



EAC PROFICIENCY TESTING SCHEME

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 14TH ROUND 2019

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 organize 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.

During the EAC 13th round PT Evaluation and Training Workshop that was hosted by Rwanda Standards Board (RSB) in March this year in Kigali, Rwanda, it was consistently agreed by participants that a 14th round of PT be held, and that the matrix of **Skin Cosmetic Lotion** to be provided by RSB as a free trial PT. 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) 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.
- (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 stage. Registration is compulsory for every round and only registered laboratories will receive samples. No registration will be accepted after 12th July 2019.

The purpose of this notification is to announce the 14th 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 14th 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>