

Global Proficiency's NewsChek

Issue 29, April 2024

NurtureChek Chemistry RM/QC Material

After each NurtureChek proficiency round, we normally have a selection of wet and dry blended powders (including pure lactoferrin) characterised from the Proficiency Testing rounds and offered as Reference Materials (RMs) and / or Quality Control Materials (QCMs).

What is the difference between a RM and a QCM?

RMs - Proficiency testing round data is assessed to determine if a material batch is suitable as a RM. Only analytes that pass strict characterisation criteria are displayed on the RM Data Sheet. The assigned value (**mean**; outliers removed) includes the uncertainty of the mean (an expanded standard error at 95% confidence) based on *n* results, and the test methods used to establish the assigned value. Only accredited methods are used for characterisation. RMs can be used for monitoring of test and/or equipment performance and training purposes. Unlike Certified RM Values, the values lack metrological traceability (as they can be comprised of multiple methods) which means RMs are not generally suitable for critical method validation or calibration.

Test Name	n Labs	n Values	Mean	Uncertainty of Mean ¹	k	Methods
Ascorbic Acid Vit C (mg/kg)	16	57	1142	+/- 12	2.00	AOAC 2012.22, AOAC 967.22, AOAC 967.22 (Mod), AOAC 985.33, AOAC 985.33 (Mod), Food Chemistry 94 626-631 (L C-DAD), GB5009.86 (Method I), GB5413.18, GB5413.18 (Mod), In House (Auto Titration G7035), In House (MJN0007), In House (Potentiometric Titration), In House (Titration), NZTM3.17.3

QCMs - data is obtained from a single Proficiency Testing round. The assigned value is the consensus **median** (outliers removed) of *n* results, with an associated assigned range which can be a robust estimate of 2 standard deviations of *n* values, or the minimum and maximum values in the case of discrete or non-continuous data. These materials are often provided where RM's are not available and are a lower cost alternative for routine instrument checks. They are not suitable for purposes that require a high degree of precision or confidence as there is no uncertainty associated with the assigned value.

Test Name	n Values	Assigned Value	Assigned Range
Bovine LF (Intact) (mg/100g)	11	102.19	90.92 - 113.46

¹ n Values < 8 are indicative only and should be used with caution

For a list of available RM and QCM please visit our website <https://www.global-proficiency.com/dairy-and-milk-rms>

Upcoming Rounds

Please see below our upcoming rounds and QC despatches for April and May.

April

- DairyChek (Rd 4)
- MilkChek (Rd 4)
- LipidChek (Rd 4)
- VT UHT Products (Rd 4)
- WaterChek Chem (Rd 5)
- NurtureChek (Rd 5)
- TimberChek (Rd 5)
- MWPF (Rd 5)
- Raw Cream QC (15403)

May

- AllerGens (Rd 5)
- DairyChek (Rd 5)
- BeverageChek (Rd 5)
- MilkChek (Rd 5)
- VT UHT Products (Rd 5)
- VT AM (Rd 5)
- MWPF (Rd 6)
- WaterChek Chem (Rd 6)
- VeriCal (2207)
- Raw Cream QC (15404)

AllerGens PT Update

As of February 2024, Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) have updated their rules for declaring allergens in food, to ensure that clear and consistent allergen declarations are provided to consumers. Approximately 40% of food recalls documented by FSANZ in the past 10 years were due to undeclared allergens.

To support laboratories performing this important testing, we launched our AllerGens proficiency testing programme in 2023, for testing gluten in food products. Following a successful pilot round, we are now delighted to announce that we will be offering the gluten category in the months of May and November.

We are hoping to extend our scope of allergens in the future, in cases where there are sufficient participants to ensure robust statistics. Thank you to all those who expressed interest in the recent annual survey.

For more information on our AllerGens programme or to register for an upcoming round please email our team at:

registrations@global-proficiency.com



Meet The Team



Thomas has been with Global Proficiency since 2017, starting out as Dairy Programme Support and becoming a Programme Leader in 2021. More recently, he has taken on the additional responsibility of the VeriTest Milk and Antimicrobials programmes.

Prior to joining the company, he spent a number of years working in a commercial testing laboratory. While not at work, Thomas enjoys spending time with his wife and three children, doing DIY, reading or playing music.

Customer Survey

We recently undertook our annual Proficiency Testing Customer Survey for 2024. We would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete our survey.

We gained some valuable feedback about:

- VP+ Customer Portal features including having the ability to provide accessibility to past reports.
- Process of entering data into the VP+ Customer Portal and other methods of submitting results.
- Availability of training resources including programme guides and instructional videos.
- Environmental sustainability with regard to sample shipments

Stay tuned for future NewsChek issues where we will cover some of your feedback in more detail including frequently asked questions and helpful tips.



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