

AOAC INTERNATIONAL® PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM

FAQ's

Frequently asked questions

Can my laboratory enroll in a program at any time or do we have to wait until the beginning of the year to enroll?

Your laboratory can enroll in any of our programs, at any time, and be set up to receive the very next shipment of samples for the program that you choose. We only require that your laboratory enroll in a program at least 30 days prior to the next shipment month (see next page or enrollment form for shipping months).

Can my laboratory enroll for less than a full year's participation?

Based on the advice of advisory committees and experts in the field, the program is set up so that a laboratory must enroll for a full year's participation, no matter when the start date is.

Does AOAC INTERNATIONAL ship proficiency testing samples to international locations?

Yes. We can readily ship samples to most of North America, Central America, South America, Europe and some regions of Asia. Other international locations can receive samples but the laboratory would need to hire an independent broker such as World Courier or other. Please speak with proficiency testing staff if your laboratory is interested in signing up for one of our programs that contains pathogens as specific countries do have regulations on importing "dangerous goods". Pathogens are considered "dangerous goods" according to IATA regulations. AOAC staff will gladly look up this information for you.

Are discounts given for enrolling multiple laboratories?

Discounts are given on just the sample prices and not the shipping prices. If your company enrolls 5-9 laboratories then they will receive a 5% discount on the sample price for all laboratories enrolling. 10 or more will receive a 10% discount on the sample prices for all laboratories enrolling. The discount applies only to the sample prices, domestic shipping prices remain the same and international prices will have to be inquired about.

How are results submitted?

A confidential and secure web site has been designed so that your laboratory can log in using a secure password and enter responses, methods, and results online through the use of the internet. Laboratories also receive reports electronically through the web site. The electronic submission of results and report distribution greatly reduces the turn around time for issuing results, ensuring your laboratory receives its verified results as quickly as possible. Results can also be faxed or scanned and set by email if a laboratory does not have internet availability

How long does my laboratory have to complete the analyses?

For all programs except P01, laboratories have two weeks to complete the analyses and submit results. P01 Pesticide Residue participants have 30 days to complete the analyses and submit results.

Program	Shipping Months
M01, M08, & M09 Standard Microbiology	January, April, July, October
M02 Pathogen-free	February, May, August, November
M03, M04, M05, M10, & M12 Meat Microbiology	March, June, September, December
C01 Meat Chemistry	March, June, September, December
C02 Cheese Chemistry	March, June, September, December
P01 Pesticide Residues in Fruits & Vegetables	February, June, October
E01 <i>Salmonella</i> in Liquid Egg	February, October