

Salmonella, Listeria and Shigella are common causes of bacterial food borne illnesses in many developed countries. Manufacturers, consumers and monitoring agencies want assurance that food products, and their manufacturing environments, are free from these organisms and that the laboratories undertaking the testing are competent.



PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

Regular environmental and product testing for *Salmonella*, *Listeria* and *Shigella* species is required for many food manufacturers to ensure an effective risk management programme. The *Salmonella*, *Listeria* and *Shigella* proficiency programme provides independent verification to laboratories and monitoring agencies, and ultimately to 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
- 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 in providing verification activities for food manufacturing and processing operations
- Programme is not product-specific enabling laboratories from different testing industries to participate
- Used by New Zealand MPI (Ministry for Primary Industries), as the provider of Inter-Laboratory Comparison Programmes for the meat and food testing industries

ACCREDITATION

Global Proficiency is accredited to ISO/IEC 17043: Conformity Assessment - General Requirements for the competence of proficiency testing providers; our scope includes the PathoGens programme except for the *Listeria* Enumeration[#] category.

SAMPLE TYPES

Presence/Absence tests: Samples are offered as a four-sample set, consisting of freeze-dried vials containing target and competing microorganisms. Samples are despatched in;

- **New Zealand Labs (SL):** Feb, Mar, May, Jul, Sep and Nov.
Shigella offered in the July sample set
- **Australian Labs (SLA):** Feb, Jun, Aug and Dec.
Shigella is not offered in the SLA category

Listeria Enumeration[#]: Samples are offered as a two-sample set, consisting of freeze-dried vials containing target and competing microorganisms.

Samples are despatched in; Feb and Sep

The microorganisms present have been stabilised ensuring robust samples are provided.

AVAILABLE TESTS

- *Salmonella* (Presence/Absence)
- *Listeria* Species (Presence/Absence)
- *Listeria monocytogenes* (Presence/Absence)
- *Shigella* (Presence/Absence) – SL in July only
- *Listeria* Enumeration[#]

Global Proficiency also offers proficiency programmes for **STEC/VTEC, Campylobacter, Vibrio and Cronobacter** species – please request a copy of the Programme Description if you are interested.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE
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