

Global trade in infant formula and nutritional products is based on confidence from suppliers, customers and regulatory agencies that test results are correct and in accordance with label claims, and there is equivalency between all laboratories throughout a global supply chain. The NurtureChek Proficiency Programme provides independent verification that testing laboratories meet the industry's high standards.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

The NurtureChek Proficiency Testing scheme has been developed to provide a system for laboratories to validate their testing capability and to benchmark their results and methods among a network of competent laboratories. The scheme provides independent test verification to laboratories, manufacturers and monitoring agencies, and ultimately to the consumer, that the testing is being carried out competently.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING

➤ Confidence in Results:

Measurement of performance in comparison with other laboratories provides confidence that:

- Precision and Accuracy of test results and test methods are within acceptable limits
- Results from participating laboratories (or groups of laboratories) are equivalent
- In-house methods are equivalent to national or international standard methods

➤ Credibility:

Performance can be demonstrated to:

- Manufacturers
- Customers
- Regulatory Authorities
- Accreditation Agencies

➤ Compliance with:

- Laboratory Standards (e.g. ISO 17025)
- Regulatory and market access requirements

➤ Training:

Test performance from individual analysts can be monitored and reported over time.

PROGRAMME FEATURES

- Supporting laboratories by providing verification activities for manufacturing and process operations
- Technical direction from an independent Technical Advisory Group ensuring relevance to current industry needs
- Accredited to ISO/IEC 17043:2010 Conformity Assessment - General Requirements for Proficiency Testing
- Separation of data by method (where appropriate)

SAMPLE TYPES

The NurtureChek programme offers infant formula for testing covering formula manufactured for different ages and different bases where appropriate. Rounds are split into Micronutrients, Vitamins, Proximates Fatty Acids & other Nutrients and offered as follows:

- **Micronutrients:** March & September
- **Vitamins:** May & November
- **Proximates, Fatty Acids & other Nutrients:** April & October

Samples are offered as a three-sample set consisting of formula packed in N₂-flushed foil-laminate sachets.

AVAILABLE TESTS

Vitamins:

- Retinol equiv (Vitamin A)
- Thiamine (Vitamin B₁)
- Riboflavin (Vitamin B₂)
- Niacinamide (Vitamin B₃)
- Pantothenic acid (Vitamin B₅)
- Pyridoxine (Vitamin B₆)
- Biotin
- Folic Acid
- Cyanocobalamin (Vitamin B₁₂)
- Choline
- Ascorbic acid (Vitamin C)
- Cholecalciferol (Vitamin D₃)
- α-Tocopherol eq (Vitamin E)
- Phylloquinone (Vitamin K₁)
- β-carotene

Other Nutrients:

- Carnitine
- Lutein
- *myo*-Inositol
- Nucleotides (Total)
- Taurine
- Total Fructan (FOS)
- Alphalactalbumin

Micronutrients:

- Calcium
- Chloride
- Copper
- Iodine
- Iron
- Magnesium
- Manganese
- Phosphorus
- Potassium
- Selenium
- Sodium
- Zinc

Proximates:

- Ash
- Fat
- Moisture
- pH
- Protein

Fatty Acids:

- Linoleic Acid
- Linolenic Acid
- Arachidonic Acid
- Docosahexaenoic Acid (DHA)

CONTACT US TO DISCUSS YOUR REQUIREMENTS

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