

Dear participants,

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

DLA ptASW3 (2025) Allergen Swab Test III: Almond, Celery, Hazelnut and Sesame (2 Test Surfaces per Allergen, qualitative)

There are **4 plates each with 2 test surfaces** (8 test surfaces) possibly containing the allergenic parameters **Almond, Celery, Hazelnut** and **Sesame**. 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 µg/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 October 2025-10-24.
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)

PT number	DLA ptASW3 (2025)
PT name	Allergen Swab Test III: Almond, Celery, Hazelnut and Sesame
Sample matrix	Plates A, B, C and D: 2 x 4 Test areas Plastic trays / ingredients: additives and allergenic foods
Number of samples and sample amount	4 Plates with 8 different test areas of approx. 30 cm ² .
Storage	Plates A, B, C and D room temperature (PT period), cooled 2 - 10°C (long term)
Intentional use	Laboratory use only (quality control samples)
Parameter	qualitative: Celery and Hazelnut (Plates A and B) qualitative: Almond and Sesame (Plates C and D) Levels: approx. 10 - 150 µg / test area
Methods of analysis	Swab test with optional analytical method.
Notes to analysis	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.
Result table	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.
Units	positive / negative (limit of detection in µg/cm ²)
Number of digits	at least 2
Result submission	online via my DLA participant's portal (https://my.dla-pt.com) you will receive further information about the access by e-mail
Last Deadline	the latest October <u>2025-10-24</u>
Evaluation report	The evaluation report is expected to be completed 6 weeks after deadline of result submission and will be provided as a PDF file in the DLA Participant Portal (https://my.dla-pt.com/).
Coordinator and contact person of PT	Alexandra Scharf, PhD

* 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.