

Proficiency testing (PT) is:

- an essential tool in demonstrating the effectiveness of a quality assurance system
- an independent assessment of quality of analysis

The **InterAct** Partners provide well-established PT schemes for laboratory services in the fields of:

- Food and Water Microbiology
- GMO Analysis
- Food, Water and Effluent Chemistry
- Parasitology
- Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosis
- Public Health
- Equipment Monitoring



Central Science Laboratory

Linda Owen
 Telephone: +44 (0)1904 462100
 Fax: +44 (0)1904 462111
 Email: fapas@csl.gov.uk
 Web: www.fapas.com



Health Protection Agency

Julie Russell
 Telephone: +44 (0)20 8327 7119
 Fax: +44 (0)20 8200 8264
 Email: foodeqa@hpa.org.uk
 Web: www.hpa.org.uk



Veterinary Laboratories Agency

Veterinary Laboratories Agency

Neville Johnson
 Telephone: +44 (0)1509 670607
 Fax: +44 (0)1509 670206
 Email: qa-sutton-bonington@vla.defra.gsi.gov.uk
 Web: www.vla.gov.uk



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Proficiency Testing



InterAct

InterAct is a unique partnership between four leading United Kingdom government research organisations:

- Central Science Laboratory (CSL)**
- Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl)**
- Health Protection Agency (HPA)**
- Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA)**

InterAct is bringing complementary intellectual property and services to the market by facilitating joint licensing, venturing and marketing. The partnership welcomes approaches from companies with interests in acquiring new technologies and/or collaborations.

Proficiency Testing Schemes

Proficiency Testing (PT), also known as External Quality Assessment schemes are available from three of the **InterAct** partners: VLA, HPA and CSL's Food Analysis and Performance Assessment Scheme (FAPAS).

These schemes are:

- Accredited by internationally recognised organisations
- Used in more than 70 countries
- Organised by scientists with recognised expertise

The PT Schemes provided by **InterAct** Partners are open to laboratories in the public and private sectors.

What do the **InterAct** partners' PT schemes offer?

- A confidential and anonymous assessment of performance
- An aid to implementing an effective quality system contributing to cost-effective laboratory management and elimination of preventable inaccuracy
- A necessary tool to gain internationally recognised accreditation
- An independent and impartial assessment of routine procedures
- Confidence in the quality of results and service
- An educational tool

The **InterAct** partners' PT schemes provide:

- Real and simulated samples at regular pre-determined intervals
- Schedules to help plan PT procedures
- Sample delivery in accordance with international regulations
- Clear instructions on how to process samples
- Repeat sample material if required
- Timely and comprehensive reports
- Individual confidential performance assessments
- Expert advice
- Feedback on the accuracy and reliability of laboratory methods and techniques

the **InterAct** partners that provide PT schemes

Central Science Laboratory (CSL)

CSL provides many PT schemes including:



Food Analysis Performance Assessment Scheme (FAPAS) - the largest and most comprehensive analytical chemistry PT scheme in the food sector.

Laboratory Environmental Analysis Proficiency (LEAP) - water and effluent chemistry, water microbiology, parasitology.

Food Examination Performance Assessment Scheme (FEPAS) - food microbiology.

Genetically Modified Materials Analysis (GeMMA) - genetically modified organism analysis.

CSL is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and is a centre of excellence specialising in the sciences underpinning sustainable agriculture, safe food and a healthy environment.

Health Protection Agency (HPA)

HPA provides a wide range of PT schemes for food and water



microbiology, including unique schemes to challenge laboratories that test food products in accordance with international regulations for microbiology.

HPA work at local, regional, national and international levels to reduce the impact of infectious disease and exposure to chemical, poison and radiation hazards.

HPA is an independent body, funded by the UK government, with specific responsibility for protecting the health and well-being of everyone living in England and Wales.

Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA)

VLA provides PT Schemes for veterinary laboratories in the public and private sector in the areas of microbiological diagnosis, haematology, serology, parasitology, histopathology and equipment monitoring.



VLA is an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and is internationally recognised as a centre of scientific excellence.

It provides a wide range of applied research and consultancy on diseases of livestock, diagnosis of diseases of statutory and public health importance and surveillance of new and emerging diseases to the UK Government, all sectors of the livestock health industry and the private sector.