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# **NMISA-PT103**

## **Proficiency Testing Scheme**

### **Description**

#### **Toxic metals in Lyophilised Fish**

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## 1 FOREWORD

This is the call for participation in, and description of the NMISA proficiency testing (PT) scheme for the determination of selected metals in a lyophilised fish material. Participants will be required to report on all parameters which form part of their routine or developing laboratory services. A confidential report will be issued to all participants after completion of the PT. Information on the material, parameters included for potential performance evaluation, as well as dates for the registration, distribution and reporting is listed in **Table 1**.

This forms part of a range of ISO/IEC 17043 accredited PT services offered by NMISA. Please consult our website [www.nmisa.org](http://www.nmisa.org) for information on PT schemes on offer. NMISA can also assist with the preparation of traceable gravimetrically prepared spike solutions for benchmarking *ad-hoc* analyses, for which commercial PT schemes are not available.

## 2 SCHEME AIMS

This PT scheme will assist laboratories that routinely analyse elemental content (specifically toxic metals) in food matrices such as fish, to monitor their laboratory performance. The PT allows laboratories to evaluate the accuracy and comparability of their measurement results; the continued competency of analytical staff; the continued improvement of their quality management system and the effectiveness of the current quality assurance measures within the laboratory. In addition, this information may also be used to provide accreditation bodies or clients with objective evidence of laboratory performance.

## 3 PARTICIPATION FEES AND ADDITIONAL CHARGES

The cost of participation in the PT is R 5 750. This fee includes the material and a confidential report upon completion, but excludes costs associated with delivery (0% VAT, please note that we are not a VAT registered company).

Since many of the South African participants are located within close proximity to NMISA, the option of collecting the PT scheme samples from NMISA premises is permitted.

*International laboratories will have test samples sent by courier and appropriately packaged to maintain sample integrity. International participants must provide NMISA with any import or quarantine permits that might be required to complete sample delivery well in advance of the shipment date and are liable for any customs or import duties charged.*

Upon registration for participation an official quotation will be provided. Participation is confirmed following receipt of a purchase order and/or proof of payment.

## 4 PT SCHEME DESCRIPTION

The timeline for the PTS is presented in **Table 1**. Laboratories are requested to report results for as many of the parameters specified as possible, to allow for maximum benefit from the participation. This study is designed to support laboratories routinely performing elemental analyses in food (toxic elements). The levels of the analytes should be easily achievable using analytical methods typically

applied, however, since toxic elements are expected to be at trace levels in food that is safe for human consumption, the PT sample(s) can be expected to represent a measurement challenge. Instructions for proper handling and storage of the samples prior to sample preparation will accompany the PT samples. Participants should adhere to these instructions to ensure sample integrity and comparability of the results.

**Table 1: PTS details for NMISA-PT103 Toxic Elements in lyophilised fish powder**

NMISA-PT103		Sample format	Distribution/Dispatch	Result reporting
<b>Parameters</b>	<b>Elements</b> (0.001 – 100 mg/kg): Arsenic (As), cadmium (Cd), copper (Cu), iron (Fe), lead (Pb), mercury (Hg), nickel (Ni) and zinc (Zn)  <b>%Moisture @ 103 °C</b>	1 x 10 g lyophilised fish powder	Oct 2023	Nov 2023
<b>Result Reporting</b>	Participants will be required to perform the analysis using their normal laboratory procedures and are required to report <b><u>two results for each parameter measured in each of the samples provided.</u></b>  Participants are encouraged to include an uncertainty estimate for each result obtained. The result reporting form will be distributed to participants and will request additional information on the measurement technique and parameters, any recovery correction application, calibration standards used etc.			
<b>PT conduct</b>	<b>Assigned value</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The assigned value for the elements will be the reference values obtained through ICP analysis at the NMISA Inorganic Analysis Laboratory.</li> <li>*The assigned values for the %moisture will be the consensus values determined from participant results (and/or expert laboratories) in accordance with ISO 13528 statistical principles.</li> </ul> <b>Laboratory performance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laboratory performance will be evaluated using the z-score</li> </ul> <b>Standard deviation of proficiency assessment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NMISA typically employs the modified Horwitz model to estimate the reproducibility standard deviation that can typically be expected.</li> <li>The standard deviation of participant results will also be included in the final PT report for reference and the robust standard deviation of participant results may be considered as the standard deviation of proficiency assessment.</li> </ul> <b>PT report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The PTS report will be distributed within 2 weeks following the result submission deadline. Reports will be provided in electronic format only (Adobe Acrobat- pdf) files.                 The scheme is fully confidential. Each participant will be issued with a unique identification number. For multiple participants within the same laboratory the participating laboratory is required to identify its analysts by a code known only to the laboratory.</li> </ul>			