

AQL- Analytical Quality Control - Guidelines for publication

NMKL Protocol No. 5, Analytical Quality Control - Guidelines for the publication of analytical results of chemical analyses in foodstuffs.

This protocol gives a good guide in what to be included and reviewed when elaborating, review or issue articles where chemical results are included. The Protocol is free of charge, and is attached below. The check list given in the Protocol is very useful.

Check-list for analytical quality control (AQC) criteria, to be considered in the process of publishing analytical data.

Paragraph in protocol	Analytical parameter	Reviewer comments	
		Sufficient	Insufficient
4.1	SAMPLING DESCRIPTION		
4.1.1	<i>Sampling representativity</i>		
4.1.2	<i>Sampling procedure, transport, storage</i>		
4.2	METHODOLOGY		
4.2.1	<i>Appropriate choice of method</i>		
4.2.2	<i>Clarity/transparency of description</i>		
4.2.3	<i>Awareness of interferences</i>		
4.2.4	<i>Determination of recovery</i>		
4.2.5	<i>Handling of sample blanks</i>		
4.2.6	<i>Reporting limit</i>		
4.2.7	<i>Definition of the reporting limit</i>		
4.2.8	<i>Number of replicates</i>		
4.3	CERTIFIED REFERENCE MATERIALS Available and used in study	Yes	No
4.3.1	<i>Relevant matrix</i>		
4.3.2	<i>Relevant concentration</i>		
4.3.3	<i>Clearly referenced</i>		
4.4	PROFICIENCY TESTING Available and used in study		
4.4.1	<i>Relevant matrix</i>		
4.4.2	<i>Relevant concentration</i>		

4.5	MEASUREMENT UNCERTAINTY Described/presented		
4.5.1	<i>Random error (standard deviation)</i>		
4.5.2	<i>Systematic error (bias)</i>		
4.6	UNEXPECTED RESULTS		
4.6.1	<i>If yes in 4.6, verified by other method</i>		
4.6.2	<i>If yes in 4.6, verified by other laboratory</i>		
5	ACCEPTABLE ORGANISATION OF AQC		
5.1	<i>Description of AQC procedures acceptable</i>		
5.2	<i>Presentation of AQC-results acceptable</i>		

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