



Instruction Sheets

QCS

Chocolate Proficiency Testing Scheme

lgcstandards.com/AXIO

Detailed information about samples, matrices, ranges, units, etc. can be found in the [QCS Scheme Description](#)

Issue No: 13

Issued: 16/05/2025

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Storage after receipt

On receipt of the test material, record the date and store as appropriate

Storage temperature	Samples			
Room temperature (20±5°C)	PT-CT-716	PT-CT-718		
Refrigerated (2 to 8°C)	PT-CT-710. PT-CT-717 PT-CT-722	PT-CT-713 PT-CT-719	PT-CT-714. PT-CT-720.	PT-CT-715 PT-CT-721

Please note:

- Conditions for storage after receipt of the sample may differ from the conditions under which the PT sample was transported
- Stability data have shown that uncooled transport of samples intended to be stored at 2-8°C does not affect the stability of the test materials for the time of the PT round

The test material(s) should be analysed in accordance with the deadlines shown on the website: <https://portal.lgcstandards.com>

Choice of method or procedure

Participants are expected to use the test method, calibration, or measurement procedure of their choice. This method should be consistent with the participant's normal procedures, for example, duplicate analysis should only be performed if that is part of the routine analytical process. Some samples may require specific preparation or analysis, if so, this is indicated in this document.

Participants may submit results for some, or all the parameters requested.

Sample Details

- Microbiological test materials represent a 'real' chocolate or cocoa powder sample, which may or may not contain the target organism(s), at a range of inoculum levels. Background flora may also be present.
- Samples PT-CT-710. and PT-CT-714. are provided as a set, labelled A & B. These will have different contents and should be clearly labelled, handled, tested, and always reported separately to avoid mixing up the two samples.

- The chemistry test materials provided represent commercially available chocolate and cocoa powder products which may or may not contain all the target analytes at quantifiable levels. All analytes will be provided at a quantifiable level during a 12-month period. All chemistry test materials are provided in a ready-to-use format.

Precautions

- Microbiological test materials contain viable micro-organisms and are supplied on the understanding that the purchaser has suitably competent and qualified personnel to handle them safely. Test materials must only be opened in a laboratory by qualified personnel.
- Refer to the Safety Data Sheet for information on the safe handling and disposal of the test materials






Reporting Results

- All results should be submitted using PORTAL
- Please go to <https://portal.lgcstandards.com>
- Login using your Lab ID, username, and password.
- A PORTAL user guide can be downloaded from the help section.

If you need any help at all, please do not hesitate to contact our support team using the details below or your local LGC representative.


Tel: +44(0)161 762 2500



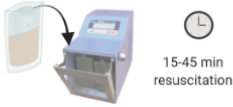
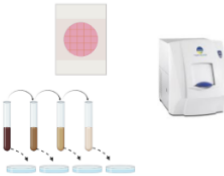
Email: axiopt@lgcgroup.com

Protocol FM25M2	Sample codes: PT-CT-710. PT-CT-714.	Description: 2 x 25g food matrix (A and B)	
Step 1 Prepare 2 x 225ml of your chosen enrichment broth		Step 2 Add to the 25g samples	
Step 3 Mix the diluted test materials thoroughly and allow to resuscitate before testing	 15-45 min resuscitation	Step 4 Proceed with your routine testing	

Note: Samples A and B are 2 different samples




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Protocol FM10M	Sample codes: PT-CT-713 PT-CT-717 PT-CT-722	Description: 10g food matrix	
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Step 1 Prepare suitable microbiological diluent (typically 90ml)	 90ml	Step 2 Add to the 10g sample	
Step 3 Mix the diluted test material thoroughly and allow to resuscitate before testing	 15-45 min resuscitation This step represents 1 in 10 dilution	Step 4 Proceed with your routine testing	



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Protocol FM375M	Sample codes: PT-CT-720.	Description: 375g food matrix	
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Step 1 Prepare the appropriate volume of your chosen enrichment broth		Step 2 Aseptically transfer the 375g matrix to the diluent prepared in step 1	
Step 3 Proceed with your routine testing			



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Protocol FC-CT-NA	Sample codes: PT-CT-715 PT-CT-716	Description: 150g matrix in a foil bag or a pot	 OR 
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Step 1 Test materials may have settled during transit. Please ensure test materials are thoroughly mixed prior to any sub-sampling or any analysis is performed		Step 2 Analyse with the routine methods used by your laboratory	
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Protocol FC-CT-EL	Sample codes: PT-CT-718 PT-CT-719	Description: 10g to 20g matrix in a foil bag or a pot	 OR 
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Step 1 Test materials may have settled during transit. Please ensure test materials are thoroughly mixed prior to any sub-sampling or any analysis is performed		Step 2 Analyse with the routine methods used by your laboratory	
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Protocol FM25M	Sample codes: PT-CT-721	Description: 1 x 25g food matrix	
Step 1 Prepare 225ml of your chosen enrichment broth		Step 2 Add to the 25g sample	
Step 3 Mix the diluted test material thoroughly and allow to resuscitate before testing		Step 4 Proceed with your routine testing	

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