



EAC PROFICIENCY TESTING SCHEME

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 12TH ROUND 2017

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 organise 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. The 11th EAC PT round of 2016 which involved matrices of **edible vegetable oil & alcoholic beverage (Gin)** (provided by Uganda National Bureau of Standards, UNBS), **flour** and **animal feeds** (provided by Kenya Bureau of Standards, KEBS) and **edible salt, fertilizer, and Honey** (provided by Tanzania Bureau of Standards), **sugar** (provided by Rwanda Bureau of Standards (RSB), and black tea provided by Burundi Bureau of Standards (BBN) was successfully executed and concluded.

During the *EAC 11th round PT Evaluation and Training Workshop* that was hosted by Kenya Bureau of Standards in March this year in Mombasa, Kenya, it was unanimously agreed by participants that a 12th round of PT be held, and that the matrix of **fertilizer** be elevated to become a paid for PT, and **UHT milk** (liquid) to be provided by KEBS while **fruit juice** to be provided by TBS, both on free trial basis. Microbiological Analysis PT matrices were also added, on trial basis to be provided by KEBS: **Dairy microbiology** (Skim milk powder), **Meat & fish microbiology** (Meat and Fish chunks), 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 **Part 2** document 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) No payment will be required for participation in the free trial PT matrices for this 12th round, except for labs outside the EAC region which will have to meet the cost of courier charges.
- (iv) 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.
- (v) 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.
- (vi) 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 14th July 2017**

The purpose of this notification is to announce the 12th 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 11th PT Round, kindly **contact the respective PT coordinator/contact person indicated in Part 2** 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 you would like to participate (by e-mail). For any further information please contact any of the PT Contact persons 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>