

Designated ILCP for Recognised Laboratories

For those Laboratories recognised under the Animal Products Act 1999 by the Ministry for Primary Industries as ‘Recognised Laboratories’, there are mandatory requirements for participation in the Designated Inter-laboratory Comparison Programme (ILCP) for all products and tests included in their scope of recognition.

Tests in each Designated ILCP are detailed in Schedule 2 (effective from 1 January 2025) of the [Animal Products Notice: Recognised Laboratories \(mpi.govt.nz\)](https://www.mpi.govt.nz) and cover the following programmes: Potable/Suitable Water Microbiology (meat, poultry and fish), Meat, Poultry, Fish and Dairy Microbiology, and Pathogen Microbiology (meat, poultry, fish and dairy). Schedule 2 also lists the participation requirements that must be followed for all Designated ILCP tests. A summary is included here, but it is recommended that the above-mentioned document is consulted for full details of requirements.

Designated Inter-Laboratory Comparison Programmes Requirements

Table 9: Potable/Suitable Water Microbiology (meat, poultry and fish)

		Designated ILCP	
Numerical reference	Test Name	Designated ILCP Test Name	Minimum number of rounds per year
1.3	Colony count 22°C	Standard plate count SPC22	6
1.1.1	Total coliforms (coliform bacteria), <i>Escherichia coli</i>	Total coliforms, <i>E. coli</i>	6
1.2	Faecal coliforms	Faecal coliforms	6
1.6.1	<i>Clostridium perfringens</i> (including spores when available)	<i>Clostridium perfringens</i>	6
11.6.1	Faecal coliforms (growing water)	Faecal coliforms	4*

Laboratories can meet requirements by participating in Global Proficiency's WaterChek Microbiology Potable Water PT scheme.

* **Note:** Although the Potable Water Micro programme is offered 6 times per year, there are 4 designated rounds for Recognised laboratories undertaking test 11.6.1, being **February, April, August and October**.

Table 10: Meat, Poultry, Fish and Dairy Microbiology

		Designated ILCP	
Numerical reference	Test Name	Designated ILCP Test Name	Minimum number of rounds per year
2.1.1 ^a	Aerobic Plate Count (APC)	APC 30 (SPC)	11
2.1.2 ^a	APC spread plate		
2.1.3 ^a	APC Petrifilm		
2.1.4 ^a	APC spiral plater		
2.2.1 ^a	<i>Escherichia coli</i> , direct plate or Petrifilm	<i>E. coli</i>	11
2.2.2 ^a	<i>Escherichia coli</i> , Petrifilm		
2.9 ^b	Enterobacteriaceae	Enterobacteriaceae	2
11.5.10 ^b	<i>Escherichia coli</i>	<i>E. coli</i>	4
11.6.2 ^c			
11.8.1 ^c			
31.2 ^d	<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	2

^a Offered in Global Proficiency’s VeriTest® Meat Microbiology programme.

^b Offered in Global Proficiency’s VeriTest® Food Microbiology programme.

^c Offered in Global Proficiency’s VeriTest® Shellfish Microbiology programme.

^d Offered in Global Proficiency’s DairyChek Milk Powder Microbiology programme. **Note:** Although this category is offered 6 times per year, there are 2 designated rounds for Recognised laboratories, being **February and August**.

Table 11: Pathogen Microbiology (meat, poultry, fish and dairy)

		Designated ILCP	
Numerical reference	Test Name	Designated ILCP Test Name	Minimum number of rounds per year
2.4.1	<i>Salmonella</i>	<i>Salmonella</i>	2 rounds per year for each <i>Salmonella</i> method the laboratory is recognised for
2.4.2	<i>Salmonella</i>		
2.4.3	<i>Salmonella</i>		
11.5.11	<i>Salmonella</i>		
11.6.3	<i>Salmonella</i>		
11.8.2	<i>Salmonella</i>		
31.12	<i>Salmonella</i>		

Numerical reference	Test Name	Designated ILCP	
		Designated ILCP Test Name	Minimum number of rounds per year
2.6	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> presence/absence and enumeration	2 rounds per year for each <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> method the laboratory is recognised for
11.8.5	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>		
31.10	<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>		
22.1	<i>Campylobacter</i>	<i>Campylobacter</i> enumeration	2
23.1	<i>Escherichia coli</i> O157:H7	<i>Escherichia coli</i> O157:H7 and Top 6 nSTECs	2
23.3	Top 7 Shiga Toxin-producing <i>Escherichia coli</i>		

Laboratories can meet requirements by participating in the following Global Proficiency's PathoGen PT schemes:

- *Salmonella* & *Listeria monocytogenes*
- *Listeria* Enumeration
- *Campylobacter* Enumeration
- STEC (including *E. coli* O157:H7)

For more information, please visit: <https://www.global-proficiency.com/rlp>