

Q	Part A	Austria	Belgium & Luxembourg	Czech Republic	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France	Germany	Greece	Ireland	Italy	Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovak Republic	Slovenia	Spain (Madrid region)	Generalitat de Catalunya	Islas Balearas	Comunidad Valenciana	Galicia	Castilla – Leon et al ¹	UK
3	Does your member state have autonomous or semi-autonomous countries/regions?	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y						Y
4	Are practices regarding analysis of E-coli /faecal coliforms in shellfish (analysis methods, laboratory proficiency testing) the same of different in the autonomous regions?		B		B		B		A						B	B				B						A
5	As the NRL do you know the precise details of practices in each autonomous region?		Y		Y		N								N	N				Y						
	Comments on Q5		ii				iii									iv										
6	Name of autonomous region.		v																							
7	Does this state/region have commercial bivalve shellfish production areas?	N	Y ^{vi}	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
8	Are standard laboratory methods for E.coli/faecal coliforms specified for official control monitoring of bivalve shellfish production areas in this state/region?		Y		Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y		Y		Y	Y	Y	Y		Y
9	Are the specified methods the same as those used by the NRL (as communicated to the CRL previously)?		N		Y			N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y		Y		N	N	Y	N		Y
	Comment on Q9																				vii					
10	Is the use of the specified methods by laboratories undertaking official controls?		B		A+			B	A	A	A	B	B	B	A	C	A		A		O	O	C	O		B
	Comments from question 10													viii							ix	x		xi		

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	(proficiency testing) programme and to the laboratory results?																									
18	How many laboratories participate in comparative testing (proficiency testing) programme?				1		11					10														19
19	Are the samples distributed to laboratories?				A			A				A														A
20	Approximately how many times per year are comparative study samples carried out?				3			2				1														3
21	What type of samples are distributed?				A			O				A														A B
	Comment on Q21							^{xvii}																		^{xviii}
22	Have you developed a scoring system for laboratory performance				Y			Y				N														Y
23	Have you developed a follow-up system for addressing poor laboratory performance?				Y			N				N														Y
24	Do you have specific problems in carrying out the comparative testing (proficiency testing) programme?				A E F G			A				B														N
	Comment on Q24				^{xix}																					
25	We do not (yet) organise a comparative testing programme...the reasons are		A O						A	A+	A		A		O	A B C F O	B				O	O	O	O		

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	Comment on 25		xx										xxi	xxii	xxiii	xxiv			xxv		xxvi		xxvii	xxviii	xxix		
25A	Forward plans		C						B	B	B		B	B	A	C	B		B		A	A	A	A			
	Comment of 25A		xxx													xxxi											
	Part C																										
26	Name of EU member state or autonomous region if practices vary between regions		xxxii						xxxiii																		
27	Are standard laboratory methods for E.coli/faecal coliforms specified for official checks on product quality?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
28	Are the specified methods the same as those used by the NRL (as communicated to the CRL previously)?	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	
29	Is the use of the specified methods by laboratories undertaking official checks on product quality?	A	B	C	A B	B	C	B	A	A		B	A B	B	A		A	A	A	O	O	O	C	O	O	C	
	Comment on Q29																			xxxiv	xxxv	xxxvi		xxxvii	xxxviii		
30	As the NRL do you know which laboratories undertake E.coli/faecal coliform testing for official checks purposes?	Y	Y	P	Y	Y	N	P	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	P	Y	N	Y	Y	P	N	N	P	P	P	
31	Do laboratories undertaking such official checks use the specified method(s)?	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	D	Y	Y	Y	D	Y	Y	Y	Y	P	Y	O	Y	P	P	X	P	P	P	P	
32	Do you as the NRL (either alone or	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y		N	N	N	N	Y	

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	in partnership) perform E.coli/faecal coliform comparative testing (proficiency testing) among laboratories undertaking official checks in this state/region?																				N ^{xxxix}				^{xi}	
33	Is it compulsory for laboratories undertaking such official checks to participate in this comparative testing (proficiency testing) programme?		Y		Y			Y				Y									Y ^{xli}					N
34	Do you perform comparative testing (proficiency testing) in partnership with another Institute/EQA provider		N		Y			N				N									Y					Y
35	What is the name of the partner?				^{xliii}																^{xliiii}					^{xliiv}
36	Do you have full access to the details of the comparative testing (proficiency testing) programme and to the laboratory results				Y																Y					N
37	How many laboratories participate in the comparative testing programme?		47		6			14				10									15					X
38	Are the samples distributed to laboratories?		B		B			A				A			B						A					A
39	Approximately how many times a year are comparative study samples distributed?		1		1			2				1									1					3
40	What type of samples are distributed?		A		A			O				A														A
	Comment on Q40		^{xliiv}					^{xliivii}																		
41	Have you developed a scoring		N		Y			Y				N									Y					Y

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	system for laboratory performance?																									
42	Have you developed a follow-up system for addressing poor laboratory performance?		N		Y			N				N									N					Y
43	Do you have specific problems in carrying out the comparative testing programme ?		N		A F O G			A				B														O
	Comment on Q43				^{xlviii}																					^{xlix}
44	We do not yet organise a comparative testing programme for laboratories undertaking official checks on product quality..for the following reasons	ⁱ		O		O	F		A		A B	A C		A	O	F		B	A	O		O	O	O	O	O
	Comment on Q44			ⁱⁱ		ⁱⁱⁱ								^{liii}	^{liiv}					^{liiv}		^{livi}	^{liivii}	^{liiii}	^{lix}	^{lix}
44	Forward plans	C		C		^{lxi}	C		B	B	B		B	B	A		B	B								
	Comment on 44			^{lxii}							^{lxiii}															

Key to letter codes

Question	Letter	Meaning
All	Y	Yes
All	N	No
All	P	Partially
All	O	Other, please specify
All	X	Don't know
4	A	Practices in all regions are the same

	B	Practices vary from region to region
10	A	A legal requirement
	B	A competent authority requirement
	C	An NRL recommendation
21	A	Laboratory prepared materials (e.g freeze dried preparations)
	B	Naturally contaminated materials
24	A	resources to undertake the studies
	B	Preparation/stability of suitable samples
	C	Distribution of the samples
	D	Getting laboratories to participate
	E	Collecting the results
	F	Analysing and reporting the results
	G	Following up poor performance
25	A	Lack of resources (personnel or other costs) to organise and run the studies
	B	Lack of experience in undertaking comparative testing (proficiency testing) programmes
	C	Lack of authority
	D	Lack of knowledge on which laboratories undertake testing
	E	Not a priority for the laboratory
	F	Comparative testing is already undertaken by other parties
Forward Plans	A	We plan to initiate a comparative testing programme within 1 year
	B	We plan to initiate a comparative testing programme within 2 years
	C	We currently have no plans to introduce a comparative testing programme
29	A	A legal requirement
	B	A competent authority requirement
	C	An NRL recommendation
38	A	Specifically for shellfish testing
	B	For general food testing (shellfish analysis not specifically mentioned)
40	A	Laboratory prepared materials (e.g freeze dried preparations)
	B	Naturally contaminated materials
43	A	Resources to undertake the studies

	B	Preparation/stability of suitable samples
	C	Distribution of the samples
	D	Getting laboratories to participate
	E	Collecting the results
	F	Analysing and reporting the results
	G	Following up poor performance
44	A	Lack of resources (personnel or other costs) to organise and run the studies
	B	Lack of experience in undertaking comparative testing (proficiency testing) programmes
	C	Lack of authority
	D	Lack of knowledge on which laboratories undertake testing
	E	Not a priority for the laboratory
	F	Comparative testing is already undertaken by other parties
Forward Plans	A	We plan to initiate a comparative testing programme within 1 year
	B	We plan to initiate a comparative testing programme within 2 years
	C	We currently have no plans to introduce a comparative testing programme

Footnotes

ⁱ Includes La Mancha, Comunidad Canaria, Junta de Extramadura.

ⁱⁱ There are only two labs accredited for molluscs analysis in Belgium (one in Flandre and the other in Wallonie). There is no lab in Luxembourg.

ⁱⁱⁱ Aland

^{iv} Azores, Madeira

^v Flandre- Wallonie (for Belgium) and Luxembourg

^{vi} Only in Flandre

^{vii} No, but we will undertake the method used by the NRL (Donovan) in 2004.

^{viii} Norwegian Food Safety Authority is working on laboratory guidelines for monitoring of production areas.

^{ix} By our own choice (AFNOR VUS)

^x By our own choice.

^{xi} MPN Method.

^{xii} This laboratory is not the NRL.

^{xiii} This laboratory is not the NRL.

^{xiv} This laboratory is not the NRL.

^{xv} This laboratory is not the NRL.

^{xvi} Health Protection Agency, Shellfish EQA scheme, Food and Environmental Proficiency Testing Unit (FEPTU), CPHL, 61 Colindale Avenue, LONDON, NW9 5HT, UK.

^{xvii} Naturally contaminated oysters or mussels in to laboratory tanks of seawater.

^{xviii} The naturally contaminated materials have been separately circulated by the NRL as a ring trial.

^{xix} Until now, we have been satisfied with the shellfish EQA scheme, scoring system and follow up system that HPA and DANAK (Danish Accreditation body) has carried out. Currently, we are gathering results of performance in order to be more involved and able to follow up the last three crosses in Q24.

^{xx} There are only two labs for mollusc analysis. The NRL perform molluscs analysis with PHLS and CEFAS ring trial.

^{xxi} Financing is sorted out, comparative testing will be performed soon.

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- xxii Norwegian Food Safety Authority is going through a total reorganisation, the former official laboratories are closed, and a new laboratory system is developing. The duties of NRL are not yet formally defined. We will not plan testing till things are in order.
- xxiii No production of bivalve shellfish.
- xxiv Most official regional laboratories already participate voluntarily in PHLS/INSA Shellfish EQA Schemes.
- xxv We are the only laboratory performing E-coli / faecal coliform tests of bivalve shellfish in the state. In future we intend to participate in proficiency testing by CRL.
- xxvi The central NRL of Spain will organise comparative testing during this year.
- xxvii The central NRL of Spain will organise comparative testing during this year.
- xxviii The central NRL of Spain will organise comparative testing during this year.
- xxix The central NRL of Spain will organise comparative testing during this year.
- xxx We send to the other lab the information about CEFAS and PHLS ring trial.
- xxxi For all regional laboratories of IPIMAR it was recommended to participate in PHLS/INSA shellfish scheme. IPIMAR has initiated a partnership with INSA to collaborate in PHLS/INSA shellfish scheme in Portugal.
- xxxii Flandre- Wallonie for Belgium; Luxembourg (no analysis)
- xxxiii Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein
- xxxiv A CRL recommendation.
- xxxv By our own choice.
- xxxvi By our own choice
- xxxvii MPN method.
- xxxviii By our own choice.
- xxxix This laboratory is not the NRL.
- xl This laboratory is not the NRL.
- xli Only if they are accredited by a national accreditation body.
- xlii Livsmeddelvaerkaet.
- xliii Gabinete de servicios para la calidad, SAL.
- xliv Health Protection Agency (HPA).
- xlv Frozen.
- xlvi Irradiated fresh frozen hamburger.
- xlvii Naturally contaminated oysters or mussels in to laboratory tanks of seawater.
- xlviii Until now, we have been satisfied with the ring trials, scoring system and follow up system that Livsmeddelvaerkaet and DANAK (Danish Accreditation body) has carried out. Currently , we are gathering results of performance in order to be more involved and able to follow up the last three crosses in Q43.
- xlx All of these laboratories must be on the UK approved official control laboratories list. To comply with this, they must be accredited and take part in a quality assurance scheme. However, the audit procedures for official control laboratories do not necessarily require that laboratories undertaking testing of bivalve molluscs participate in an EQA scheme specifically for that product - participation in a general scheme for E. coli in foods may be sufficient to meet those requirements.
- ¹ We are the only laboratories in Austria testing shellfish.
- ⁱⁱ Only our laboratory is responsible for testing of products from shellfish.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Currently our laboratory is the only laboratory in Estonia that carry out official checks related to this area.
- ⁱⁱⁱⁱ See Q25.
- ^{liv} NRL is newly established and needs time to organise the tests.
- ^{lv} We are the only laboratory performing E-coli / faecal coliform tests of bivalve shellfish in the state
- ^{lvi} The central NRL of Spain will organise comparative testing during this year.
- ^{lvii} The central NRL of Spain will organise comparative testing during this year.
- ^{lviii} The central NRL of Spain will organise comparative testing during this year.

^{lix} The central NRL of Spain will organise comparative testing during this year.

^{lx} The central NRL of Spain will organise comparative testing during this year.

^{lxi} We are ready to organise the comparative testing in future if there will be more official laboratories.

^{lxii} We would like to fall in with plans of the CRL.

^{lxiii} While Ireland has designated the Marine Institute as NRL for Shellfish Microbiology and Virology in 2001, no resources or personnel have been allocated to the institute by the competent authority to date. This is reflected in the replies to Q25 and 44 above. However, sanction has recently been received (March 2004) by the Institute to enable it to commence the recruitment of staff for the NRL. It is expected that at least two staff will be in place at the Irish NRL for Shellfish Microbiology and Virology by summer 2004.