APLAC T050 Prawn Nitrofuran Metabolites Proficiency Testing Program

Objective
The objective of this proficiency testing program is to evaluate the competence of laboratories for quantitative testing of nitrofuran metabolites in prawn samples.

Organization
The program will be coordinated by CNAS (China National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment), China.

Samples
Three prawn samples will be supplied to each participant. The samples will be sub-sampled from one gross sample and packaged in aseptic bags.

Homogeneity testing
Twelve bags from gross sample will be tested for homogeneity. The samples were prepared and tested by Technical Centre of Liaoning Entry-Exit Inspection & Quarantine Bureau (LNCIQ) of People’s Republic of China. It has been accredited according to ISO/IEC 17025 and ILAC G13.

Tests
The participating laboratories will be requested to test four nitrofuran metabolites, 3-amino-2-oxazolidone (AOZ), 3-amino-5-morpholinomethyl-2-oxazolidone (AMOZ), 1-amino-hydantoin (AHD) and semicarbazide (SEM) in the samples.

Methodology
For testing each metabolite, routine methods should be preferably used, such as LC/MS or LC/MS² method. Other methods could also be used, however, the limit of detection should be better than 0.2 µg/kg.

Statistical analysis of results
Z-scores will be calculated to evaluate results reported by the participants, unless they will be inapplicable. Graphic technology will be used additionally.

Schedule for program
Aug, 2007   Advise APLAC members, EA, IAAC and other contacts for participating
By Oct 25, 2007   Accept nominated laboratories
Nov/Dec, 2007   Dispatch samples to nominated laboratories
Jun 30, 2007   Testing deadline
By Feb 28, 2007   Issue interim report
By Apr 30, 2007   Issue final report