



2006 Interlaboratory Comparison Exercise for the luminescent bacteria toxicity assay.

The 14th exercise (since 1993) to be run in 2006, will experience a few changes and improvements:

1. We have concluded an agreement with the European BEQUALM (Biological Effects Quality Assurance in Monitoring Programme). BEQUALM manages a set of European-wide Programmes providing QA/QC schemes for several biological assays in the field of aquatic environmental protection and monitoring. The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science in the UK (CEFAS) runs the Project Office for these programmes and is also the Lead Laboratory for the Whole Organism Component, i.e. Bioassays and Fish Disease assays.
2. Starting with the 2006 program, the Environmental Toxicology Laboratory of the Technical University of Catalonia (UPC) will be the Lead Laboratory for the Luminescent Bacteria Toxicity Assay within BEQUALM QA/QC Program.
- 3.- Due to this new agreement, 2006 registration and payments will be handled by CEFAS Technology Ltd. (CTL) and will be made on-line through the BEQUALM web page that you will be able to reach at <http://www.bequalm.org>. In this web site you will find in due time further details on all BEQUALM programmes and also on the registration and organization of this 14th Interlaboratory Comparison Exercise for the Luminescent Bacteria Toxicity Assay to be run through 2006.

We are very excited by this agreement that will give our Interlaboratory Comparison Exercise a new impulse, growing in size and quality, since more laboratories across Europe will be joining the exercise. This will give participants extra benefits, not only increasing the statistical significance of results and conclusions, but also because participants will obtain, further to the usual UPC certificate of participation, a BEQUALM state of performance, showing that the participant is a member of this European QA/QC program for the luminescent bacteria toxicity assay.

Our Laboratory was awarded recently the ISO 17025 accreditation for the determination of AOX (halogenated organic compounds) in water samples, and we are currently in the process of obtaining the corresponding accreditation for the organization of interlaboratory comparison studies.

As participants in previous Interlaboratory Comparison Exercises for this assay, we hope that these news will encourage you to keep participating in this exercise, improving the reliability and quality of your results, and contributing to enhance our current knowledge on the advantages, limitations and applications of the luminescent bacteria toxicity assay for aquatic contamination monitoring.

Best regards,

Dr. Juan Ribo
Environmental Toxicology Laboratory
juan.ribo@intexter.upc.edu