



COMMUNITY REFERENCE LABORATORY FOR MARINE BIOTOXINS

WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE COMMUNITY REFERENCE LABORATORY FOR MARINE BIOTOXINS

January-December 2010

Community Reference Laboratory for Marine Biotoxins (CRLMB)
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COMMUNITY REFERENCE LABORATORY
FOR MARINE BIOTOXINS

Work Programme for the Community Reference Laboratory for Marine Biotoxins

Objectives for the period January-December 2010

LEGAL FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

The functions and duties of the Community Reference Laboratories for feed and food are described in Article 32(1) of Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules.

1. Coordination of activities of NRL network and provision of technical assistance and training

1.1. Organization of the XIII Workshop of the European NRL network of marine biotoxins

Date: to be determined (expected to be in October-November)

Place: to be agreed during the XII Workshop to be held in Madrid in October 2009.

Duration: 1,5-2 days

The CRLMB will organise and coordinate the workshop and will edit the minutes that will be distributed to the participants and published on the CRLMB website.

1.2. Supply information to EU MS and third countries on analytical methods on marine biotoxins (e mail, website)

Duration: ongoing (as required)

In addition to on-going assistance, the CRLMB website is available at: <http://www.aesan.msps.es/en/CRLMB/web/home.shtml>. There, it can be consulted about marine toxins legislation, methodologies, different meetings minutes and recommendations and all the activities related to CRLMB.

1.3. Assist NRL on the implementation, validation and accreditation of methods particularly by provision of advice and CRL SOPs.

Duration: ongoing

The CRLMB will assist NRLs on the implementation and validation of official and alternative analytical methods by providing them with technical information, standards when available, contaminated materials, etc at their

request. Moreover, protocols for marine biotoxins determination are published on the CRLMB website.

- 1.4. Technical assistance to Third Countries on analytical methods.
The CRLMB will assist third countries by providing them with samples from the CRLMB Proficiency Testing trials in order to have intercomparison results, useful for the validation and accreditation of methods for marine biotoxins detection. This provision will depend on samples availability.
- 1.5. Training activities for the staff of NRL MS and third countries (as required, maximum 4 countries).
- 1.6. Working group on LC-MS. The activities will be focused on lipophilic toxins. See point 5.1.
- 1.7. Working group on EFSA Opinion on Marine Biotoxins. Activities focused on possibilities of the EU-NRLs network on the potential/practical implementation of the Opinion on marine biotoxins in shellfish provided by the EFSA Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain (CONTAM). This Working Group will depend on discussions about the issue during the XII Workshop to be held in Madrid in October 2009.

NOTE: If it is required after the next XII Workshop of EU-NRLs (October 2009, Madrid) the ongoing working groups could be modified (eliminated, modified, or new ones created).

2. Scientific advice and support

- 2.1. Provide scientific assistance to DG-SANCO.

Duration: ongoing

The CRLMB will assist DG-SANCO and FVO if it is required on issues related with the control of marine biotoxins in molluscs.

- 2.2. Provide technical assistance in cases where the results of analysis are contested between Member States and/or Member States and Third Countries.

Duration: ongoing, when requested.

3. Interlaboratory Proficiency Testing

The interlaboratory proficiency testing trials organised by the CRLMB for the NRLs are aimed at evaluating the ability of the NRLs to apply satisfactorily the recognised testing methods for marine biotoxins for the purpose of Regulations (EC) Nos. 853/2004 and 854/2004 stated in Annex III of Commission Regulation (EC) N° 2074/2005. At the same time, the equivalence of the different methods applied is studied. The CRLMB will organise one trial for each marine biotoxins group legislated in the EU:

3.1. CRLMB 2010 Proficiency Testing for PSP toxins determination (CRLMB-2010-PT-PSP).

3.2. CRLMB 2010 Proficiency Testing for LIPOPHILIC toxins determination (CRLMB-2010-PT-LIPO).

3.3. CRLMB 2010 Proficiency Testing for ASP toxins determination (CRLMB-2010-PT-ASP).

Schedule for the Proficiency Testing trials (participants registration, samples dispatch, results submission and PT report) will be agreed by the EU-NRLs network and published in the “EU CRLMB/NRLs timetable of activities for 2010”, which will be circulated to the network in the first quarter of 2010.

NRLs will receive in advance the Programme and the “Application Form” to be registered at each trial together with information about the foreseen dates for samples dispatch and results submission. Samples for the trial will be accompanied with the identity code for each participant. At the same time, participants will receive by email the “Protocol” for the exercise, a “Sample Arrival Form” to be sent to the CRLMB just after samples reception and the “Reporting Sheet” for results submission.

Preliminary results on CRLMB-2010-PT exercises will be presented by the CRLMB during the XIII Workshop of the European NRL network of marine biotoxins and discussed by the group. A final and detailed report (with all information on participants, aim of the exercise, schedule and instructions, materials preparation, methods used by participants, evaluation of results, proficiency results,..) will be elaborated and edited by the CRLMB for each PT, circulated to participants in the trial and published on the CRLMB website. A follow-up report on the management in cases of underperformance in the Proficiency Testing by NRLs will be submitted to DG SANCO together with the CRLMB technical report for 2010 (planned for March 2011).

4. Missions

4.1. Visit to NRLs when necessary, in order to solve problems with results after ring trials or validation studies (see points 3 and 5).

4.2. Participate in activities related to the involvement in the Working Group 5 ('Biotoxins') of CEN/TC 275 Technical Committee “Food analysis – Horizontal methods” (European Committee for Standardization).

4.3. Participate in activities related to the involvement in the AOAC Task Force for Marine Biotoxins.

4.4. On going participation in the Codex Alimentarius working groups and meetings related to marine biotoxins.

4.5. Assist third countries on technical issues on request.

5. Development of analytical and detection methods

5.1. Development and validation of single toxins group methods, continuing with a method for AZA-group toxins, for LC-MS analysis of the lipophilic toxins legislated in the EU.

5.2. In view of the results got during the Single Laboratory Validation of the improved version of TOXILINE-DSP test, carried out in July-September 2009, continuation with the formal validation study of the method for the determination of Okadaic acid and dinophysistoxins in molluscs by a Fluorimetric Phosphatase Assay through the TOXILINE-DSP test.

5.3. Evaluation/Validation of other alternative phosphatase assays for the determination of Okadaic acid and dinophysistoxins in molluscs.

5.4. Validation and accreditation of a multitoxin method by LC-MS for the determination of Okadaic acid-group, Azaspiracid-group for the confirmative determination at the CRLMB of these toxins.

5.5. Pending on the reactivation of the activities related to phycotoxins through CEN/TC 275/WG5-Biotoxins, finalization of necessary requirements to get the validated method for “the determination of Domoic acid in shellfish and finfish by RP-HPLC using UV detection” as a CEN standard.

5.6. Pending on the reactivation of the activities related to phycotoxins through CEN/TC 275/WG5-Biotoxins, collaboration in the elaboration of a document about “Criteria of analytical methods for marine biotoxins”.

5.7. Participation in a collaborative study for the formal validation of a Rapid Postcolumn Methodology for Determination of Paralytic Shellfish Toxins in Shellfish Tissue.

5.8. Implementation of methodologies based on biological methods and LC-tandem mass spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) for the determination of ciguatoxins in fish.

5.9. Implementation of methodologies based on biological methods LC-tandem mass spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) for the determination of brevetoxins in shellfish.

5.10. Development of methodologies based on biological methods LC-tandem mass spectrometry (LC/MS/MS) for the determination of palytoxins in fish.

5.11. Identification of methodological options to changes in regulatory levels for marine toxins (see point 1.7).

6. Implementation of DG SANCO “Protocol for the management of underperformance in comparative testing and/or lack of collaboration of National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) with CRLs activities”

6.1. Underperformance (i.e failure in proficiency test). See Point 3.

The CRLMB will carry out a follow-up of those NRLs that fails in the CRLMB-2010-Proficiency Testing for PSP, lipophilic and ASP toxins determination in order to identify the origin of the bad results.

6.2. Lack of collaboration by the NRLs with the CRLMB.

According to DG SANCO protocol, the CRLMB will contact those NRLs for which a lack of collaboration with the CRL is detected. This lack of collaboration can be due to lack of collaboration in working groups’ activities or to a lack of participation in the CRLMB proficiency testing exercises.