# Announcement/Invitation

## EUPT – SRM20

## (Matrix: Dried Beans, milled)

(released on: 12/12/2024)

Dear Colleagues,

We herewith cordially invite you to participate in the upcoming European Proficiency Test on the residue analysis of pesticides requiring single residue methods (EUPT-SRM20). This exercise is organized by the EU Reference Laboratory for pesticides requiring Single Residue Methods (EURL-SRM).

**The EUPT-SRM20 is scheduled to run from 10 March till 15 April, 2025.**

All relevant documentation is linked within the **EUPT-SRM20-Website.**

### 1. AIMS

Participation in proficiency tests is part of the QA/QC system of laboratories. It provides them with an assessment of their analytical performance and allows them to make a comparison with the performance of other laboratories. The general aim is to help laboratories demonstrate adequate analytical performance towards accreditation bodies and other stakeholders and, in case of underperformance, to help them identify sources of errors, so that the necessary measures for quality improvement can be taken.

### 2. PROFICIENCY TESTING ITEM (PT Item)

The PT Item of the EUPT-SRM20 will be **milled dried beans** and will foreseeably contain both incurred and spiked pesticides. One jar with approximately 300 g material will be shipped to each participating laboratory. No blank material will be sent to the participants. Additional PT Items can be provided at extra charge only if excess material is available and if sufficient explanations are given by the requesting laboratory. To request a second container of PT Item please state your request during your registration and contact the **eurl-srm@cvuas.bwl.de**.

### 3. TARGET ANALYTES

Analytes potentially contained in the PT Item are shown in the **Target Pesticides List (TPL).** For each of the analytes a specific minimum required reporting level (MRRL) is given. The TPL may be updated prior to the start of the PT. The latest version of the TPL will always be accessible within the **EUPT-SRM20-Website.** In case of significant changes, the participants will be informed via e-mail.

### 4. DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION

The names of the compounds contained in the PT item will be communicated to participants by e-mail within 3 working days after the final EUPT deadline. Preliminary assigned concentrations will be published in the

preliminary report, which will be released approximately 3 weeks after the deadline for additional information.

## 5. METHODS TO BE USED

The use of analytical methods routinely employed by the participating laboratories is preferred. However, participants are also encouraged to use the EUPT as a starting point for introducing new methods and analytes in their scope.

## 6. SHIPMENT AND RECEIPT OF TEST ITEM:

The shipment of the Test Item is planned on **Monday, 10 March 2025**, so that the majority of the participants will receive the sample on Tuesday, **11 March**.

**If a laboratory will be on holiday in the week of the shipment, it should inform the organiser by 25 February, so that an alternative shipment can be arranged.**

Participants must check the integrity and condition of the materials upon receipt and are requested to report **within 48 h** if they accept the materials or not. For this, the "**EUPT-SRM20 Result Submission website"** (Web-Tool) should be used. In case of no reaction by the participant, the organizers will assume that the material has been accepted. **If material is received in an unacceptable condition or if there are problems with sample delivery, please also contact the organisers by email (**eurl-srm@cvuas.bwl.de**) to ensure that corrective actions are taken as early as possible.**

## 7. OBLIGED AND ELIGIBLE LABS

Participation in the EUPT-SRM20 is mandatory for:

- all NRLs for pesticides requiring Single Residue Methods (**NRL-SRMs**), see Art. 101 (1)(a) of Reg. (EC) 625/2017,
- all Official Laboratories (**OfLs**) performing pesticide residue analyses in food or feed of plant origin[1], within the frame of National and EU official controls[2].

Based on the data stored in the Lab-Network Database (DataPool) about the commodity scope and the status of each lab, all official laboratories are classified as either "**obliged"** or **"not obliged"** to take part in this PT. This information can also be found on the EUPT-Registration form. In case an erroneous classification is noticed, this shall be reported to the corresponding NRL and to **eurl-srm@cvuas.bwl.de**, accompanied by a brief explanation.

This EUPT is furthermore open to the following laboratories as long as sufficient material is available:

- **any other OfLs from EU countries** that are not covered by the above obligations to participate;
- **NRLs and OfLs** from **EU-candidate countries** and **EFTA countries**;

[1] and especially if commodities of group 5 "*High starch and/or protein content and low water and fat content*" are part of their official analytical scope.

[2] please refer to Art 38 (2) of Reg. (EC) 625/2017 and Art. 28 of Reg. (EC) 396/2005, this **includes laboratories involved in import controls** listed under Reg. (EU) 1793/2019.

- **laboratories analysing official organic samples** within the frame of Reg. 889/2008/EC[3];
- laboratories from **Third Countries** (countries outside the EU), preferably if **involved in the controls of products destined for export to the EU**.

**The latter two lab groups** have to **provide a proof of their function** (e.g. a digital copy of a document stating official appointment) **during the registration**.

For laboratories designated as OfLs by competent authorities of a EU Member State (MS) according to Art 37 (1) of Reg. 625/2017/EU, the OfL-status as well as the analytical scope covered within the frame of official controls must be confirmed by the responsible NRLs via the EURL-DataPool. In the case of **non-governmental laboratories that have been designated as OfLs according to Art 37 (1) of Reg. 625/2017/EU**, certain documentation should be additionally provided to assist NRLs and EUPT organisers in assessing whether the laboratory concerned is eligible or even obliged to participate in a particular EUPT. This information can be provided in form of electronic copies of documents, which should a) testify OfL-designation; b) allow to identify whether pesticides residues are to be targeted within official control activity/ies (e.g. MACP or National monitoring programs); and c) allow to identify whether the relevant official control activity/ies are still running. These document copies should be uploaded during the registration process and will be accessible to both the EURLs and the responsible NRLs. In case of doubts, e.g. due to missing information, the PT-organisers retain the right to refuse participation in an EUPT. The organizers may furthermore contact the responsible NRLs or the competent authorities within the contracting MSs to clarify whether the OfL-designation is still valid and whether a pesticide-related official control activity is in progress or planned. In exceptional cases, NRLs or competent authorities may request exceptional PT-participation for a laboratory[4].

**Laboratories analysing official samples on behalf of EU Member States other than the Member State in which they are located must also provide an electronic copy of a document certifying their designation by the competent authority of the Member State in whose territory they are located** (see **Art 37 (2b)** of Reg. 625/2017/EU).

## 8. REGISTRATION

The registration for the EUPT-SRM20 will run through the **EURL-DataPool**. To register for the EUPT-SRM20, please log-in to the EURL-DataPool using your EURL-DataPool login credentials and click the register "EUPT Registration". If you are not yet registered in the EURL-DataPool, **you have to register into the EURL-DataPool first**. If you have lost your EURL-DataPool login credentials, please use the "**forgot password" feature** to request a new password.

The registration period will be open from 17 December 2024 till 31 January 2025. An instruction on EUPTs registration will be provided later on the **EURL-DataPool** and on the **EUPT-SRM20-Website.**

[3] Internally classified as „889-labs"

[4] e. g. if required documentation could not be fully collected in due time, or if the fulfilment of the above criteria is not yet complete but envisaged, or if PT-participation would help the competent authority in evaluating the laboratory's performance, in view of a potential designation as OfL.

## 9. OBLIGED LABS NOT PARTICIPATING:

DG-SANTE expects to receive an **explanation** from all **obliged labs not intending to participate** in this EUPT. This **information is to be entered directly into the EUPT-Registration Form. Do NOT submit it via e-mail**. If you do so, you will still be prompted to access the website and enter your explanation there.

**Therefore, all obliged labs should access the Registration Website via DataPool, regardless of whether they intend to participate or not!**

### IMPORTANT DATES

- **The EUPT-SRM20 registration form within the "EURL-DataPool"** will be accessible from **17 December 2024 till 31 January 2025.**
- The **shipment** of the Test Items is planned on **10 March, 2025.**
- **Results and method information** should be submitted by **15 April 2025 at 23 h (11 p.m.) CEST** on the "**EUPT-SRM20 Result Submission website**".

## 10. PARTICIPATION FEE and PAYMENT

To cover the costs of handling and shipment, a general fee of **249 €** for one bottle PT Item will be charged to each participating laboratory **from EU Member States, EU-candidate countries or EFTA countries**. The fee for labs from **third countries** is set at **399 €** for one bottle PT Item. For double amount, the fee will double.

An invoice issued in pdf format and for the "invoice address" stated in the registration form will be sent after the shipment to the e-mail address(es) of the person(s) responsible for the PT and, if stated during registration, also to the person in charge of the payment. **Details on payment will be given in the invoices**.

As stated in the **General EUPT Protocol**, the EURLs will issue digital invoices in PDF format only and without any electronic signature. If, due to local legal requirements, a participating laboratory needs an electronic invoice[5], it has to provide the PT-Organisers with a suitable and freely accessible tool for generating the e-invoice and to provide full assistance in case this tool requires the use of a language other than English. Otherwise, the PT-Organisers will not issue an e-invoice. Depending on the incurring extra workload, the participating laboratory may be charged for this extra service of issuing an e-invoice.

The EURLs will not complete any special form required by the participating laboratories for their financial department or payment office. If completion of such forms is prerequisite for payment in the institution of the participating laboratory, this laboratory or its payment office is requested to fill-in the forms and to send the pre-filled form to the EUPT Organisers. The EURLs are willing to provide any information required in the form as long as it is readily available, but they do not agree to provide any personalized (private) data for this purpose. After verification (and if needed correction) of the information, the EUPT Organisers will return the form with signature and stamp.

[5] e.g. a certificated or signed e-invoice in XML, or an e-invoice that needs to be generated and submitted via a special billing platform

The participants must get familiar with the payment system in their laboratories and are responsible for the correctness of the invoice-relevant information stated during registration, e.g. participants must enter the purchase number when registering if a purchase number is required on the invoice. **Additional costs may be incurred if extra services are requested in relation to the payment or if invoices have to be modified and re-sent due to new information or incorrect data.**

## 11. RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

All documents related to EUPT-SRM20 will accessible on-line and linked to the **EUPT-SRM20 Website.** They will be additionally uploaded onto the **CIRCA-BC platform**[6].

The schedule for all activities and deadlines within this PT can be found in the **EUPT-SRM20 Calendar**.

The pesticides potentially present in the Test Item can be found in the **EUPT-SRM20 Target Pesticides List.**

The **EUPT-SRM20 Specific Protocol** will be published by 24 February 2025. This should be read carefully.

Please also refer to the valid version of the **General EUPT Protocol**, which contains the general procedures and rules valid for all proficiency tests organised by the four EURLs for pesticide residues, among them the general evaluation rules of the EUPTs and the payment conditions.

## 12. GENERAL INFORMATION, CONFIDENTIALITY, DISCLAIMER

The EUPT-SRM20 is organized by the EURL-SRM on behalf of DG-SANTE. DG-SANTE is the proprietor of all EUPT data and has thus access to all information. This also includes the Directorate on Health and Food Audits and Analysis.

- In each EUPT, the participating laboratories are given a unique code, initially only known to themselves and the organisers. In the final EUPT-Report, the list of participating laboratories will not be linked to their laboratory codes.
- **The participating laboratories are not allowed to communicate with each other on matters concerning the EUPT from the start of the EUPT until the publication of the preliminary report.**
- **The organizers are allowed to share EUPT results and codes with other EURLs as well as the responsible NRLs.**
- All laboratories are requested to **provide information on the analytical methods used**. If information on the methodology used is not sufficiently provided, the organisers reserve the right not to accept the analytical results reported by the participants concerned or to exclude the lab from the final report.
- Please note that **all documents mentioned above may be subject to minor changes**. In the case of significant changes, participants will be informed by e-mail. **However, please still check the EUPT-SRM20-Website regularly for any updates** in case the email does not reach you.
- By registering for this EUPT, the laboratories accept all above conditions and provisions.

[6] Note that this platform has a restricted access

## 13. SUPPORT AND CONTACT INFORMATION

The EUPT-SRM20 Organisation Team is always at your disposal to answer any questions and give you technical support. For any further questions about the EUPT-SRM20, please mail to **eurl-srm@cvuas.bwl.de**.

**EURL-SRM**
c/o Chemisches und Veterinäruntersuchungsamt Stuttgart
Schaflandstrasse 3/2
DE-70736 Fellbach
E-Mail: **eurl-srm@cvuas.bwl.de**

**EURL-SRM Organisation Team**
Michelangelo Anastassiades, phone: +49-711-3426-1124; Pat Schreiter, ext. -1029; Ann-Kathrin Schäfer, ext. -1151; Hubert Zipper, ext. -1141; Anja Barth, ext. -1125

## 14. EUPT SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

**Quality Control Group**

| | |
|---|---|
| Paula Medina | European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) |
| Antonio Valverde | University of Almería, Spain |

**Advisory Group**

| | |
|---|---|
| Amadeo R. Fernández-Alba | Co-Head of EURL FV, University of Almería, Spain |
| Carmen Ferrer Amate | Co-Head of EURL FV, University of Almería, Spain |
| Björn Hardebusch | Head of EURL AO, CVUA Freiburg, Freiburg, Germany |
| Magnus Jezussek | LGL; Erlangen, Germany |
| André de Kok | Formerly working at NVWA, Wageningen, The Netherlands |
| Marine Lambert | ANSES; Maisons-Alfort Cedex, France |
| Ralf Lippold | Head of CVUA Freiburg, Germany |
| Hans Mol | Wageningen Food Safety Research, Wageningen, The Netherlands |
| Finbarr O'Regan | Pesticide Control Laboratory, Celbridge Co. Kildare Ireland |
| Patrizia Pelosi | Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, Italy |
| Tuija Pihlström | National Food Agency, Uppsala, Sweden |
| Mette Erecius Poulsen | Head of EURL-CF, DTU National Food Institute, Lyngby, Denmark |
| Radim Štěpán | Czech Agriculture and Food Inspection Authority, Prague, Czech Republic |
| Hermann Unterluggauer | AGES; Institute for Food Safety Innsbruck, Austria. |

Best regards,

The EUPT-SRM20 Organisation Team