



Global Proficiency's NewsChek

Issue 34, February 2025

Changes to the Statistical Model used for 'Normalised Differences' assessments

In recent times, proficiency testing in the areas of food and water testing has advanced significantly, and the move towards test method alignment between global trading partners has meant that proficiency programmes have needed to adapt and flex to continue to meet industry requirements. Global Proficiency has found itself in a position where the term "Normalised Difference" used in our 'fixed limit' programmes does not align with that of other international PT providers, causing confusion for our international participants. The "Normalised Difference" is analogous to the Z-Score so our terminology and assessments will be updated to reflect this. In addition, we recognise that many of our New Zealand and Australian laboratories also participate in other international PT programmes, the majority of which use Z-Scores to determine performance ratings.

These changes are being rolled out for all programmes previously using Normalised Difference from **1 January 2025**, which will ensure the annual reporting process is not impacted. Therefore, when you receive your first set of reports for the year, our Programme Leaders will include information in the body of the email accompanying your reports explaining this, and a new Programme Guide—Statistics & Reporting will also be attached covering the changes and new terminology.

Changes to Performance Ratings – ALL programmes

As part of our alignment of assessment and terminology discussed above, there will be some modifications to our Performance Rating categories to align with standard international practice, as specified in ISO 13528:2022(E) Statistical methods for use in proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparison. Effective from **1 January 2025**, the Z-Score will have an associated performance rating as detailed in the table below. The performance rating criteria essentially sees the removal of the 'OK' rating, and any result with a Z-score of ≤ 2 deemed 'Good'. Report terminology will reflect the updates.

Performance Rating Criteria per Test

Performance Ratings	Z-Score (ZS)
Good	$ZS \leq 2$
OK	N/A
Warning	$ZS > 2$ and < 3
Action	$ZS \geq 3$

As mentioned above, the Programme Guides that will accompany your first set of reports for 2025 (all programmes) include a section relating to this.

If you have any questions, please contact our Programme Leaders in the first instance.

Christmas Activity for 2024

The Global Proficiency team hopes all our customers got an opportunity to take a break over the holiday season, to spend time with friends and family while re-charging batteries.

We had a very busy 2024 and to celebrate the end of year our NZ team decided to undertake the challenge of painting a picture. We certainly have some artists amongst us- check out the picture to the right to see our very talented teams effort.



VeriCal® Raw & Processed Milk

VeriCal® Raw Milk and **Processed Milk** sets are designed for confirming the calibration and monitoring of instruments used to test milk composition. Assigned values are supplied for: Fat, Protein (True & Crude), Lactose, Total Solids, Solids Non-Fat and Density. Values are reported in both mass/mass and mass/volume. Each set of milk comprises seven fractions which cover the following ranges:

Component (g/100mL)	VeriCal® Raw Milk	VeriCal® Processed Milk
Fat	1.8 - 6.8	0.06 - 4.7
True Protein	2.8 - 4.5	3.1 - 5.6

These samples are prepared every eight weeks, despatched to customers, and followed by the Data Summaries containing the assigned values.

Extra sets of both VeriCal® Raw Milk and VeriCal® Processed Milk can be delivered to most locations within 24 hours.

If you are interested in any further details please visit www.global-proficiency.com/liquid-dairy-rms, or contact us at enquiries@global-proficiency.com

Upcoming Rounds

Please see below our upcoming rounds and QC despatches.

February

- MilkChek (Rd 2&3)
- MWPF (Rd 2)
- LipidChek (Rd 2)
- VT AM (Rd 2)
- VT Cultured Products (Rd 2)
- VT UHT Products (Rd 2)
- WaterChek Chem (Rd 3)
- VT Cream (Rd 3)
- BeverageChek (Rd 3)
- Raw Cream QC (16293)

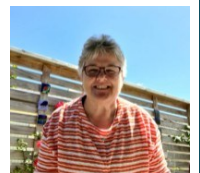
March

- DairyChek (Rd 3)
- MilkChek (Rd 3)
- NurtureChek (Rd 3)
- VT Milk (Rd 3)
- VT UHT Products (Rd 3)
- HoneyChek (Rd 3)
- VeriTest Probiotics (Rd 3)
- WaterChek Chem (Rd 4)
- MWPF (Rd 4)
- PlantChek (Rd 5)
- SoilChek (Rd 6)
- VeriCal (1905)
- Raw Cream QC (16294)

Meet The Team

Nicky Rusk joined Global Proficiency in 2011 after spending almost 25 years in dairy laboratories, both in technical and management roles. Nicky has had a range of roles in almost all areas of the business and recently moved into the role of Production and Logistics Operations Leader.

Outside of work, Nicky enjoys time with her family/ friends, doing craft work and drinking coffee at a cafe.



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