

The Soft Drinks/Fruit Juice (QBS) proficiency testing scheme includes chemical and microbiological samples in juices and soft drinks. The following form contains the calendar of rounds followed by descriptions of the samples and prices.

Please complete all sections below and return to LGC AXIO Proficiency Testing: axiopt@lgcgroup.com

Returning customer Lab
ID:

Purchase order no.:
(compulsory)

YOUR ORDER

If you would like to renew your order for the same samples/rounds as per previous year, please tick this box:

RENEW ME AS LAST YEAR

☐

We will copy over the samples/rounds purchased by you in the previous year and send you an order confirmation for your review. If you would like to add any other samples to your order, please mark them accordingly on the subsequent pages.

If you would prefer to place a different/new order for this scheme year, please review the samples available on subsequent pages and indicate the number of samples required for each sample/round accordingly.

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Month & Round	Despatch Date	Reporting Deadline	Chemistry	Microbiology
FEB BV370	15 Feb 2027	22 Mar 2027	510,514,515,516,517DI,521,524,529,530	500,501
MAY BV373	17 May 2027	21 Jun 2027	510,514,515,516,517RD,518,522,524,527	500,501,505,506,507,533
AUG BV376	09 Aug 2027	13 Sep 2027	510,514,515,516,517DI,524,528,529,530	500,501
NOV BV377	22 Nov 2027	10 Jan 2028	510,514,515,516,517RD,519,520,524	500,501,505,533

Please ensure that LGC receive your order as soon as possible in order to avoid stock shortages. Please note that orders received the week prior to the despatch date may be subject to a despatch delay.

The despatch date shown above is the date the sample will leave our site in the UK. Please note, this is not the date the samples will arrive at your laboratory. Delivery times vary based on country, if you require further information, please contact LGC.

SAMPLE AVAILABILITY – PLEASE SEE PAGE 1 FOR SPECIFIC DESPATCH AND REPORTING DATES

Please indicate the number of samples required per round in the grid. If you require a sample in all available rounds, please complete the **All Rounds** column.

Please note: Where a footnote symbol (* | # | ^ | †) appears in a column, the footnote description text may appear at the end of a table that may span across multiple pages. Please scroll to the end of the table for these details.

MICROBIOLOGY

Sample	Quantity	Supplied As	Target Analytes	Round and Month (BV)				
				All Rounds	FEB 370	MAY 373	AUG 376	NOV 377
PT-BV-500 Fruit Juice	Vial + 90ml simulated fruit juice + 10ml primary diluent	Simulated Fruit Juice	Total aerobic mesophilic count; Enumeration of Yeast; Mould; Lactic acid bacteria; Total acidophilic flora; Detection of <i>Escherichia coli</i> Identification of yeast and mould to genus and/or species level NEW	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
PT-BV-501 Soft Drink	Vial + 90ml simulated soft drink + 10ml primary diluent	Simulated soft drink	Total aerobic mesophilic count; Enumeration of Yeast; Mould; Lactic acid bacteria; Total acidophilic flora; Detection of <i>Escherichia coli</i> Identification of yeast and mould to genus and/or species level NEW	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
PT-BV-505 Filtration	Vial to be reconstituted to final volume of 1 litre	Lyophilised test material (Diluent not provided)	Total aerobic mesophilic count; Enumeration of Yeast; Mould; Lactic acid bacteria; Total acidophilic flora; Detection of <i>Escherichia coli</i>	☐		☐		☐
PT-BV-506 Filtration	Vial to be reconstituted to final volume of 1 litre	Lyophilised test material (Diluent not provided)	Enumeration of Thermophilic acidophilic bacteria (<i>Alicyclobacillus</i> spp); Detection of Guaiacol producing thermophilic acidophilic bacteria	☐		☐		
PT-BV-507. Fruit Juice	2 x vial + 2 x 100ml simulated fruit juice	Simulated fruit juice	Detection of <i>Salmonella</i> species; <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> ; <i>Escherichia coli</i> O157	☐		☐		

Samples Available				Round and Month (BV)				
Sample	Quantity	Supplied As	Target Analytes	All Rounds	FEB 370	MAY 373	AUG 376	NOV 377
PT-BV-533 * Simulated beverage for direct plating NEW	Vial + 100ml simulated beverage	Simulated beverage	Total aerobic mesophilic count; Enumeration of yeast; mould; lactic acid bacteria; total acidophilic flora Detection of <i>Escherichia coli</i>	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

*Please note that these samples are not currently within the scope of LGC's UKAS accreditation.

CHEMISTRY

Samples Available				Round and Month (BV)				
Sample	Quantity	Supplied As	Target Analytes	All Rounds	FEB 370	MAY 373	AUG 376	NOV 377
PT-BV-510 Fruit Juice	125ml	BV370: Orange BV373: Apple BV376: Cranberry BV379: Blueberry	Brix; Acidity (as Citric Acid Monohydrate); pH; Fructose; Glucose; Calcium; Phosphorus; Potassium; Magnesium; Sodium	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
PT-BV-514 Vitamin C	100ml	Liquid test material	Ascorbic Acid (Vitamin C)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
PT-BV-515 Soft Drink	2 x 330ml	BV370: carbonated soft drink in can BV373: carbonated soft drink in glass bottle BV376: carbonated soft drink in can BV379: carbonated soft drink in can	Brix; Acidity (as Citric Acid Monohydrate); pH; Carbon Dioxide; Fructose; Glucose; Sucrose	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
PT-BV-516. Simulated soft drink	2 x 250ml	Simulated soft drink	Sample A: Benzoic Acid; Caffeine; Sulfur Dioxide (Total); Sorbic Acid (as free acid); Phosphoric Acid Sample B: Acesulfame K; Aspartame; Cyclamic acid (as free acid); Saccharin (as free imide); Sucralose	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Sample	Quantity	Supplied As	Target Analytes	Round and Month (BV)				
				All Rounds	FEB 370	MAY 373	AUG 376	NOV 377
PT-BV-517DI Soft Drink (dilutable) NEW	250ml	Dilutable drink	Sample A: Acidity (as Citric Acid Monohydrate); Benzoic Acid; Brix; Caffeine; Sulfur Dioxide (Total); pH; Sorbic Acid (as free acid) Sample B: Acesulfame K; Aspartame; Cyclamic acid (as free acid); Fructose; Glucose; Saccharin (as free imide); Sucrose; Sucralose	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
PT-BV-517RD Soft Drink (ready to drink) NEW	250ml	Ready to drink	Sample A: Acidity (as Citric Acid Monohydrate); Benzoic Acid; Brix; Caffeine; Sulfur Dioxide (Total); pH; Sorbic Acid (as free acid) Sample B: Acesulfame K; Aspartame; Cyclamic acid (as free acid); Fructose; Glucose; Saccharin (as free imide); Sucrose; Sucralose	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
PT-BV-518 Fruit Juice	100ml	Orange juice test material	Antimony; Arsenic; Cadmium; Iron; Lead; Tin; Zinc	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
PT-BV-519 Soft Drink	100ml	Soft drink test material	Antimony; Arsenic; Cadmium; Iron; Lead; Tin; Zinc; Calcium; Phosphorus; Potassium; Magnesium; Sodium; Aluminium#; Manganese#; Copper#; Selenium#	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
PT-BV-520 Fruit Juice	60ml	Clear apple juice test material	Patulin (corrected for recovery)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
PT-BV-521 Soft Drink	250ml	Soft drink test material	Nicotinamide (Vitamin B3); Pantothenic acid (Vitamin B5); Pyridoxine (Vitamin B6); Cyanocobalamin (Vitamin B12); Ascorbic acid (Vitamin C); DL- α -Tocopherol (Vitamin E); Riboflavin (Vitamin B2)#	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
PT-BV-522 Soft Drink	125ml	Soft drink test material	Total steviol glycosides; Rebaudioside A; Rebaudioside M NEW ; Stevioside NEW	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
PT-BV-524 * Carbonated Water	2 x 500ml	Carbonated water test material	Carbon dioxide; Conductivity (20°); pH; Calcium; Magnesium; Potassium; Sodium; Bicarbonate; Chloride; Total Dissolved solids	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
PT-BV-527 * Ready to drink beverage	250ml	Ready to drink beverage	Vitamin E; Vitamin A	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Samples Available				Round and Month (BV)				
Sample	Quantity	Supplied As	Target Analytes	All Rounds	FEB 370	MAY 373	AUG 376	NOV 377
PT-BV-528 * Tea beverage	100ml	Kombucha tea	Total polyphenols; pH; Electrical conductivity; Brix	☐			☐	
PT-BV-529 * Beverage	50ml	Beverage test material	Quinine	☐	☐		☐	
PT-BV-530 * Fruit concentrate	100ml	BV370: Apple juice concentrate BV376 Grape juice concentrate	Brix; Acidity (expressed as citric acid monohydrate); pH	☐	☐		☐	

*Please note that these samples are not currently within the scope of LGC's UKAS accreditation.

#Please note that these analytes are not currently within the scope of LGC's UKAS accreditation.

Please note that all accredited samples are accredited within the boundaries of LGC's fixed and flexible scope of UKAS accreditation. For further details and the full technical specification of the scheme, please refer to the [Scheme Description](#)

To access our General Protocol, covering our scheme organisation and operation, test materials, reporting of results, data analysis/performance assessment and information provided to participants, please click on the following link: [GENERAL PROTOCOL – PT Schemes](#)

YOUR DETAILS

Returning customers, if you would like to keep your contact/address details as per previous year, please tick here:

☐

If changes are required or you are a new customer, please complete your details below:

Send Test Materials to:	Send Invoices to:
Contact name:	Contact name:
Department:	Department:
Company:	Company:
Address:	Address:
Town/City:	Town/City:
County:	County:
Post/Zip Code:	Post/Zip Code:
Country:	Country:
Tel:	Tel:
E-mail:	E-mail:
	VAT no:

Existing customers

If you would like to change your marketing preferences, please visit our [preference centre](#) or contact axiopt@lgcgroup.com

New customers

LGC would like to contact you by email, phone or post about its products, services and related areas or research. LGC does not sell contact details to external parties. You may unsubscribe at any time.

- ☐ Yes, I am happy to be contacted about LGC's products, services and research
- ☐ No, I do not require marketing information about LGC's products and services at this time

By submitting this application form, you are agreeing to comply by LGC's Standard Terms and Conditions for the Supply of Laboratory Quality Products and Services and are agreeing that you have read and agree to the 'General Notes' at the end of this document.

Name

Date

REPEAT/ADDITIONAL SAMPLES PRICES

Repeat and duplicate samples will be charged at 50% of the main sample cost. Please contact LGC for a quotation.

CARRIAGE CHARGES

Participants will pay an additional fee to cover courier charges. Please contact LGC AXIO Proficiency Testing for up-to-date charges.

CHANGES AND OTHER SCHEMES/SAMPLES OF INTEREST

CHANGES

We have introduced a number of new samples as follows:

- Sample PT-BV-533 (Microorganisms in simulated beverage for direct plating). This will be available in rounds BV373 (May 2027) and BV377 (November 2027).

We have added a number of new analytes as follows:

- Identification of yeast and mould to genus and/or species level added to PT-BV-500 (Microorganisms in fruit juice) – this analyte has been added as accredited under LGC's flexible scope of UKAS accreditation.
- Identification of yeast and mould to genus and/or species level added to PT-BV-501 (Microorganisms in soft drink) – this analyte has been added as accredited under LGC's flexible scope of UKAS accreditation.
- Rebaudioside M and Stevioside added to PT-BV-522 (Steviol glycosides in soft drink)

We have split sample PT-BV-517 (Additives and sweeteners in soft drinks (dilutable or ready to drink)) into 2 samples as follows:

- PT-BV-517RD (Additives and sweeteners in soft drinks (ready to drink))
- PT-BV-517DI (Additives and sweeteners in soft drinks (dilutable))

We have amended the format of the following samples – **please see further explanation about this change below:**

- PT-BV-507 (Pathogen detection in fruit juice (Salmonella species, Listeria monocytogenes, E.coli O157)): 2 x vials of lyophilised material plus 2 x 100ml simulated fruit juice will now be provided

Beyond Detection: Making Qualitative PT a True Test of Laboratory Performance

In routine testing, laboratories are often focused on avoiding false negatives because of food safety implications. However, false positives also have significant consequences such as unnecessary product holds or recalls, additional confirmatory testing costs or customer complaints. But what about Proficiency Testing?

Laboratories expect PT to assess their detection capability. For some, PT samples may be the only opportunity to test samples that are positive for the target pathogens. This explains why PT providers mostly include positive samples in their qualitative PT samples.

But if a PT program containing only positive samples answers the question: *"Can the laboratory detect the target when it is present?"*, it does **not** answer: *"Can the laboratory correctly demonstrate absence when the target is not present?"*

Negative samples reflect the reality of routine testing and challenge the entire analytical process (including identifying cross contamination issues), and a PT programme that never includes negative samples is largely unable to detect laboratories that are prone to false-positive reporting.

Unpredictability is a core value of proficiency testing; including negative samples prevents PT from becoming a simple "tick-box" exercise, whose outcomes have little benefit to the participant or their customers.

For this reason, we are enhancing the format of our qualitative food microbiology PT schemes by extending the two-sample (A and B) approach already used in a number of programmes to all qualitative samples currently offered in only one round per year. This will allow us to include more negative samples, as well as challenging strains and very low spike levels, providing a more comprehensive assessment of laboratory performance.

OTHER SCHEMES/SAMPLES OF INTEREST

We have a number of other Beverage schemes available which may be of interest to you. Further details can be found on our [Beverage schemes webpage](#).

GENERAL NOTES

Please note:

- All prices stated are exclusive of VAT and carriage charges.
- VAT (charged at the prevailing rate) is payable by all participants based in the UK.
- Participants will pay an additional fee to cover courier charges. Please contact LGC AXIO Proficiency Testing for up-to-date charges (where not specified previously in the application form).
- All courier charges set by LGC AXIO Proficiency Testing do not include local import charges, taxes (etc.), which will be covered by the participant.
- Do not send remittance with this form, you will be invoiced subsequently after the despatch of each round.
- No refunds will be given for failure to take part in any round of the PT scheme.
- LGC AXIO Proficiency Testing reserves the right to not send samples or the report for previous samples to any participant that has not paid their subscriptions within the terms stated on the invoice.
- LGC AXIO Proficiency Testing cannot guarantee the number of participants that will return results for any particular parameter in each round.
- The prices stated are for reporting results and receiving reports electronically via PORTAL (internet reporting).
- Surplus PT samples (Quality Control Material) are available; please contact LGC AXIO Proficiency Testing for further information.
- By submitting this application form, you are agreeing to comply by [LGC's Standard Terms and Conditions for the Supply of Laboratory Quality Products and Services](#). Furthermore, for test samples containing microorganisms with a bio safety level (BSL) of 1 or 2, you are confirming that you are complying with applicable laws and regulations when using such materials.

LGC AXIO PT FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Name	
Customer	
Site	
Currency	
Address ID	
PO no	
Carriage	
Renew ALY	
Year for PY	

Dt	
Doc Text	
Quotation	
Co-ordinator	
Case Number	
Case Email Address	
Contact Name	
Template Name	
Additional	