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1st Benelux Inter-Laboratory Comparison Exercise for the Luminescent Bacteria Toxicity Assay

Users of the luminescent bacteria toxicity assay in the Benelux are invited to participate in the 2004 Inter-laboratory Comparison Exercise for this bioassay. This will be the 12th exercise in Spain and the 1st in the Benelux. For the first participation of Microtox users in the Benelux microLAN bv will provide SDI's luminescent bacteria vials free of charge.

Since 1993 the Technical University of Catalonia (UPC) through the Environmental Toxicology Laboratory has been conducting a yearly Inter-laboratory Comparison Exercise of the bacterial luminescence toxicity assay. Participation has ranged from 11 in the 1st exercise to 22 participants in the 11th exercise performed on 2003.

From the very beginning, the goal of these Inter-laboratory comparison exercises has been:

- To gain a better knowledge on the capabilities and limitations of this bioassay.
- Study of the sensitivity in front of different chemicals.
- Determination of the inter-laboratory variability.
- Create a forum where luminescent bacteria toxicity assay users could share experiences regarding the assay itself, its uses, applications, regulatory concerns, etc.

This assay has been established as a regulatory tool for wastewater control in Spain and other countries, and has been standardized since 1998 (ISO 11348:1998). Accreditation through ISO 17025 requires proof of an internal Quality System and, participation in inter-laboratory comparison round robins, is a chance to fulfill this requirement. This Exercise allows participants to verify their own results, and take corrective actions directed to improve the Quality of their results. Laboratories participate on their own will, and participation does not imply any qualification or classification regarding the laboratory competence. The exercise is solely run as a private project.

Organisation:

- UPC: preparation of samples, verification, packing and shipping, receiving and verifying data results, calculation when needed, overall data processing, statistical calculations preparation of final report.
- microLAN: distribution of samples and bacteria in the Benelux.

You can download the an invitation letter at the QA / QC part of this website, which you can return to the UPC. You will then get an overview of the exercise, including the date of the "kick-off" meeting at the end of January 2004.

More information about the QA/QC program can be found at this website. Please feel free to contact us when you have any questions.