



Global Proficiency's NewsChek

Issue 10, February 2021

Dairy RM/QCMs

Global Proficiency is **accredited** to ISO 17034:2016 "General Requirements for the Competence of Reference Material Producers".

Dairy RM and QCMs available include Fat products, Cheese, Protein products Infant formula, and Liquid Dairy.

Reference Materials (RM)

Data is obtained in Proficiency Testing rounds and material batches are assessed for suitability as RMs. 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.

Inter-laboratory Quality Control Materials (QCM)

Data is also obtained in Proficiency Testing rounds, but derived from a single presentation. 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. Please refer to our website for our lists of current reference materials:

www.global-proficiency.com/rms-and-qcms

UHT Milk QCM

Due to the impact of the COVID pandemic, our supplier of UHT milk is experiencing delays meeting our order, which in turn has interrupted the supply of our UHT QCM. We are currently investigating an option of using an older batch while waiting for our supplier to meet our order, and are going through the process of determining its suitability as a QC material. As soon as we receive results and ascertain batch suitability, product will be despatched to customers waiting for it.

We were expecting the new batch of UHT to arrive December 2020 but have been advised this will now be February 2021.

We apologise for the inconvenience caused.

Holiday Break

The Global Proficiency staff had a well deserved break over the Christmas and New Years holiday.

Here are some of the highlights for our team over the holidays and upon their return to work:

- Restaurant lunch and laser tag/mini golf for the Hamilton (NZ) staff
- BBQ lunch for the Tullamarine (AU) staff
- Christmas gifts, quiz, team t-shirts and catered morning tea
- Maternity leave and the arrival of a baby girl for Stacey (see photo on next page!)
- Return of microbiologist Janice
- Parental leave and the arrival of a baby boy for Thomas

Upcoming Rounds

Round 2

- BeverageChek (Wine)
- Meat, Water, Pathogens, Food (RLP)
- VeriCal®
- DairyChek
- LipidChek (Oil)
- VeriTest® Antimicrobials
- MilkChek
- FertChek
- VeriTest® Cultured Products
- VeriTest® Milk
- VeriTest® UHT Products
- BactoChek

2020 Wrap Up

As a fun way to reflect on the challenging year that 2020 was, here are some interesting facts from our team to yours:

- 3300 parcels sent (AUS)
- 3498 domestic shipments (NZ)
- 440 international shipments leaving NZ
- 64 countries
- 23 programmes
- 215 rounds
- 24 staff members
- 14 weeks working from home (NZ)
- 28 weeks operating during Stage 4 lockdown (AUS)
- 40 weeks of regular cleaning
- 1065 PPE/Masks worn
- 2 days of IT preparation to work from home
- 6 postponed or cancelled events



Meet The Team

Bob Hutchinson is our Senior Development Chemist who contributes his expertise to the chemistry ILCP's and is involved in food safety consulting, specifically in the areas of processing aids and ingredients. He enjoys partial retirement spending time with family and playing sports. His background was originally chemistry R&D including during his overseas experience, before returning to laboratory management back here in NZ.



Free Bottles

As part of a clean up project here at Global Proficiency we have identified some bottles which are surplus to our requirements, and would like to offer these to our customers

***Free of Charge*.**

Details are follows

- 5000x (10 boxes) bottles
- 125mL Plastic (HDPE)
- Leak-proof
- Nalgene Narrow Mouth Transparent Amber with closure



These are available on a **first in, first served** basis and we only ask that you **cover the cost of freight** from GP to your location.

Technical Commentary

From now on the documents provided after a round, previously referred to as a 'Newsletter' will become 'Technical Commentary'.

Wine Packaging

As a step towards sustainable packaging, wine proficiency samples will now be sent wrapped in biodegradable wool inside a carton. This replaces polystyrene packaging. This new packaging has undergone thorough testing to ensure bottles will stay intact during transit.



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