

Non-Pathogens in Food

Aim of the Program

This proficiency testing program aims to assess laboratories' ability to competently determine non-pathogens in food samples; and to provide participants with external quality assurance to enhance accuracy and reliability.

Application of the Program to Accreditation

Participation in this proficiency testing program satisfies the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 – *General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories* for monitoring performance by comparing results with other laboratories.

Program Details

The Non-Pathogens in Food program is conducted bi-annually i.e. two rounds per year.

Samples – two to five food samples.

Tests – Aerobic Plate Count, *E.coli*, Coagulase-positive *Staphylococci*, Coliforms, Enterobacteriaceae, *Bacillus cereus*, **Total** Yeast and Mould Count

Statistical Analysis:

A robust z-score technique is used to assess performance.

Reporting:

At the conclusion of each round, each participant receives a confidential individual summary sheet, detailing its performance in the program, and a final program report summarising all participant data.

Confidentiality

Each participant is assigned a unique code number, keeping all results anonymous in all PTA reports and publications.

Fees and Further Information

For information on program fees or other enquiries, please contact PTA directly:

Email: ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au