

NML Antibiotics

Proficiency Testing Scheme

Introduction

This scheme is designed to confirm the competence of depot staff to undertake AB testing of raw milk samples.

The scheme involves NML co-ordinating the supply of proficiency testing samples to depots and the depot then completing the testing and reporting the results to NML.

NML will then report the results back to the depot against the expected result for each sample. Test results secured by the depots will be compared with test results secured by testing at NML. Alongside the expected result, the report will show the known AB concentration of each sample and the AB sensitivity of the AB test.

Antibiotics covered

The active ingredients used for the PT scheme include:

- Penicillin G
- Oxytetracycline
- Sulphamethazine

One or more of these active ingredients are found in the large majority of AB treatments used on GB dairy farms so are the likely cause of AB failures.

Antibiotic tests covered

Antibiotic tests covered by the scheme include:

- Delvo T
- Charm 2 minute (MRLBLTTET2A)
- Charm 3 minute (MRLBL3-EZ0)
- Charm Quad (Quad 1)
- Trisensor

Please contact NML if using a test not listed as we may be able to cover tests not listed if the test is sensitive to one or more of the active ingredients used in the NML PT scheme (for example the PT scheme will cover any AB test that focuses on the detection of betalactams).

The ordering process

To order a Proficiency Testing scheme kit you will need to contact NML on **01902 749920** or email **interlab@nmrp.com**. You will then be sent a Proficiency Testing scheme order form which will require the following information:

- Test method being used by the depot.
- Number of staff to be involved in the PT round (a standard PT scheme pack provides enough samples for 2 participants).
- Site details (contact details, delivery address etc)
- Frequency of testing required (one off or part of an ongoing programme).
- Reporting details – who to, reporting method etc.

AB PT Scheme ORDER FORM					NML national milk laboratories
Please carefully complete ALL sections before submitting the form. Retain a copy for your records. If you have any queries please contact NML on 01902 74992 For any enquires contact interlab@nmrp.com					
Depot Details					
Address					
City					
Postcode					
Telephone Number					
Email Address (Please provide 2 email addresses)					
Invoice Name:			Invoice Address:		
Current antibiotic methods used					
Delvo T <input type="checkbox"/>	Aria Charm (2 min) <input type="checkbox"/>	Charm (3 min) <input type="checkbox"/>	QUAD (5min) <input type="checkbox"/>	Trisensor <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other (Please specify):					
Please state the date the samples are required (Samples need to be used within 48 hours upon arrival (dd/mm/yyyy))					
Ongoing or one-off test:					
Please state the number of kits required (1 Kit = 2 participants):					
Signature*		Print Name*		Date*	

Quality Control

While the NML AB PT scheme is not an accredited PT scheme, all relevant ISO 17043 protocols for proficiency scheme provision are followed. This includes processes such as stability testing, QC checks on NML results, internal audits, method witnessing etc.

The PT scheme is overseen by NML's QA department.

Fees

Pricing for participation in a PT scheme is as shown:

Number of staff	Ad hoc	Quarterly
1 to 2 staff	£320	£300
Up to 5 staff	£400	£370
Up to 10 staff	£450	£410

Price includes all sample costs, sample delivery and costs of reporting.

PT Sample supply

On receipt of an order NML will:

- Confirm that the PT scheme request form has been completed correctly. This confirmation will be sent by email using the email address provided on the order form.
- Confirm when the samples will be delivered to the depot and how (via NML van or via courier).
- Supply the samples complete with testing instructions and a result submission form.

Samples will be supplied in a polystyrene box. Please do not throw away the box – it will need to be returned to NML (normally via NML van).


The sample box will contain the samples, sample storage instructions, instructions on the test window (normally the testing will need to be undertaken within 24 hours of sample receipt) and a sample result form for dispatch back to NML. The option to report the results back to NML via email will also be available. Please note if the samples provided by NML are not used for testing within 2 hours they will need to be placed in a fridge.

Reporting of test results

The PT scheme test report will confirm:

- The result from the depot (with reference to individual conducting the testing)
- The result from NML
- The expected result
- The result from an NML delvo test on the sample (if appropriate)

All results will be kept confidential by NML and will only be shared with other parties with express prior permission from the body responsible for ordering the testing.



ANTIBIOTIC PROFICIENCY TESTING SCHEME: TEST RESULT CERTIFICATE

Customer: Depot X

Customer address: Depot, Address 1, Address 2
Postcode: AB12 CDE

Email address: depot@.....

Technician 1: Mr Smith
Technician 2: Mr Jones

Test method assessed: BETASTAR

Date of testing: 01.01/2022

Sample number	Technician 1	RESULTS	
		NML assessed method	NML delvo
1	Pass	Pass	Pass
2	Pass	Fail	Fail
3	Pass	Pass	Pass
4	Fail	Fail	Pass
5	Fail	Fail	Fail
6	Fail	Pass	Pass

Sample number	Technician 2	RESULTS	
		NML assessed method	NML delvo
1	Pass	Pass	Pass
2	Fail	Fail	Fail
3	Pass	Pass	Pass
4	Fail	Fail	Pass
5	Fail	Fail	Fail
6	Pass	Pass	Pass

Observations: Discrepancies in results between NML and Technician 1 suggests retraining is required. The difference in results for sample 4 is a consequence of the different sensitivities of the PT scheme test method and the Delvo T test method

NML Technician: Date: