



Circular letter addressed to:

- the Heads of the National Reference Laboratories of the European Union for Milk and Milk Products;

and for information to:

- Mr Klaus KOSTENZER and Mr Koen van DYCK (EC/DG SANCO Unit E2)

Maisons-Alfort, 4th July 2013

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*Subject: : Invitation to the 2013 PT trial
on counting of somatic cells in milk*

Dear Colleagues,

In the field of milk hygiene, we organize this year an inter-laboratory proficiency testing trial for the NRLs for Milk and Milk Products on the counting of somatic cells by the reference method, Standard EN ISO 13366-1, prescribed by EC Regulation 2074/2005 modified by EC Regulation 1664/2006.

6 samples of raw cow's milk will be sent during weeks 41-42 (between the 7th and the 18th of October, 2013), and **the participants have to launch the analyses during this period**. A brief note (see enclosed) gives you details on how the trial will take place. It is important to note that: **no deviation to the method described in the Standard EN ISO 13366-1 will be tolerated**. If a laboratory performs a deviation, it will be excluded from the statistical analysis.

The results of this proficiency trial will be confidential and transmitted anonymously.

We remind you that as NRL, it is part of your duties to take part to this trial. Please let us mention that DG-SANCO, at its request, will be informed of any non-participation. Therefore whether participating or not to the trial, please fill in the online participation form by **16th August 2013**:

<https://www.enquetes.anses.fr/formation2/mmp-2013ptonscc-registraton/questionnaire.htm>

This participation form must be signed and returned by e-mail to Alexandra Cauquil (alexandra.cauquil@anses.fr).

Do not hesitate to contact us if you need any further information.

With best regards,

Bertrand LOMBARD
PO Laurent LALOUX
Laboratory Director