



European Community Reference Laboratory for monitoring
bacteriological and viral contamination of bivalve molluscs



CEFAS Laboratory, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8UB, UK

WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE CRL FOR BACTERIOLOGICAL AND VIRAL CONTAMINATION OF BIVALVE MOLLUSCS, 2007

LEGAL FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

The functions and duties of the CRL are specified in Article 32 of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 (Official Journal of the European Communities No L 165 of 30.4.2004).

In the 2007 work programme year 27 Member States and 4 candidate countries are considered eligible for CRL assistance and invited to participate in CRL organised training programmes, ring trials/external quality assessments schemes etc. The full integration into the European Union of new Member States continues to be a priority area, and is facilitated via the provision of additional training and assistance.

WORK PROGRAMME, 2007

1. Scientific advice and support

- 1.1. Assist DG Sanco in implementation of Community food hygiene legislation (scientific advice, participation in working groups, etc).
- 1.2. Participate in relevant EU and International scientific committees (ISO/CEN, EU SVC, WHO/FAO, ICMSS etc). In particular during 2007 the CRL plans to:
 - Chair and co-ordinate the activities of the CEN/TC 275/WG6/TAG4 developing a CEN standard for detection of norovirus and hepatitis A in foodstuffs, including bivalve molluscs.
 - Lead and co-ordinate the activities of CEN/TC 275/WG6/TAG3 relating to two new work items progressing the development of molecular methods for the detection and enumeration of potentially pathogenic marine vibrios.
 - Participate in ISO/TC34/SC9/WG3 working group on validation of methods (revision of EN ISO 16140) to include the elaboration of ISO technical report on recommendations for establishing/revising reference methods.
 - Participate in ISO/TC34/SC9/WG3 PPS working group on revision of primary production requirements including sampling procedures for bivalve molluscan shellfish.
- 1.3. Assist DG Sanco with specialist assistance in relation to veterinary inspections of MS, Accession Countries and Third Countries and with other trade issues (e.g. equivalency negotiations) as they arise.
- 1.4. Assist DG TAIEX with training of new Member States and Candidate Counties, where appropriate.
- 1.5. Undertake CRL missions in support of the above activities.
 - During 2007 missions are foreseen in relation to the annual meetings of ISO and CEN (up to 2 missions); the CEN/TAG4 working group on Viruses in Food (2 missions); CEN/TAG3 working group on vibrios (2 missions);



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ISO/WG3 working group on validation of methods (2 missions) and up to 3 missions in support of NRLs and DG Sanco activities.

- 1.6. Participation in bivalve shellfish related international scientific conferences including representation on the organising committee and presentation of CRL research at the International Conference on Molluscan Shellfish Safety, New Zealand March 2007, and the IWA Health-Related Water Microbiology Conference, Tokyo, September 2007.
- 1.7. Participation in FAO WHO initiative on practical risk management strategies based on microbiological risk assessments outputs.
- 2.2 Organise specialist, practical training for NRLs, MS competent authorities and surveys - in accordance with the requirements of 854/2004 on official controls
- 2.3 Supply specialist information and advice on bacteriological and viral methods to NRLs (particularly new MS NRLs and CCs), testing laboratories, and third county laboratories. This includes assistance on implementation of methods, accreditation to IEC/ISO17025, provision of CRL SOPs and transfer of other technical information.
- 2.4 Provide specialist training and/or training courses to NRLs and CC NRLs in relation to analysis of *E.coli*, *Salmonella*, *Vibrio* spp., FRNA bacteriophage, Norovirus and hepatitis A virus.
- 2.5 Undertake improvements to CRL website (www.crlcefass.org) as primary means of dissemination of information to NRLs and others. To include in 2007 the addition of an interactive sanitary survey module to assist in implementation of 854/2004 on official controls.

3 Ring trials, comparative testing and quality assurance

- 3.1 Organise comparative testing for *E.coli* and *Salmonella* spp. in bivalve molluscs among NRLs through the CRL/HPA shellfish EQA scheme (see resolution 1 of 5th workshop). Analyse results and produce report, advice and recommendations (by May 07).
- 3.2 Organise Norovirus and hepatitis A ring trials (see resolution 4 of 5th workshop). Analyse results and produce report and recommendations (by May 07).
- 3.3 Undertake *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* ring trials on (molecular) methods for enumeration of pathogenicity genes (*tdh* and *trh*). (see resolution 5 of 5th workshop) Analyse results and produce report and recommendations (by May 07).



3.4 Undertake FRNA bacteriophage proficiency testing. Extend provision of EQA material, methods of analysis etc to national testing laboratories if required by NRLs (see resolution 3 of 5th workshop).

3.5 Delivery of proficiency testing programme for 2007 as agreed in Resolutions of the 6th workshop in May 2007. Currently projected to include further ring trials for *E. coli*, *Salmonella* spp. FRNA bacteriophage, human pathogenic *Vibrio* spp. HAV, and Norovirus.

4 Confirmatory testing

4.1 Maintenance of CRL laboratory competence and expertise on analytical methods for monitoring virological contaminants of bivalve molluscs (Norovirus and hepatitis A virus). To include maintenance of IEC/ISO 17025 accreditation for detection of norovirus in bivalve shellfish.

4.2 Maintenance of CRL laboratory competence and expertise on analytical methods for monitoring bacteriological contaminants of bivalve molluscs (*E.coli*, *Salmonella* spp., FRNA bacteriophage, marine vibrios). To include maintenance of IEC/ISO 17025 accreditation of enumeration of *E. coli* and detection of *Salmonella* spp. and *Vibrio parahaemolyticus*.

4.3 Contribution to costs for maintenance of CRL capability to perform analysis for marine vibrios in bivalve molluscs other than *V. parahaemolyticus*.

4.4 Performance of above tests on outbreak material or on occasion of disputed test results (on request of DG Sanco).

5 Development of analytical methods (undertaken at CRL)

5.1 Contribution as the project leader towards the validation of the TAG4 method for the detection of viruses in food (CEN/TC 275/WG6/TAG4).

5.2 Contribution as the project leader towards the validation of the TAG3 method for the detection of potentially pathogenic vibrios in foodstuff using molecular methods- both nucleic acid hybridisation and real time PCR approaches. Laboratory activities to support development of the ISO 21872 – Horizontal method for the detection of pathogenic *Vibrio* spp. part 1- detection of *V. cholerae* and *V. parahaemolyticus* part 2- other than *V. cholerae* and *V. parahaemolyticus*.

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