

Dear Participants,

Please find enclosed the material for the proficiency test (PT):

DLA ptASW1 (2024) Allergen Swab Test I: Gluten, Peanut, Milk (incl. β -Lactoglobulin, Casein) and Soya

There are **4 plates each with 2 test surfaces** (8 test surfaces) possibly containing the allergenic parameters Gluten, Peanut, Milk (incl. β -Lactoglobulin, Casein) and Soya. Two areas are to be tested per allergen (one of them spiked with the relevant allergen). The amounts are in the range of 10 - 150 μ g/test area. The analysis methods are optional.

The evaluation of results is strictly qualitative (positive / negative).

Important note: The test areas are labeled with the **parameter to be tested** on the **backside of the plates**. A test field is only to be tested for this parameter.

Please note the attached information on the proficiency test.

New: Please enter your final results online in our PT customer portal **my DLA | participant's portal**. You will receive further information on this by e-mail, in particular about access to the portal.

Last deadline is March 29th 2024.
After the deadline no results can be accepted.

We are looking forward to any suggestions or questions! We wish you a successful performance of the proficiency test!

Kind regards,

Alexandra Scharf & Matthias Besler-Scharf

On behalf of the DLA-Team

Information on the Proficiency Test (PT)

<i>PT number</i>	DLA ptASW1 (2024)
<i>PT name</i>	Allergen Swab Test I: Gluten, Peanut, Milk (incl. β-Lactoglobulin, Casein) and Soya
<i>Sample matrix</i>	<i>Plates A, B, C and D: 2 x 4 Test areas Plastic trays / ingredients: additives and allergenic foods</i>
<i>Number of samples and sample amount</i>	<i>4 Plates with 8 different test areas of approx. 30 cm².</i>
<i>Storage</i>	<i>Plates A, B, C and D room temperature (PT period), cooled 2 - 10°C (long term)</i>
<i>Intentional use</i>	<i>Laboratory use only (quality control samples)</i>
<i>Parameter</i>	<i>qualitative: Gluten and Peanut (Plates A and B) qualitative: Milk and Soya (Plates C and D) Levels: approx. 10 - 150 μg / test area</i>
<i>Methods of analysis</i>	<i>Swab test with optional analytical method.</i>
<i>Notes to analysis</i>	<i>The analysis of PT samples should be performed like a routine laboratory analysis. The test areas are labeled with the allergen to be tested. It is recommended to sample the entire test area (half the area of a plate) according to the instructions of the swab test method applied.</i>
<i>Result table</i>	<i>For each parameter two different test areas should be examined and one result each should be determined per test area. The results should be filled in the result entry table.</i>
<i>Units</i>	<i>positive / negative (limit of detection in μg/cm²)</i>
<i>Number of digits</i>	<i>at least 2</i>
<i>Result submission</i>	<i>online via my DLA participant's portal (https://my.dla-pt.com) you will receive further information about the access by e-mail</i>
<i>Last Deadline</i>	<u>the latest March 29th 2024</u>
<i>Evaluation report</i>	<i>The evaluation report is expected to be completed 6 weeks after deadline of result submission and sent as PDF file by e-mail.</i>
<i>Coordinator and contact person of PT</i>	<i>Dr. Alexandra Scharf</i>

* Control of mixture homogeneity and qualitative testings are carried out by DLA. Any testing of the content, homogeneity and stability of PT parameters is subcontracted by DLA.