



EAC PROFICIENCY TESTING SCHEME

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 9TH ROUND 2014

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 Architecture project. In the EAC region, the EAC PT Scheme is an annual activity, with one PT round covering all the matrices in the scheme. The 8th EAC PT round of 2013 which involved matrices of **edible vegetable oil** (provided by Uganda National Bureau of Standards), **flour** (provided by Kenya Bureau of Standards) and **edible salt & Honey** (provided by Tanzania Bureau of Standards), and **sugar** (provided by Rwanda Bureau of Standards) was successfully concluded.

During the *EAC 8th round PT Evaluation and Training Workshop* that was held March this year in Kigali, Rwanda, it was unanimously agreed by participants that a 9th round of PT be held, and that a honey PT be added to the list but as a paid for PT. It was also agreed that Burundi Bureau of Standards to start providing a PT on Black tea; and that KEBS starts providing a PT on Animal feeds, and TBS provides a PT on Fertilizers. The Pts on fertilizers and animal feeds are to be provided as free trial PTs in round 9. It was agreed that PT providers continue sending out two different samples each with a different composition. 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 note therefore serves as an advance notification of the 2014 Proficiency test for chemical analysis of the food matrices which will be provided by the EAC bureaus of standards (Kenya Bureau of Standards, Tanzania Bureau of Standards, Uganda National Bureau of Standards, Rwanda Bureau of Standards, and Burundi Bureau of Standards) as stated above.

This round of PT exercise is highly recommended for regions of the EAC, SADC, COMESA, MAGHREB, and ECOWAS. However, even institutions outside these regions are also very much encouraged to participate.

Please note the following:

- (i) The PT fee payable to the PT provider shall be **US\$200 net per matrix**. Participating laboratories will have to meet the bank charges and cost of money transfer to respective PT providers' accounts
- (ii) No payment will be required to participation in the animal feeds and fertilizer trial for this 9th round.
- (iii) PT participation fee shall be paid before the PT samples are dispatched to the intending participant, and evidence of the payment communicated to the PT Provider.
- (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. Registration is compulsory for every round and only registered laboratories will receive samples. **No registration will be accepted after 15th July 2014.**
- (vi) Advance payment of the PT participation fee is mandatory for participation in this EAC PT round. Those institutions/labs that will not have made advance payment should not expect to receive PT samples.

The purpose of this notification is to announce the 9th EAC PT round, and also to invite interested laboratories to register for participation in the EAC 9th PT round. In case your laboratory/institution is interested in participating in this 9th PT Round, kindly **contact the respective PT coordinator/contact person indicated in Part 2** document for the matrix of interest as soon as possible. Invoices containing banking information will only be issued on request and only after the duly completed registration forms are received by the PT provider.

Immediately after receiving the invoice and banking information, you are requested to proceed and pay the PT fee, and submit **evidence of payment** (see Note (ii) above) as soon as possible **thereafter** to the respective PT coordinator for the matrix in which you would like to participate (by e-mail, or fax). 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.