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WHAT IS YOUR QUESTION?

« Why does it take such long time before publishing the PTS report? », « How can I influence the nature of sample that I receive? », « Why is the reference value not always determined? », « How do you calculate the reference value ? », « Who are the reference laboratories? », « Should you be French to be President of Bipea Committee? »

These questions may be yours and we want to listen to them. Please feel free to raise any question and we will be answering. During our business trips, Bipea staff members often meet participating laboratories. Those meetings are often the occasion for the laboratories to address some issues regarding their participation.

As the Director of Bipea I decided to address this topic in this Newsletter as I would like to remind that we organize every year annual meeting with our members for every PTS. Those meetings are called “Committees”. All participating laboratories are invited to join those meetings, where laboratories and Bipea staff meet and discuss the points of possible improvement for the PT scheme: *nature of the samples, frequency of shipment, calculation of the reference value, analytes requested per scheme, method (s) of analysis, supply of raw material*, and much more.

Those Committees are also meant to promote friendly encounter amongst members that would permit formal and informal discussions amongst the members of our laboratory Community. Those meetings are thus a major place for the exchange of technical and scientific information . As those meetings are generally organized in our Parisian office we do understand that it is not always easily to be present, especially for people travelling from abroad. Therefore, I'd like to remind that you can use the letter of invitation to the Committees, for sending us back your feedback and questions regarding the PTS. Those comments are reviewed during the meeting.

Please feel free to contact directly our Scientific and Technical department: Eric ZIEGLER eziegler@bipea.org or Elvire MESSINEO emessineo@bipea.org will be pleased to answer your requests !

Bruno BERKEN - Director

**RENEWAL OF YOUR PARTICIPATION
2011-2012**

Bipea gathers nowadays more than 1200 members in 65 countries. We want to thank you for your trust in Bipea and hope that this campaign has fully met your requirements. Our campaign 2010-2011 will end in June 2011. We invite you to renew your participation for the next annual series 2011-2012. We will soon ship the dossier for the renewal of your participation. We kindly ask you to return it once completed.

**NEW CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION
2010-2011**

In order to thank you for your participation, Bipea is pleased to issue a CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION TO BIPEA INTERLABORATORY COMPARISONS for the campaign 2010-2011 .

This certificate will be sent together with the letter announcing the participation renewal. **Check your mail box and make sure to hang it on the wall of your office!**

NEWS

New options:

- ▶ **"17A–GRAPE MUST"**: This option is scheduled Mid-August 2011 and includes the analysis of one grape juice and one grape must. The time for analysis is two weeks and the PTS report will be published within five days .
- ▶ **"18A–CRUDE ALCOHOL"**: This option includes a sole sample sent in March 2012. Please note that, due to the international transport restrictions on dangerous goods, this option is only available in a limited list of 25 countries, .

New samples:

- ▶ **"19D–PESTICIDES IN FATS"**, one "Cheese" sample is added.
- ▶ **"20–DIETARY PRODUCTS & NUTRITIONAL LABELLING"**. This PTS will include one new "Capsules" sample.
- ▶ **"21–FATS AND OILS"**: A new sample of "Hazelnut Oil" will be included. Additional spiking of mineral oils is also planned for next campaign.

New parameters to analyze:

- ▶ **"38–ACTIVATED SLUDGES & SEDIMENTS"**: 15 new molecules will be added to PTS 38, provided by a complementary spiking of the samples.
- ▶ **"37–FEED WATER: MICROPOLLUTANTS" & "53–WASTE WATER: MICROPOLLUTANTS"**: Isopropylbenzene and 1,2,4,5-tetrachlorobenzene will be added for analysis.
- ▶ **"55–CONTAMINANTS IN WINES"**: 3 additional parameters are now proposed for analysis. These new molecules are: pentachlorophenol, cadaverin and phenylethylamine. They will be introduced by spiking .

Split of PTS "36–Ciders":

This PTS is now split into two separate options:

- ▶ **"36A–AROMATIZED CIDERS"**: including 4 samples of Belgian, German or English ciders,
- ▶ **"36B–FRENCH CIDERS, PERRY AND POMMEAUX"**: including 5 samples of French ciders and 1 perry cider or 1 pommeau cider.

Increase of the sample size:

- ▶ **"45–ORGANIC FERTILIZERS"**: The sample of organic soil improver will be increased from 5L to 7L in order to check the Biological Stability Index.
- ▶ **OPTION "48B–WATERS: HYDROCARBONS"**: A vial of standard solution will be added in the option "48 B – Waters: Hydrocarbons". Moreover, the size of sample will also increase: one sample of 100 ml will be replaced by 2 samples of 1 liter each. This new development will permit to conduct two types of calibration involving different solvents.
- ▶ **"59–SEARCH OF MULTIRESIDUES OF ORGANIC SUBSTANCES"**: The number of samples included in this PTS is dramatically increased. Moreover, we forecast the introduction of new spiked molecules including pharmaceutical drugs. The aim of this new implementation is to permit to run jointly HPLC MS/MS and GC MS/MS analysis. This high innovative PTS is getting more complete and offers to the participating laboratories a way to show their ability to run a search of multiresidues of organics substances as performed in the real laboratory life. This PTS is now a must have for the most performing laboratories in the field!

SAVE MONEY WITH A CONTRACT FOR REFERENCE SAMPLES!

Until 40% discount with Contract for Reference Samples!

It is always fair to try getting a discount! We can offer a discount if we know well in advance how many samples we ought to manufacture. Thus, if you tell us in advance (i.e. between June and August) how many additional samples you will need, then we can set up an "contract for reference Samples" and offer a nice discount:

20% off for a contract from 10 to 30 samples,

40% off for a contract of more than 30 samples.

If these contracts are established between June and August, then we can schedule the preparation of these additional samples for our next campaign.

In conclusion, if you know what would be (approximately) your need for external reference samples next year and if you order more than 10 samples for a year, then we can set up an "contract for Reference Samples" and offer a discount.

How does it work ?

1. Contact the sales department and receive the registration file,
2. Estimate the number of reference samples needed for each PT scheme,
3. Validate the sale proposal,
4. Throughout the year, order the reference samples from your contract when you deemed necessary.

Those contracts help us produce more samples and meet your requests. They offer you:

- ▶ **A reliable supply of reference samples,**
- ▶ **To plan in advance your analysis,**
- ▶ **To save money.**

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact the sales department by phone 00.33.1.47.33.54.60 or by email commercial@bipea.org .

JOB OFFER

We are looking for a **Scientific & Technical Officer** able to:

- Participate, organize and manage meetings with Bipea members;
- Write minutes in French and English,
- Participate in the development of our proficiency testing schemes,
- Translate technical documents in French and English.

Requirements:

- ▶ Scientific training in chemistry, microbiology or agronomy. We are seeking primarily a person with an expertise in Infrared to manage our "department of homogeneity control",
- ▶ Good skills with Excel,

- ▶ Excellent knowledge of both English and French,
- ▶ A first experience in laboratories would be a plus.

This job offer is a temporary contract leading to a permanent contract. Position based in Gennevilliers (France). Applications written in English are given priority.

Please send your resume, motivation letter and your salary expectations to:

Bruno Berken - direction@bipea.org

FOCUS ON A MEMBER !

As usual, we offer a focus on a laboratory member of our association. This publication is made with prior consent with the person interviewed. Today, the focus is put on **Ms Marie-Claude MOUNIER Director of Hydrology-Environment of Laboratoire de Touraine, France.**

What can you tell us more about the Laboratoire de Touraine ?

The Laboratoire de Touraine has existed for over a century. It is a section of the Council of the French Department of Indre et Loire, . It acts as a public service and carries out quality analysis for governments, public and private companies. The Laboratoire de Touraine performs a regular scientific and technical monitoring and adapts its services to the needs of its stakeholders. Its services support various economic sectors such as industry, agro-food industry, agriculture.

What are the activities of your laboratory ?

The Laboratoire de Touraine is a multi-task laboratory which acts in many sectors. It carries out analysis on different fields: waters, agro-food industry, animal health, detection of BSE, molecular biology, sensory testing...

When did you first register to Bipea PTS? What were by then, your main goal?

The Laboratoire de Touraine has joined Bipea PTS since 1970. In the seventies, the Laboratoire de Touraine carried out many analyses on wheat. It was very important to check the good functioning of the equipment that permit to determine the quality of the wheat.

Nowadays how do Bipea PTS take part off your quality program ? What do those PTS contribute to ?

Those PTS allow to :

- validate and to control a laboratory method
- verify the accuracy of our test results,
- demonstrate the technical skill of our staff members,
- to obtain and maintain habilitations on a long term basis,
- to link internal reference samples...

Bipea proficiency testing schemes help to ensure the reliability of our results that is communicated to our customers.

How different are Bipea PTS from its competitors ?

Bipea testing schemes cover various fields of samples that permit to cover a large part of our accreditation scope (9 accredited programs are concerned). The high frequency of the PTS allows to monitor test results and to correct quickly any shift. The possibility to obtain from Bipea validated control samples is also an important point. Moreover, by creating new PT programs, Bipea is permanently evolving, and offers more parameters to analyze. Finally we note a certain flexibility in the organization of PTS.

In conclusion, would you like to add something ?

Bipea PTS are part of the quality philosophy of our laboratory; Bipea PTS are unavoidable regarding accreditation.

We also communicate our results to the public authority granting official recognition such as the French Ministry of Health or the French Ministry of Environment.

Bipea PTS are an important factor of confidence for our stakeholders.

Interview of Ms. Marie-Claude MOUNIER, Director of Hydrology and Environment of the « Laboratoire de Touraine »

MEMBER'S SATISFACTION SURVEY

250 laboratories out of 600 contacted, answered our satisfaction survey conducted in March 2011. You will find here the main conclusion of this study: **96% of the laboratories interviewed are satisfied with the services offered by Bipea.**

Bipea positive points are a large number of international participants, a diversified offer (PT schemes and samples), and its 40 years experience in the organization of PTS.

On the other hand, the survey showed a lack of information about the PTS annual meetings (Committees), the accuracy monitoring charts and the privatized PT programs. Bipea PTS report are also considered as "complex" by our new members.

We will take a closer look to the points mentioned above and we will come back to you with new improvements.

NEW WEBSITE

Promises are meant to be kept !

As discussed during Bipea last General Assembly, we are now finalizing our new website. We are only a few weeks away before set-up: more fluidity, clarity, structured information. The new website will get on-line on June 1, 2011.

A little preview !



STANDARDIZATION HOT TOPICS

Quality is an ever-evolving matter. Please find below the summary of the standardization progress for these last months, based on the publication issued in the official standards of the AFNOR magazine Enjeux n°311, 312 and 313. The different standards are classified according to the PTS. This review should not be considered as sufficient for claims on regulatory watch.

PT Schemes GRAINS and MILLING

PR NF V03-749: Common wheat and triticale - Viscosity determination of aqueous extracts - Viscometer method. (Revision of NF V03-749: 199911(V03-749)). January 2011.

NF V03-764: Cereals and cereal products - Flour and milling of common wheat (T. aestivum) - Determination of pastes rheological behavior according to the temperature and the increase of the temperature (2nd draft Dec. 2010). October 2010.

PR NF EN 15948: Cereals — Determination of moisture and protein — Method using Near-Infrared-Transmittance in combination with an Artificial Neural Network (ANN) Prediction Model and Associated Database. (similar to PR EN 15948). March 2011

PT Schemes ANIMAL FEED

PR NF ISO 6496: Animal feed - Determination of moisture and other volatile matter content (similar to ISO 6496:1999) (Revision NF V18-109:198210 (V18-109)). March 2011.

PR NF EN 16206: Animal feed - Determination of arsenic by hydride generation atomic absorption spectrometry (HGAAS) after microwave pressure digestion (Extraction with 65% nitric acid and 30% hydrogen peroxide). (similar to PR EN 16206). February 2011.

PR NF EN 15621: Animal feed— Determination of calcium, sodium, phosphorus, magnesium, potassium, sulfur, iron, zinc, copper, manganese and cobalt after pressure digestion by ICP-AES. (similar to PR EN 15621) . February 2011.

PR NF EN 16215: Animal Feed - Determination Of Dioxins And Dioxin-Like Pcb's By Gc/Hrms And Of Indicator Pcb's By Gc/Hrms. (similar to PR EN 16215). March 2011.

Schemes : FOOD CONTAMINANTS

NF EN ISO 13720: Meat and meat products — Enumeration of presumptive Pseudomonas spp. (similar to EN ISO 13720:2010 , ISO 13720:2010)

NF EN 15890: Foodstuffs — Determination of patulin in fruit juice and fruit based purée for infants and young children — HPLC method with liquid/liquid partition cleanup and solid phase extraction and UV detection. (Similar to EN 15890:2010). December 2010.

PR NF EN ISO 16050: Foodstuffs - Determination of aflatoxin B1, and the total content of aflatoxins B1, B2, G1 and G2 in cereals, nuts and derived products - High performance liquid chromatographic method (similar to PR EN ISO 16050, ISO 16050:2010) (Revision NF EN 12955: 199910(B03-122)). March 2011.

Schemes : SOILS AND FERTILIZERS

PR NF EN 16167: Sludge, treated biowaste and soil - Determination of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) by gas chromatography with mass selective detection (GC- MS) and gas chromatography with electron-capture detection (GC-ECD). Similar to PR EN 16167. March 2011.

PR NF EN 16169: Sludge, treated biowaste and soil - Determination of Kjeldahl nitrogen (similar to PR NF 16169). March 2011

NEXT PTS ANNUAL COMMITTEES

PTS	Date	Time	Venue
« 56 - Flours : sanitary quality »	May 19	10.00 a.m. - 12.30 a.m.	Bipea, Gennevilliers
« 16 - Filth Test »	May 24	9.30 a.m. - 05.00 p.m.	Bipea, Gennevilliers
« 11 - Brewing barley : physicochemical analysis»	June 9	02.00 p.m. - 04.30 p.m.	Bipea, Gennevilliers
« 23 - Brewing barley : specific and varietal purity»	June 9	02.00 p.m. - 04.30 p.m.	Bipea, Gennevilliers
« 39 - Porto wines »	June 20	10.30 a.m. - 01.00 p.m.	Porto, Portugal