

In recent times, the interest in probiotics and their potentially beneficial health effects has risen significantly. For human health, there are many forms in which the probiotic may be delivered, with the most common being ingestible food or beverage products and dietary supplements. One of the key aspects in the manufacture of probiotics and associated materials, in addition to being able to demonstrate their health benefits, is knowing the quality of the probiotic produced.



### PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

Numerous studies on probiotics and probiotic-containing foods and beverages have indicated that improvements are needed in the areas of quality assurance and truth of labelling. Given the range of microorganisms that are used; whether they are offered singularly or as a blend, and the type of product or base they may be added to, means there are many challenges in selecting and developing test methods as well as ensuring testing consistency between laboratories.

The VeriTest<sup>®</sup> Probiotics Proficiency Testing scheme has been developed to provide a system for laboratories to validate their testing capability, compare method performance and to benchmark their results among a network of other laboratories. The scheme provides independent test verification to laboratories, manufacturers, monitoring agencies and ultimately the consumer, that the testing is being carried out competently.

### BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING

- **Confidence in Results**  
Measurement of performance in comparison with other laboratories provides confidence that:
  - Precision and Accuracy of test results and test methods are within acceptable limits.
  - Results from participating laboratories (or groups of laboratories) are equivalent.
  - In-house methods are equivalent to national or international standard methods.
- **Credibility**  
Performance can be demonstrated to:
  - Customers
  - Industry Bodies
  - Regulatory Authorities
  - Accreditation Agencies
- **Compliance with**
  - Laboratory Standards (e.g., ISO 17025)
  - Regulatory and market access requirements
- **Training**  
Test performance from individual analysts can be monitored and reported over time.

### PROGRAMME FEATURES

- Supporting laboratories by providing verification activities for manufacturing and process operations.
- Providing a forum for exchange of technical information between laboratories, and for encouraging collaboration.
- Technical direction from an independent Technical Advisory Group ensuring relevance to current industry needs.

### ACCREDITATION

Global Proficiency is accredited to ISO/IEC 17043 Conformity Assessment - General Requirements for Proficiency Testing; our scope does not include the VeriTest<sup>®</sup> Probiotics programme; however, it is operated under the same quality management system.

### SAMPLE TYPES

Initially, the programme will offer samples containing probiotics at a 'final product' level, in a dairy-based powder format. Four samples will be provided; two will contain Bifidobacteria, and two will contain Lactobacillus species.

In future rounds, additional categories will be offered including probiotics at high levels representative of 'raw material' levels, and samples at low levels appropriate for carry-over testing. In addition, other microorganisms commonly used in probiotics can be introduced.

### AVAILABLE TESTS

- Bifidobacteria
- Lactobacilli

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

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