

Pathogens may be present in everyday environments, causing disease and food borne illnesses in many developed countries. Manufacturers, consumers and monitoring agencies want assurance that food products and their manufacturing environments are free from these organisms and that the laboratories undertaking the testing are competent.

PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

Regular environmental and product testing for pathogens such as *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and other Shiga Toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) also known as verotoxigenic *E. coli* (VTEC), *Campylobacter*, *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* and *Cronobacter* species is required for many food manufacturers to ensure an effective risk management programme. The Pathogens proficiency programme provides independent verification to laboratories 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:

- 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 in providing verification activities for food manufacturing and processing operations
- Used by New Zealand MPI (Ministry for Primary Industries), as the provider of Inter-Laboratory Comparison Programmes for the meat and food testing industries
- Accredited to ISO/IEC 17043:2010 Conformity Assessment - General Requirements for Proficiency Testing

SAMPLE TYPES

STEC/VTEC* including *E. coli* O157:H7

(Presence/Absence testing) - Samples are offered as a four-sample set of freeze-dried vials, each with an accompanying sachet of meat. Samples are despatched in June and October.

Campylobacter (Presence/Absence testing)* - Samples are offered as a four-sample set of freeze-dried vials. Samples are despatched in May and September.

Campylobacter (Enumerative testing)* - Samples are offered as a two-sample set of freeze-dried vials. Samples are despatched in June and October.

Vibrio parahaemolyticus (Presence/Absence testing) - Samples are offered as a four sample set of freeze-dried vials. Samples are despatched in April and August.

Cronobacter spp. (Presence/Absence testing) - Samples are offered as a three-sample set of freeze-dried vials with an accompanying infant formula matrix. Samples are despatched in April and October.

* Not included in the scope of accreditation

AVAILABLE TESTS

- STEC/VTEC including *E. coli* O157:H7 - P/A
- *Campylobacter* - P/A and Enumeration
- *V. parahaemolyticus* and *Vibrio* species - P/A
- *Cronobacter* spp. - P/A

Global Proficiency also offers proficiency programmes for *Salmonella*, *Listeria* and *Shigella* – please request a copy of the Programme Description if you are interested.

CONTACT US TO DISCUSS YOUR REQUIREMENTS

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