



EAC PROFICIENCY TESTING SCHEME

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 13TH ROUND 2018

Part 1: General Information

Proficiency Testing (PT) is one of the analytical tool laboratories use to benchmark with peers and also demonstrate their competences. PT participation provides a quality assurance tool to laboratories in the region and to compare performance and take necessary remedial action to facilitate improvement, with an aim of producing accurate and reliable test results.

The Bureaux of Standards in the EAC region have been given a mandate to organize Proficiency Testing Schemes as part of the EAC SQMT improvement. In the EAC region, the EAC PT Scheme is an annual activity, with one PT round covering all the matrices in the scheme.

During the EAC 12th round PT Evaluation and Training Workshop that was hosted by Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS) in March this year in Kampala, Uganda, it was consistently agreed by participants that a 13th round of PT be held, and that the matrix of UHT milk (liquid) provided by KEBS and fruit juice provided by TBS be upgraded to become paid for PTs. Also Microbiological Analysis PT matrices provided by KEBS were upgraded to a paid for PTs: Dairy microbiology (Skim milk powder), Meat & fish microbiology (Meat and Fish), and Black tea microbiology. It was agreed that PT providers continue sending out two different samples where applicable each with a different composition profiles. Details of matrices, parameters, brief description of test methods where applicable and contact details of PT providers/coordinators/contact persons are as indicated in Parts 2 & 3 documents attached.

This round of PT exercise is highly recommended for regions of the EAC, SADC, COMESA, MAGHREB, and ECOWAS. However, other regions (The Middle East, Europe, Asia, Latin America, USA, The Caribbean, etc) are equally encouraged to participate.

Please note the following:

- (i) The PT fee payable to the PT provider shall be US\$220 net per matrix inclusive of bank charges.
- (ii) PT participants from outside the East African Community region will be required to meet the cost of the courier charges for the delivery of the PT samples to their labs, in addition to the participation fee in (i) above.
- (iii) PT participation fee shall be paid before the PT samples are dispatched to the intending participants, and evidence of the payment communicated to the PT Provider/Coordinator.

- (iv) Payment of the participation fee shall be made in advance before the said lab/institution can be deemed to have registered and confirmed participation in the PT round.
- (v) Registration for each round is a very important part of the planning stage. Registration is compulsory for every round and only registered laboratories will receive samples. No registration will be accepted after 15th July 2018

The purpose of this notification is to announce the 13th EAC PT round and also to invite interested laboratories/institutions to register for participation in the PT round. In case your laboratory/institution is interested in participating in this 13th PT Round, kindly contact the respective PT coordinator in Part 3 document for the matrix of interest as soon as possible. Proforma Invoices containing banking information will only be issued on request and only after the duly completed registration forms have been received by the PT provider.

Immediately after receiving the invoice and banking information, you will be requested to proceed and pay the charges invoiced, and submit evidence of payment (see Note (ii) above) as soon as possible to the respective PT coordinator for the matrix in which your institution/laboratory would like to participate (by e-mail). For any further information please contact any of the respective PT Coordinators indicated in Part 2 document.

Additional information can be accessed from the EAC SQMT website: <http://www.eac-quality.net> and then click on Testing, or from the websites of the respective PT providers indicated above. The same information can be accessed via the web link: <https://www.eptis.bam.de>