



## Lab news

### Inter-laboratory proficiency testing in France

In order to ensure the reliability of the analyses carried out by the network of laboratories that it coordinates, a reference laboratory organises training sessions on new methods and undertakes inter-laboratory proficiency testing to assess the effectiveness of official analyses.

These proficiency tests are organized at intervals determined by the reference laboratory depending on the difficulty of the methods used and the number of years since the network was set up. Testing is performed at a frequency of one to four tests per two-year period.

In practical terms, the reference laboratory prepares samples and sends them to the accredited laboratories for testing. The contents of the samples are, however, known only to the reference laboratory. The accredited laboratories then apply the official method and communicate their results to the reference laboratory. Any non-compliant results are discussed with the laboratories in order to identify changes that need to be made.

Inter-laboratory proficiency testing is organized in the fields of animal health, food safety, and plant health, for all National Reference Laboratory (NRL) mandates, including non-ANSES mandates.

<i>Animal Health</i>	> 2015 provisional calendar (pdf)
<i>Plant Health</i>	> 2015 provisional calendar (pdf)
<i>Food safety - microbiology</i>	> 2015 provisional calendar (pdf)
<i>Food safety – chemical contaminants</i>	> 2015 provisional calendar (pdf)