

Global Proficiency's NewsChek

Issue 9, December 2020

WaterChek QCMs

After **WaterChek** proficiency rounds are complete, **Quality Control Materials (QCMs)** are assessed and characterised using proficiency round data.

We offer a range of QCMs which have various expiry dates (from the date of manufacture) as follows:

- **Potable Base QCM** (base tests, pH & turbidity standards) – 4 months
- **Chlorine QCM** (free & available Chlorine) – 4 months
- **Colour standard QCM** – 6 months
- **Solids standard QCM** – 6 months
- **Trace Metals QCM** – 6 months

We are currently undertaking a stability study to determine the shelf life of products beyond the expected timeframe for proficiency programme delivery (mentioned above). Please watch this space!

For a list of the available QCMs for WaterChek, see [here](#).

To see the full range of Reference Materials (RMs) and QCMs we offer, please visit our website:

<https://www.global-proficiency.com/rms-and-qcms>

Cultured Products

The **VeriTest® Cultured Products** programme is offered **two** times per year, with the next round scheduled for delivery on **26 February 2021**.

Plain yoghurt (CPY) is currently the only sample type available, and the tests offered for this category are:

- Fat - Gravimetric
- Fat - Instrument
- Protein - Combustion
- Protein - Instrument
- Protein - Kjeldahl
- Total Solids - Gravimetric
- Total Solids - Instrument
- pH (pH units)

If you have any questions, suggestions for other sample types or would like to register for future rounds, please contact us at VeriTestCP@global-proficiency.com.

Upcoming Rounds

Round 12

- WaterChek (Effluent)
- DairyChek
- Meat, Water, Pathogen and Food
- VeriTest® UHT Products
- MilkChek
- BactoChek

Holiday Closure

Each year Global Proficiency closes for the holiday period, and this year is no different! **The dates for each of our offices** are as follows:

NZ & International (Hamilton)

- **Final orders:** Monday 21 December 2020 (2pm)
- **Closed:** Thursday 24 December 2020
- **Open:** Monday 11 January 2021

Australia (Tullamarine)

- **Final orders:** Tuesday 15 December 2020 (1.30pm)
- **Closed:** Thursday 24 December 2020 (12pm)
- **Open:** Monday 18 January 2021

Thank you to all our customers for your ongoing support, and to those observing the holiday we hope you have a safe and restful break!



ARAC PT 001 Programme



New ARAC website:

<https://arab-accreditation.org/>

Global Proficiency recently worked alongside the **Arab Accreditation Cooperation (ARAC)**, with support from the **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)**, to deliver a **Proficiency Testing (PT) programme on contaminants in food**, with focus on trace elements including Arsenic, Cadmium, Copper, Cobalt, Fluoride, Iron, Lead, Molybdenum, Mercury, Manganese, Selenium, Total Sulphur, and Zinc in milk powder.

The objective of this PT programme was to **enhance the measurement capability and traceability in countries and economies of the Arab region** through a better regional scientific infrastructure.

A total of **74 laboratories** throughout the region were nominated by their respective Accreditation Body for participation in the programme. Many challenges arose with the Covid-19 pandemic including limited flights to most international destinations, with border closures in several cases, however we were pleased that we had a **final total of 61 laboratories** submit results for assessment.

Overall, the round performed well and participants were provided Individualised reports and a full Technical report providing detailed commentary on round performance.

Building on our success in delivering this special project, we anticipate we will be in a position to offer something similar to our customers in the near future.

Meet The Team

Nicky joined Global Proficiency in 2011, and works with our DairyChek and NurtureChek customers. She has a Masters of Social Sciences from the University of Waikato. She previously worked for Fonterra, then Wyeth Askeaton in Ireland where she lived for 3 years finding her Irish roots. She enjoys spending time with her immediate family. Her hobbies include quilting, crocheting, bread making using a home grown starter called Zita, attending fitness classes, and exploring the beautiful walkways in Hamilton.



VP Plus Tips

We understand some customers have found it challenging using our customer portal, Virtual Proficiency Plus (VP Plus), so here a few tips to make your experience easier:

- Use the latest version of **Chrome**. If Chrome is not available, use **Microsoft Edge**. Avoid Firefox if you can.
- **Screenshot or snip (using Snipping Tool) any error messages** or information that may help us see what you are seeing, and/or contact us immediately at the time you experience a problem.
- **Don't wait until the due date to enter your data on-line.** Many sessions accessing the database at once, will contribute to instability and connection problems as the sessions compete for database access.
- **Tell us what you need, what you like and don't like** – then we can better tailor our services.

VP Plus Tips (cont.)

- Contact us and we will unlock a **locked or frozen session**, or wait it out, and try again in a few minutes. Sessions can take up to 2-3 minutes to release once locked/frozen.
- If you prefer to submit results in the CSV format, please always use the **CSV files provided for the round** you are participating in. Tests and information contained in the file **changes from round to round**, so in order for us to upload your data the file returned to us must be the correct one to facilitate accurate and correct data uploading.

For any questions or concerns relating to VP Plus, feel free to contact the System Administrator directly at VPPsupport@global-proficiency.com.



Contact Us

Email: enquiries@global-proficiency.com

Website: www.global-proficiency.com

NZ & International

10 Bisley Road, Enderley,
Hamilton 3214, New Zealand

Phone: +64 7 850 4483

Australia

2/25 Mareno Road, Tullamarine,
VIC 3043, Australia

Phone: +61 3 9089 1151