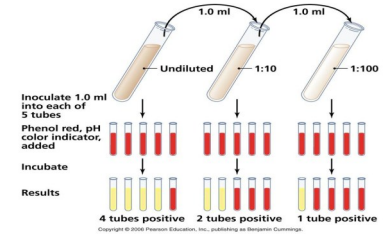
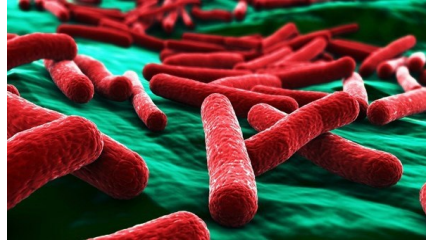


Shellfish Scheme

**Unrivalled experts as a PT provider
giving you confidence in your test results**



This unique microbiology scheme provides proficiency testing (PT) samples to laboratories that examine raw bivalve molluscs from harvesting sites in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 854/2004 and from the production chain between harvest and consumption, in accordance with Regulation (EC) 2073/2005 and subsequent amendments. This scheme is of particular importance to nominated national reference and official control laboratories as part of compliance to Regulation (EC) 882/2004.

This scheme is based upon the use of ISO 16649-3, Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs - Horizontal method for the enumeration of β -glucuronidase-positive *E. coli* Part 3: Most probable number technique using 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolyl- β -D-glucuronide. This is the European Union reference method for enumeration of *E. coli* in live bivalve molluscs. However, the scheme may also be appropriate for other methods used in laboratories for the enumeration of *E. coli* in bivalve molluscan shellfish flesh (and intervalvular fluid) including those approved by the EU's Standing Committee on Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH) for use in compliance with EU Regulations.

UKHSA's Shellfish Scheme focuses on raising awareness of:

- interpreting tube combination results and the associated most probable numbers value per 100g for *Escherichia coli*
- updates in ISO methods

Examinations for this scheme are:

Escherichia coli MPN or alternative methods
Salmonella spp.

Three distributions available per year, each containing two samples



Your laboratory's personalised report will contain information such as:

- the contents and the levels of the sample
- performance data for each examination for you to compare your performance against other laboratories
- your on-going performance over a year which demonstrates your commitment to quality to clients and colleagues
- where relevant actions to take to ensure that your laboratory retains high standards of testing
- educational information on difficult and challenging samples

For your investigation repeat samples are provided free of charge and further expertise can be provided by our panel of renowned food and water microbiologists

Satisfactory performance with your PT provides assurance that your laboratory is compliant with testing standards, thereby meeting and maintaining accreditation requirements.

**Contact the Food and Environmental Proficiency Testing Unit:
Tel: +44(0)20 8327 7119 email: foodeqa@ukhsa.gov.uk**

Assisting laboratories world wide in maintaining standards of excellence



Food, water and environmental laboratories play a vital role in protecting the public's health by helping to ensure that food is safe to consume, waters are safe to drink and that environmental and recreational waters do not make people ill.

Proficiency testing or external quality assessment provides laboratories with an independent external assessment of their performance. Regular participation in proficiency testing schemes is an important part of laboratories quality procedures and helps to ensure that the results of their tests are accurate.

With over 35 years of experience, UK Health Security Agency's Food and Environmental Proficiency Testing Unit is a world leader in providing microbiology proficiency testing schemes to food, water and environmental laboratories both in the UK and in over 70 countries internationally.

Our dedicated team of experts has unrivalled professional, scientific and technical expertise in proficiency testing. Participants also have the additional advantage of drawing on the full scientific resources of UK Health Security Agency.

Benefits of participating in UK Health Security Agency's food and water proficiency testing schemes:

- unique schemes provided based on current legislation
- inclusion of organisms such as *Mycobacterium* spp. in endoscope and heater cooler waters
- free of charge repeat samples
- access to expert food and water microbiologists
- bespoke schemes reports provided
- UKHSA and z-scores provided in some scheme reports
- ability to make extremely low level samples
- on-going performance assessment in the reports
- samples provided in easy to use LENTICULE[®] discs
- samples provided in easy to use formats

PT Schemes available include:

Environmental Swab
European Food Microbiology Legislation
Standard Scheme
Non-Pathogen
Norovirus and Hepatitis A virus*
Pathogenic *Vibrio*
Shellfish
Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli*
Staphylococcus aureus enterotoxin
Bottled and Mineral Water
Dialysis Water
Drinking Water
Endoscope Rinse Water
Hospital Tap Water
Legionella Isolation
Legionella Molecular
Recreational and Surface Water
Mycobacterium spp. in Water
Wastewater*

**Schemes are accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS)
to the international standard ISO/IEC 17043:2023 *not accredited**