



To explore
the potential
of nature to
improve the
quality of life

For further information, please contact us.

Wageningen Food Safety Research (WFSR)

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www.wur.eu/food-safety-research

WFSR is ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and ISO/IEC
17043:2010 accredited.

www.rva.nl (R013, L014)

WFSR is conducting independent research on safe and reliable food. Furthermore we specialise as official control laboratory in state-of-the-art analyses of food and feed. We determine residues, toxins, contaminants and microbial and viral contamination in food and feed. It is our task to perform risk analysis, monitor trends in the food production chain, identify emerging risks, authenticate food and perform forensic research. We advise governments and provide a broad range of training activities. WFSR is a national and European Union reference laboratory. We are part of the international knowledge organisation Wageningen University & Research.

European Union Reference Laboratory

Wageningen Food Safety Research hosts two European Union
Reference Laboratories (EURLs)

- Residues of growth promoters, sedatives and mycotoxins in food of animal origin
- Mycotoxins and plant toxins in food and feed



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How to ensure high quality uniform testing within the EU?

The EURLs:

- develop analytical methods and diagnostic techniques;
- provide NRLs with the analytical methods, diagnostic techniques and organise proficiency tests;
- train staff from NRLs and official laboratories;
- provide the Commission with scientific and technical assistance in the area of laboratory analysis, support Commission activities on risk management and risk assessment;
- collaborate with the competent laboratories in non-EU countries on testing.



Analytical services

The EURLs use state-of-the-art analytical equipment and have well trained staff at Wageningen Food Safety Research (WFSR) for the performance of following analytical services:

- Residue and contaminant analysis: specific legal limits and matrices require specialised analytical methods. The EURLs also provide assistance to official laboratories that do not have access to such methods.
- Confirmatory analysis: often unexpected or even conflicting results require confirmatory analysis by an independent party. The EURLs have the expertise and facilities to carry out confirmatory analyses. When necessary, the EURLs are asked to fulfil the role of arbitrator.
- Dissemination of analytical methods: all methods developed by the EURLs are made available to official laboratories of EU Member States, of Candidate Member States and Third Countries.



Proficiency tests

The EURLs organise proficiency tests for the NRLs. This gives the NRLs a chance to evaluate the suitability and quality of their laboratory equipment, methods and staff.

Annual workshop

The annual workshop is the meeting moment for representatives of NRLs, EURL and the European Commission for network building and exchange of information. Recurring subjects are: new legislation, newest developments in analytical methodology and new proficiency tests. Guest speakers are invited or expert of the institutes will present the newest developments. The future work program is compiled, based on consultation of the Commission and the representatives of the NRLs.



Reference standards

The EURL for growth promoters, sedatives and mycotoxins in food of animal origin produces analytical reference standards for QA/QC assistance and provide reference materials to the NRLs. Many of the provided substances are not commercially available.

Training courses

The EURLs organise training for groups and individuals, seeking to update or expand their knowledge and skills in analytical methods and quality control within an EU regulatory framework.

Our aim is to create a learning experience for each NRL directed to improving skills applicable in their control laboratories. Training is organised at WFSR first class facilities by experienced staff. The analytical services and training activities aim at governmental research laboratories in EU Member States, Candidate Member States and Third countries.

