

New

New in 2023

Parameters to analyse	Bottle		Number of measurements per parameter and per bottle
	Volume	Number	
23M130.1 - Fresh water - sent in April 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Somatic coliphages and F-specific RNA bacteriophages	250 mL	1	2
23M130.2 – Waste water - sent in October 2023 - Refrigerated parcel			
Somatic coliphages and F-specific RNA bacteriophages	250 mL	1	2

Recommended period to start the sample treatment (PRDT):

time interval during which the quality of test materials is optimal (in number of days)

Somatic coliphages and F-specific RNA bacteriophages	D ₀ +1
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D₀: Day the samples are sent to all the participants (for most proficiency tests, Tuesday)

When registering for a scheme any laboratory accepts the following general conditions.

1. Registration for the proficiency tests

AGLAE is a non-profit-association governed by the French 1901 law.

Any analytical or testing laboratory in the chemical, biological, physical... field can register for the tests; it is then a member of the Association.

Any member wishing to participate actively in the operation of the Association may apply (contact us).

AGLAE's proficiency testing scheme is conducted from January to December. It is adapted every year to the needs of laboratories and to French regulation in force. However, registrations are possible all the year through, as long as proficiency tests are still available. Registration for one programme includes the participation in all the tests left when registering. Because regulations vary according to the country, international laboratories are allowed to order proficiency tests as separate units.

AGLAE's service offers are provided as part of a subscription. There is no withdrawal period as samples can deteriorate quickly.

Registration is effective when AGLAE sends the registration certificate.

Once registered, a laboratory shall not withdraw and ask for a refund, even if the laboratory requests not to receive the samples.

When registering, the laboratory shall agree to receive the samples any working day (according to French legislation) during the scheme. After registration, participants receive their schedule.

AGLAE might be brought to modify the scheme content during the year (shipment date, change of packaging, analytical periods...).

Without involving AGLAE's liability, any programme might be cancelled if the number of registered participants is considered insufficient or in case of feasibility problem. Should a programme be cancelled, invoiced fees will be reimbursed.

2. Quality Control Materials

AGLAE provides "Quality Control Materials" to any laboratory registered for a scheme. These materials come from proficiency tests in solid matrices.

Any member may order these materials whether the laboratory has participated or not in the proficiency test from which the test material comes from.

The laboratory can order them at any time during the year, up to a limit of 5 materials from the same batch.

On receipt of a purchase order or of a validated quote, AGLAE informs the laboratory of the date the quality control materials are sent.

The conditions of transport, receipt and payment of quality control materials follow the ones of test materials.

3. Additional test samples

AGLAE provides additional samples for almost all the tests. These samples are sent at the same time as interlaboratory samples, to the same address and no statistical treatment is carried out from them. The laboratory should be registered for the concerned programme to purchase them. The conditions of transport, receipt and payment of additional test samples follow

the ones of test materials.

4. Payment of the due amounts

The laboratory has to pay the amount of its invoice. The invoice includes: participation fees, transport and possibly VAT, management fees, discounts.

Invoicing of participation fees is established proportionally to the number of tests left, increased by 10% when the entire set of tests for a programme is no more available or for the purchase of separate units for international laboratories.

Transport costs are not included in the cost of the proficiency tests, they are charged in addition.

Management fees can be applied in particular in case of bank transfer costs to be paid by AGLAE.

Payments have to be done without causing any fees for AGLAE within a fixed schedule specified on the invoice.

Any delay or absence of payment leads to, by right and without formal notice, the immediate payability of the due sums as well as the payment of penalties of one and a half times the legal interest rate, based on unpaid sums and without prejudice of damages and other costs that the Association may require. All sums are due from the deadline of payment until they are actually paid.

AGLAE reserves the right to withhold the access to the member Area or shipment of test materials to any laboratory not respecting the deadlines of payment and not replying to reminders. In case of temporary suspension of the sending of test materials, the laboratory will not be entitled to claim the refund of the proficiency tests not performed. In case of late payment or payment anomaly, payments will then be requested upon receipt of the quote.

Invoicing is done at the time of registration, independently from the conduct of the tests. It may not be required to be made out once the service has been provided.

5. Accreditation and confidentiality

AGLAE meets the requirements of ISO / IEC 17043 standard and Cofrac rules of application for the provision of interlaboratory comparisons (*Cofrac accreditation No. 1-1664 – scope available on www.cofrac.fr*).

Laboratories cannot use AGLAE's logo jointly with AGLAE's Cofrac accreditation mark.

AGLAE is committed to assuring the **confidentiality of information** it owns. Anonymity of participants in a test is assured by the coding of results, all the test documents containing results are issued with the laboratory's code.

AGLAE may not provide a performance assessment for parameters not implemented under accreditation.

6. Communication with the participants

Communication between the Association and participants are mainly in **electronic** format: sending and receiving emails, documents to download from the dedicated area of AGLAE's web site ("Member area").

Many messages and test documents are translated into English, but the official version remains the French version.

The laboratory is responsible for updating its contact details via the members' area or by e-mail if necessary.

AGLAE accepts no liability for the non-receipt of emails. Laboratories shall follow the conduct of proficiency tests and react to reminders.

7. Transport of test materials

Transport is performed by **express delivery** service by a courier selected by AGLAE.

Transport deadlines are available from AGLAE. Laboratories should be able to receive deliveries from 7.30 am as well as during lunch breaks.

AGLAE's liability towards deliveries is limited to late deliveries of more than 2 working days compared to the delays specified by the courier, not attributable to laboratories and in normal period of activity. The date to which all the parcels are handed over to the courier is considered to calculate possible late deliveries.

AGLAE will not be liable for:

- malfunctioning attributable to the laboratory (no receipt of the parcel handed over by the carrier or loss of the parcel within the laboratory or address change without prior notice),
- delays at customs,
- social conflicts, national or local,
- case of force majeure preventing correct delivery (weather problems...),
- unjustified claim about the integrity of the received products.

In every instance, when AGLAE's liability is involved, the compensation shall be limited to the price for the proficiency test giving rise to such liability (adding the transport fees invoiced).

Attention: depending on the destination, a **custom duty may be requested to the laboratory by the local customs. The laboratory shall take any necessary action to meet the customs' requirements and get the test materials as soon as possible.**

8. Receipt and quality of the test materials

In case of major failure found on receipt of the test materials, the laboratory shall contact AGLAE as quickly as possible so that AGLAE can take the appropriate actions. Anomalies notified by the laboratory more than 24 hours after receipt will not be accepted.

The objective aimed during the proficiency testing preparation is to prepare test materials as close as possible to the ones regularly analysed: the contamination levels can thus be very low or on the opposite very high.

In case of major defect of test samples quality, AGLAE has the possibility to cancel the concerned parameter or the whole proficiency test; without the laboratories being able to claim any compensation.

Should a proficiency test be cancelled based on the decision of the Management or of the Administration Board, the test would then be postponed.

In case one or several parameters of a test are cancelled, the concerned parameters will not be systematically provided again, unless otherwise decided by the Administration Board.

9. Analysis of the test materials

The laboratory should start analyses as soon as possible, during the recommended period to start the sample treatment (P.R.D.T.). This period corresponds to the time interval during which the materials' quality is optimal under the recommended preservation conditions. After this period, failures may occur and interfere with the assessment of the analytical performance of laboratories, without involving AGLAE's liability.

For laboratories outside France, delivery times may be systematically superior to the recommended period to start the sample treatment. Laboratories should check their delivery delay in comparison with the P.R.D.T.

The laboratory shall return results. For almost all tests, results are entered via the Member Area. They must be reported and validated by the deadline specified by AGLAE. Results that have not been validated will not be statistically treated. AGLAE will not be liable for that. Should the number of results be insufficient, AGLAE shall cancel the parameter.

The laboratory shall not, in any case, disclose its results to any party (other than AGLAE); anyway before test reports are issued.

10. Test reports

The objective is to issue test reports as soon as possible. The delay varies between 1 and 10 weeks depending on the difficulty met with data processing (number of parameters, deviations between methods). Our average delay to issue test reports is 3 weeks and a provisional delay is given for each test: however, these delays are not contractual.

Note that test reviews and test reports have to be downloaded from the Member Area of AGLAE's web site. They are available for all the participants registered for the test. If the laboratory wishes to appeal following its performance assessment, it must contact AGLAE's Quality Manager in writing (email or postal mail).

11. Data ownership

Produced data (in particular precision values) belong solely to the Association. They are only aimed at laboratories which participated in the test, for internal use of quality management and check or evidence* of their analytical performance.

Report's reproduction is authorised in its entirety only.

Any use other than those defined above requires preliminary approval from AGLAE under penalty of prosecution; whether it is a usage or communication (full or partial) by laboratories which participated in the test or by third parties.

12. Data protection

AGLAE processes personal data that you provide when registering but also during the proficiency testing scheme in compliance with legal obligations.

For more information with regard to the processing of personal data, you may read the section about personal data on www.association-aglae.fr.

13. Safety policy and respect for the environment

When registering for our tests, laboratories agree to handle samples and dispose of their waste in accordance with the usual caution and current regulations.

Should there be any differences between the French and English versions of this document, the French version shall prevail.

*: evidence to their clients, accreditation bodies or Ministries in the frame of approvals