

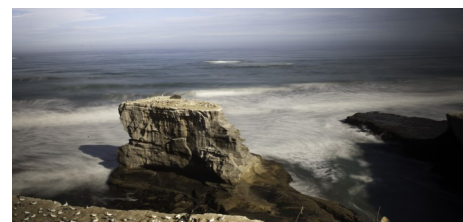
Unrivalled experts as a PT provider - giving you confidence in your test results

This microbiology scheme provides proficiency testing (PT) samples to laboratories that examine recreational and surface waters routinely for microbial contents. This scheme challenges the accurate enumeration of micro-organisms and detection of pathogens that maybe present in these types of waters. Sample types included in this scheme design are river, lakes and streams, bathing beach (marine), swimming pool and hydrotherapy pool waters.

This PT scheme helps you to identify gaps in your processes, highlighting where quality improvements can be made. It also provides an opportunity to improve staffs knowledge and experience with organisms not frequently encountered.

UKHSA's Recreational and Surface Water Scheme focuses on raising awareness of:

- the challenges associated with enumerating samples containing low levels of organisms
- variations in the methods used which can highlight differences in results obtained
- issues with confirmatory tests carried out on isolates



Examinations for this scheme are:

Bathing beach waters:

Escherichia coli
Enterococci
Salmonella spp.

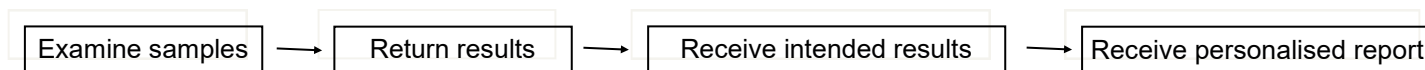
Swimming pool / Hydrotherapy pool:

Coagulase-positive staphylococci
Coliform bacteria
Escherichia coli
Enterococci
Pseudomonas aeruginosa
Total staphylococci
Colony count (37°C/24 hours)
Colony count (37°C/48 hours)

River, lake and stream waters:

Coliform bacteria
Escherichia coli
Enterococci
Faecal coliforms
Clostridium perfringens
Salmonella spp.

Six 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
- 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: foodega@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 cardiac heater cooler unit 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 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**