PROCORAD

A-1035

Association pour la Promotion du Contrôle de Qualité des Analyses de Biologie Médicale en Radiotoxicologie

INTERLABORATORY COMPARISON CAMPAIGN PLAN 2027

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* to validate procedures and demonstrate the reliability and validity of measurement results; 4
* to compare the laboratory's performance with that of its peers; 4
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1. Annual programme plan

This plan details the design and objectives of the annual proficiency testing programme (or annual interlaboratory comparison programme) under the auspices of PROCORAD.

It is available on Procoweb.

The French version is the reference version

1.1 Name/Head office/Legal status

Association for the PROmotion of Quality COntrol in RADiotoxicological Analysis (PROCORAD)
Bureau du Conseiller médical Centre CEA Paris Saclay Site de Saclay Bâtiment 524 D36 91191 Gif sur Yvette cedex

Website: www.procorad.org

PROCORAD is a non-profit-making association governed by the law of 1 July 1901 and the decree of 16 August 1901. It was declared and registered at the Paris Prefecture on 17 November 1995 under no. 123046. This declaration was modified on 8 March 2016 at the Antony sub-prefecture, was amended on September 8, 2026, at the Etampes sub-prefecture and registered under number W751123046.

1.2 Objectives and purpose

The main objectives of the inter-laboratory comparisons organized by PROCORAD are:

* to evaluate the performance of laboratories in the field of radiotoxicology, identifying any analytical deficiencies, their source and magnitude;
* to validate procedures and demonstrate the reliability and validity of measurement results;
* to compare the laboratory's performance with that of its peers;
* to identify undetected deficiencies in the internal quality control system;
* the validation of measurement uncertainties;
* to meet the requirements of standards NF EN ISO 15189 and/or ISO/IEC 17025;
* to meet the regulatory requirements of the decrees of June 26, 2019 and June 23, 2023 relating to the individual monitoring of workers' exposure to ionizing radiation.

1.3 People involved in designing the programme

Coordinator: Claude Guichet – President of Procorad claude.guichet@cea.fr
Secretary: Sébastien Goubet sebastien.goubet@cea.fr
Scientific Council coordinator: Nicolas BAGLAN nbaglan-PROCORAD@outlook.fr
Quality manager: Géraldine LECOIX josseline.lecoix@cea.fr
Webmaster: Véronique CHAMEL veronique.chamel@cea.fr
Treasurer: Philippe CORREZE philippe.correze@orano.group

1.4 External service provider laboratory

The interlaboratory comparisons campaign requires a wide variety of skills that PROCORAD does not possess, requiring it to look outside the organisation. Preparation, inspection (homogeneity and stability, target values), packaging and distribution are currently outsourced as follows:

Proposed interlaboratory comparison	*External service provider laboratory*	*Expert*
Actinides in faecal ashes	LBM ORANO La Hague 50444 Beaumont Hague Cedex	*Philippe Correze*
Actinides in urine Uranium in urine (activity and mass) DTPA-actinides urine	LBM CEA Marcoule BP17171 Bagnols sur Ceze Cedex	*Christian Chevalier*
Strontium 90 in urine Polonium 210 in urine	LBM CEA Paris Saclay 91191 Gif sur Yvette Cedex	*Xavier Millot*
Gamma-X emitters in urine (Temporarily)	LBM CEA Cadarache 13108 St Paul Lez Durance	*Philippe Correze* *(Temporarily)*
Tritium and OBT in urine	LBM CEA Valduc 21120 Is sur Tille	*Christophe Renard*
Total alpha emitters in nasal swabs (flags and tissues)	LBM CEA Valduc 21120 Is sur Tille	*Christophe Renard*
Carbon 14 in urine Sulphur 35 in urine Phosphorus 32 in urine	LBM CEA Grenoble 38054 Grenoble Cedex 9	*Véronique Chamel*

PROCORAD's requirements towards the external service providers are contained in the service agreement between these two parties.

1.5 Required criteria for participation

Member of the PROCORAD association. Membership is renewed every year.

1.6 Number and type of participants expected

Each year around 75 laboratories participate in the interlaboratory comparison exercises offered by PROCORAD. The participating laboratories are mainly medical or environmental monitoring laboratories conducting radiotoxicological analyses, internal dosimetry laboratories and research laboratories in the field of radiotoxicology or the environment.

We remind you that the orders are confirmed by order of reception and within the limits of available stocks.

1.7 Type of measurands

Different isotopes need to be identified and quantified according to the type of interlaboratory comparison.
The levels of activity are defined by interlaboratory comparison and communicated via PROCORAD website to the participants (information available before registration on-line: www.procorad.org and in section 2 of this document).

1.8 Risks of collusion/Falsification

In order to avoid risks of collusion as far as possible, anonymous numbers are assigned to the participating laboratories, which are known only to the secretary and the scientific council moderator and not the subcontracted laboratories.

To avoid the risk of falsification, the results are input into PROCORAD website using login details specific to the participating laboratory. A result validated by the participant can only be modified before the results input deadline (8 May).
The PROCORAD history of interlaboratory comparisons shows that these risks are non-existent.

In case of suspected collusion or falsification of results, PROCORAD will notify the laboratory concerned by any means, indicating that its results will not be included in the various statistical calculations and that it will not receive any performance evaluation. Its registration for subsequent years will be subject to a written commitment not to repeat any collusion or falsification.

1.9 Timetable and information for participants

The timetable for the different phases of the annual exercise is in sections 2 and 3 of this document. It emphasizes that the schedule must be complied with. For example, results may not be input after 6 May of the year of the campaign. Its main points are also available on the website.

1.10 Instructions

Instructions relating to handling interlaboratory comparison samples are specified in sections 2 and 3 of this document, which is on-line at www.procorad.org

The analysis methods are not prescribed. A technical questionnaire to be completed by the participating laboratory may enable PROCORAD, with the collaboration of experts from the Scientific Board, to interpret the results by technique.

1.11 Procedures for homogeneity and stability tests

PROCORAD ensures that the samples are sufficiently homogeneous and stable to guarantee the validity of the results, by following the procedures described in standard NF ISO 13528 (Appendix B).
The homogeneity and stability tests are carried out on a sample of entities subjected to the test. The evaluation criteria for checking homogeneity and stability is based on a robust standard deviation estimate from information from previous campaigns or information from the current exercise when experience feedback does not exist (case of radioisotopes not previously tested, for example).
The modalities (number of samples tested, frequency) of the homogeneity and stability checks may vary according to the interlaboratory comparisons. The conclusion regarding the verification of homogeneity and stability is indicated in the final results report.

1.12 Input of results by participants

Results are input directly onto the PROCORAD website via a secure login (username + password specific to each laboratory). Measured activity and k=2 uncertainty are requested in a defined format.

You can then all the time correct your results until May 6th 11:59 PM. The procedure described above must be followed for each result correction in order to validate the correction.
An e-mail will be send to you later for each intercomparaison (from a few minutes to a few days)

Participants will be required imperatively to answer the technical questionnaire when entering their results so that statistical analysis can be performed using the measurement method when the number of participants using that method is sufficiently large.

1.13 Description of statistical analysis

This description is available in the "Statistical Plan" document on the website www.procorad.org
- calculation of the robust mean from all the results
- assessment of accuracy performance by calculating the bias of each result relative to the established assigned value
- creation of charts/diagrams

- assessment of performance for each result using the z'-score test
- assessment of performance for each result—incorporating its associated uncertainty—relative to the assigned value and its own associated uncertainty, using the ζ-score (zeta-score) test

The performance criteria used are: bias, z'-score, and ζ-score (see the Statistical Plan).

1.14 General Assembly – Scientific presentations and expert presentations

A general assembly, scheduled for June each year, presents the annual activity report and the financial report, along with an overview of the quality management approach and activities related to the Procorad website.

Scientific presentations on topics concerning radiotoxicology and/or environmental monitoring measures are delivered by various speakers.
Each interlaboratory comparison is presented by an expert using a slide deck that has been approved by the head of the scientific council.

These slideshows are posted on the website after the end of the general meeting.

1.15 Reports

Up until the 2026 interlaboratory comparison campaign, two types of reports were provided:

- A comprehensive proficiency testing report is available for each interlaboratory comparison.
- An individual report is also available for laboratories that participated in the interlaboratory comparisons; this report consolidates all results for a given laboratory across all the interlaboratory comparisons in which it is enrolled.

Starting in 2027, you will receive a single intercomparison report that consolidates your individual results for each intercomparison, alongside the results from all other participating laboratories for the intercomparisons in which you took part. Confidentiality is ensured through the use of an anonymous identification number. This highly detailed report complies with the key requirements set out in section 4.8.2 of the NF ISO/IEC 17043 standard. Among other information, it includes:

- A description of the preparation for the interlaboratory comparison
- Results of homogeneity and stability tests
- Assigned values and their associated uncertainties
- Statistical analysis of the results (robust mean, as well as charts showing results, bias, and distribution by anonymous ID number)
- An assessment of the interlaboratory comparison, covering overall performance and/or performance by technique

This report is available via the "member" section of the website (accessible using a login and password) and can be viewed exclusively by your participating laboratory.
Due to the inclusion of an anonymity code, PROCORAD does not consider this report confidential; participating laboratories may distribute it to satisfy local or national regulatory requirements, and PROCORAD may itself use the data for various presentations or publications. Recipients may not use the report for publication purposes without prior written consent from PROCORAD. Participating laboratories are informed of this policy.

Starting with the 2026 campaign, final reports for all campaigns will be accessible via the website.

1.16 Potential sources of error

There are numerous potential sources of error when conducting an interlaboratory comparison. Incorrect scores can be obtained as a result of a fault at any stage of the process:

- Pre-analytical:
    - poor internal identification of samples upon receipt in the participating laboratory

    - sample homogeneity problem prior to proportioning or sample-taking, particularly for urine
    - use of some rather than all the faecal ashes
    - analysis of a single flag out of the 2 for the xxPNA and xxPNB samples
- Analytical:
    - the test materials may have a matrix effect on some analysis systems
    - inappropriate use of the sample
    - interference between radionuclides in mixtures for a specific interlaboratory comparison (double-tracer beta measurement for example)
    - reactive, technical, calibration, etc.
- Post-analytical:
    - copy and transcription errors
    - incorrect data input onto the website
    - input of a result higher than the maximum concentration supplied in the technical characteristics
    - lack of validation of the results according to the procedure described in section 1.12

1.17 Loss or deterioration of samples submitted for testing

In the event of duly documented loss, or delay or deterioration of samples, the subcontracted laboratory may decide, at the request of PROCORAD, whether or not to send other samples up to the allowed number of samples remaining to them for the stability study and within the transport lead times compatible with performing the measurements. This additional dispatch of samples may be invoiced.

2. Technical characteristics of the interlaboratory comparisons

The technical characteristics of the interlaboratory comparisons are reviewed annually and are available on the website before the participating laboratories register.

2.1 General points

2.1.1 Shipments-Transport-Storage

The samples are shipped by a carrier at ambient temperature. Proof of receipt is sent to PROCORAD.

There are no special conditions for storing samples until analysis: the storage conditions routinely used in the laboratory for equivalent samples are sufficient.

2.1.2 Sample handling

- ✓ Open the metal box carefully and remove the plastic bottle
- ✓ Check that there are no leaks
- ✓ Mix the urine well before using (analysis or taking an aliquot).
- ✓ Process the whole faecal ash sample
- ✓ Perform the analysis according to your usual protocol
- ✓ For the Total alpha emitters in nasal swabs, process both flags of the xxPNA at the same time and process both flags of the xxPNB at the same time.

Caution: the pH of urine samples may be < 4.. For some analysis, it may be necessary to acidify the samples in order to restore the analytical treatment conditions of the laboratory.

Any samples that remain in the possession of the laboratories should be disposed of according to the procedures in place at the participating laboratories.

2.1.3 Reporting of results

- ✓ The reference date for reporting results is 15 March of the year of the exercise. The LNHB table (accessible at www.nucleide.org) is the reference for the radioactive periods used in calculations.
- ✓ All the results from the various exercises are reported in scientific notation in X.XX E+XX format.

- ✓ Expanded uncertainty (k=2) will be calculated by participants for all exercises.
- ✓ Only report your results using the Procorad website www.procorad.org using your username starting with "lab_" and password sent to you by e-mail
- ✓ The results reporting deadline is 6th May of the year of the exercise. Results submitted to Procorad after this date will not be included in collective statistical analysis.

- ✓  The entry of technical questionnaires is mandatory before that of the results.

2.2 Tritium in urine ($Bq.L^{-1}$)

The maximum number of participants for the interlaboratory comparison is 55.

2.2.1 Tritiated urine

5 samples of approximately 50 mL of urine
- 3 urine samples including 2 spiked samples (27HTOA, 27HTOB, 27HTOC)
- 1 sample of contaminated urine (26HTOD)
- 1 solution of tritiated water (27HTOE) obtained by dilution of the source used for spiking

The levels of activity will not be specified for the 5 samples (blank, spiked urine, contaminated urine and tritiated water solution) (< 1.00 E+04 $Bq.L^{-1}$ for each sample).

2.2.2 Organically bound tritium

For requesting laboratories only

- 1 sample of approximately 50 mL of urine (27OBTF): urine spiked with tritiated thymidine between 1.00 E+04 and 6.00 E+04 $Bq.L^{-1}$

2.3 Carbon-14 ($Bq.L^{-1}$)

The maximum number of participants for the interlaboratory comparison is 50.

^{14}C: 5 samples of approximately 50 ml of urine including
- 4 urine samples including 3 spiked samples (27CA, 27CB, 27CC, 27CD)
- 1 sample (27CE) containing a mixture of ^{14}C and ^{3}H.

The concentration for each isotope will be < 3.00 E+03 $Bq.L^{-1}$.

2.4 Sulphur-35 in urine ($Bq.L^{-1}$)

The maximum number of participants for the interlaboratory comparison is 30.

^{35}S: 2 samples of approximately 50 mL of urine identified as 27SF and 27SG containing ^{35}S at a concentration less than 1.00 E+03 $Bq.L^{-1}$

For the ^{14}C and ^{35}S interlaboratory comparison participants, the blank (no spiked) to be used is that of the ^{14}C intercomparaison.
For the only ^{35}S interlaboratory comparison participants, or for ^{35}S + ^{32}P interlaboratory comparisons participants, a complementary sample, no spiked, identified as 27SJ, will be provided.

2.5 Phosphorus-32 in urine ($Bq.L^{-1}$)

The maximum number of participants for the interlaboratory comparison is 15.

^{32} P : 2 samples of approximately 50 mL of urine identified as 27PH et 27PI containing ^{32}P at a concentration less than 7,00 E+03 $Bq.L^{-1}$
For the ^{14}C interlaboratory comparison participants, the blank (no spiked) to be used is that of the ^{14}C intercomparaison.
For the only ^{32}P interlaboratory comparison participants, or for the ^{32}P + ^{35}S interlaboratory comparisons participants, a complementary sample, no spiked, identified as 27SJ, will be provided

2.6 X and/or γ emitters in urine ($Bq.L^{-1}$)

The maximum number of participants for the interlaboratory comparison is 60.

3 samples of approximately 500 mL identified 27XGA, 27XGB, 27XGC:
- 1 no spiked sample.
- 2 samples of urine spiked with various X and/or γ emitting radioactive elements at levels of activity less than or equal to 2.00 E+01$Bq.L^{-1}$ for each (not including ^{40}K). The number of radioactive elements to be identified and quantified will not be specified.

Stable carriers corresponding to the radioactive elements may have been used in preparing the urine samples.

The measurement of ^{40}K must be performed only on the non-spiked sample.



Upon receipt, quickly process the samples after homogenization by successive inversions of the bottles.

2.7 Uranium in urine ($\mu g.sample^{-1}$ (mass) and $Bq.sample^{-1}$ (activity))

The maximum number of participants for the interlaboratory comparison is 50.

3 samples: 27UA, 27UB and 27UC of 500 mL ± 3.75 mL
- 1 sample with a concentration of < 25 $\mu g.sample^{1}$ and < 6.25 E-01 $Bq.sample^{-1}$ (not including ^{232}U)
- 1 sample with activity < 1.00 E-01$Bq.L^{-1}$ (not including ^{232}U)
- 1 sample without spike

For the uranium sample with no added spike: there will be no statistical processing of the results, only descriptive statistics.

MEASUREMENT OF ACTIVITY
- Thoroughly homogenize the content of the bottles by successive reversals.
- Transfer the whole urine sample from the plastic bottle to an appropriate recipient. In case of associated measurement by mass, take the required aliquot before transfer.
- Rinse the plastic bottle and top with a high purity acid solution that will be attached to the sample (to be taken into account in mass or activity calculations if necessary).
- Perform the analysis according to your usual protocol.



Laboratories, which report activity in $Bq.sample^{-1}$ **by calculation using mass spectrometry methods must specify this in the technical questionnaire**

MEASUREMENT OF MASS

- Thoroughly homogenize the content of the bottles by successive reversals.
- Take the required aliquot.
- Perform the analysis according to your usual protocol.

2.8 Actinides in urine (Bq.sample^{-1})

The maximum number of participants for the interlaboratory comparison is 50.

3 samples of 500 ml ± 3.75 mL (27ACTUA, 27ACTUB, 27ACTUC):

- 1 no spiked sample
- 2 samples containing plutonium and americium in at least one case. The samples may be spiked with one or more actinides, apart from ^{242}Pu, ^{236}Pu, ^{243}Am and ^{229}Th.

NB:

- One of the active samples will have total activity of between 0 and 5.00 E-03 Bq while the other will have total activity of between 5.00 E-03 and 2.00 E-02 Bq.
- Carry out the analysis on the entire sample.

MEASUREMENT OF ACTIVITY

- Thoroughly homogenize the content of the bottles by successive reversals.
- Transfer the whole urine sample from the plastic bottle to an appropriate recipient.
- Rinse the plastic bottle and top with a high purity acid solution that will be attached to the sample (to be taken into account in activity calculations if necessary).
- Perform the analysis according to your usual protocol.

2.9 Actinides in faecal matter ashes (Bq.sample^{-1})

The maximum number of participants for the interlaboratory comparison is 40.

3 samples of approximately 2.0 grams of ash each (27ACTSA, 27ACTSB, 27ACTSC).

- 1 sample is not spiked.
- 2 other samples are spiked with plutonium and/or transplutonic elements and uranium. These spikes are prepared by adding dilutions of certified radioactive standards.

A sample genuinely contaminated by an industrial compound may be proposed.
The total activity of each sample in alpha emitters of artificial origin is less than 5.00 E-01 Bq.
Uranium and thorium assays must be carried out for each sample.

- Transfer the whole sample into a recipient for dissolution.
- Rinse the plastic bottle and top with a high purity acid solution that will be attached to the sample.
- Perform the analysis according to your usual protocol

As the homogeneity of the intra-sample spike cannot be guaranteed, you need to perform the analysis on the whole sample.

2.10 Strontium 90 in urine (Bq.L^{-1})

The maximum number of participants for the interlaboratory comparison is 60.

3 samples 27SRA, 27SRB and 27SRC of approximately 500 mL, composed of:

- 1 no spiked sample
- 2 samples with an activity of ^{90}Sr <1.00 E+01Bq.L^{-1}

Proceed with the analysis according to your usual protocol.

2.11 Polonium 210 in urine (Bq.L^{-1})

The maximum number of participants for the interlaboratory comparison is 40.

1 sample of approximately 500 mL 27PO with an activity of ^{210}Po < 2,00 E+00 Bq.L^{-1}

Proceed with the analysis according to your usual protocol.

2.12 Total alpha emitters in nasal swabs (Bq.sample^{-1})

The maximum number of participants for the interlaboratory comparison is 25.

3 samples 27PNA, 27PNB, and 27PNC of pair of flags and 3 samples 27PND, 27PNE and 27PNF of tissues:

1 sample is spiked with an activity in total alpha emitters (^{238}Pu and/or ^{239}Pu and/or ^{241}Am and/or ^{244}Cm) < 1.00 E+00 Bq.sample^{-1}.

1 sample is spiked with an activity in total alpha emitters (^{238}Pu and/or ^{239}Pu and/or ^{241}Am and/or ^{244}Cm) <2.00 E+00 Bq.sample^{-1}

1 no spiked sample

- Perform the analysis according to your usual protocol
- The participants will have to provide for flags and/or tissues a qualitative response (like Presence or absence) and/or a quantitative response.

In case of analysis of flags and tissues with different technics (with pre-treatment for one support, without for the other one, scintillation liquid for one support, proportional counting for the other one…), please choice in the drop-down menu the technic used for the flags and in the free field (named "If other") the technic used for the tissues. This principle is also applied for the input of quantitative results.

The quantitative results are total alpha emitters: it is possible that the spike is a mix of different isotopes. The results don't need a specific characterization of the different isotopes. That is why Procorad has defined a fictional radioisotope named Alpha to identify the total alpha emitters. This fictional radioisotope cannot be changed when entering the results.

2.13 Urine DTPA-actinides (Bq.L^{-1})

The maximum number of participants for the interlaboratory comparison is 20.

1 sample of approximately 500 mL (27DTPA) with a total activity of plutonium and/or americium and/or curium and/or uranium < 3,00 E-01 Bq.L^{-1} in chemical complex with DTPA.

3. Registration procedure

3.1 General points

Registration is carried out on the PROCORAD website: www.procorad.org.
An anonymous code and random password are provided to each registered participant. Former members keep the same password. The reply e-mail received by each participating laboratory serves as proof of registration.

Computer prerequisites:

- ✓ Cookies: the website and the tools provided by PROCORAD don't use the cookies technology. No data is recorded.

- ✓ How to use the PROCORAD tools: the use of the services requires a connection and a web browser. In order to ensure the functioning of the service, it is recommended to use the following version of browsers:
  - Firefox version 31 or higher
  - Safari version 7 or higher
  - Internet Explorer 10 or higher
  - Microsoft Edge
  - Chrome version 35 or higher

List of e-mail addresses to be authorized by the laboratory computer system: we invite you to send this information to your IT department to include these addresses in the list of authorized e-mail addresses:

procorad@procorad.org
inscriptionintercomparaison@procorad.org
contact@procorad.org

3.2 Timetable

The timetable below is refers to the 2027 exercise (year n) which starts in October of year n-1 (2026 in the table) and ends in October of year n (2027).

2027 RADIOTOXICOLOGY INTERLABORATORY COMPARISON INTERLABORATORY COMPARISON TIMETABLE			
SUBJECT	SENT BY	TO	DEADLINE
IC campaign plan and registration form	Secretarial office via website	Participating laboratories	31 October 2026
Registration form	Participating laboratories	Secretarial office via website	15 December 2026
Estimate -pro forma	Procorad treasurer	Participating laboratories	30 December 2026
Order form	Participating laboratories	Procorad treasurer	15 February 2027
Dispatch of samples	External services provider laboratory	Participating laboratories	28 February 2027
Receipt of samples		Participating laboratories	Before 22 March 2027
Dispatch of invoice	Procorad treasurer	Participating laboratories	15 April 2027
Results forms	Participating laboratories	Procorad experts via website	6-May -27 midnight GMT
General Assembly – Scientific presentations and expert presentations BRUGGES (BELGIUM)			16-18 June 2027
Final report	Scientific council coordinator via website	Participating laboratories	31 August 2027

3.3. Participation fees

These are determined by the board of directors and can be viewed on the website prior to registration.
All the amounts indicated below exclude VAT as the Association is exempt from VAT.

1 exercice	1050 Euros
2 exercices	1650 Euros
3 exercices	2100 Euros
4 exercices	2450 Euros
5 exercices	2750 Euros
6 exercices	2950 Euros
7 exercices	3100 Euros
8 exercices	3250 Euros
9 exercices	3400 Euros
10 exercices	3500 Euros
11 exercices	3600 Euros
12/13 exercices	3700 Euros

The registration fees represent a lump-sum contribution to the organization costs of interlaboratory comparisons and the results meeting during which the Association's General Meeting is held.
The fees include the cost of one or two representatives named on the registration form participating in the June meeting.

They do not include the cost of:

- transport to the meeting location
- hotel accommodation
- lunch on the first day of the meeting

More than 2 members from a laboratory may participate in the meeting. However, a contribution of 200 euros ex. VAT will be required for each additional person (prior membership is mandatory).
A simultaneous French-English and English-French interpreting service will be provided to members during the meeting and detailed minutes in French and English will be available for download from the website.

Comments:
There will be no reduction in registration fees for anyone who registers for interlaboratory comparisons but does not attend the results meeting.

3.4 Invoicing

The invoices are sent by e-mail around 15 April to the billing address provided at registration if that address is different from that of the laboratory manager. This invoice is an original one.

The special requirements as sending of a paper invoice by post will cost 20 euros for handling fee.

The payment period is 30 days end of month.

In case of non-payment of the invoice before the 31 July of current year, the technical report will not be available and Procorad reserves the right to refuse a registration for the next intercomparaison campaign.

Customs duties, royalties or miscellaneous taxes that may be required for the importation of samples are the responsibility of the consignee according to local regulations. PROCORAD can not be held responsible for the non-fulfilment of these obligations nor the delays, errors or damages related to the supply and transport of the samples.

3.5 Membership criteria

There are no membership criteria for laboratories to participate in intercomparaisons except the one exposed in section 3.4.
There is, however, a maximum number of participants per interlaboratory comparison.

4. Communication with participants

PROCORAD has a website (www.procorad.org) which details its activity, ISO 9001 certification, operating rules, fees, the various programmes and the names and e-mail addresses of its committee members.

Other methods of communication are the annual meeting and the Ordinary General Meeting, the PROCORAD brochure, the contact section on the website, Cofrac's listing of PROCORAD as an external quality assessment body, the satisfaction survey, claims management system and any other communications (e-mail, mail, telephone calls, etc.).

All communication documents are in French and English whether on the website or in e-mail announcements.

contact@procorad.org is the address to use to reach Procorad

5. Confidentiality-Protection of personal data

5.1 Confidentiality

A password, which is assigned after joining the association, is required to access the PROCORAD website.
An anonymous unique number is assigned to each participating laboratory registering for interlaboratory comparisons.
The PROCORAD association does not define any restrictive conditions for disseminating final reports by the participating laboratory as the anonymity of the laboratories is ensured by the anonymous number.

The final reports will only be accessible to interlaboratory comparison participants. They do not include the list of members.

Furthermore, anyone involved in running PROCORAD:

- is prohibited from disseminating or communicating any confidential information in any form (written, spoken, electronic, etc.) that they have access to within the scope of PROCORAD's activities;
- agrees to maintain their integrity and professional objectivity when carrying out their work;
- must inform the president of any attempts to pressurize or exert commercial, financial or any other influence on them, internally or externally, that may affect the quality of their work.

The experts of the different interlaboratory comparisons may only access the identity of participants within the context of ongoing training or to provide advice at the participant's request.

- commits to carry out its activity impartially



Memorandum (only for french medical laboratories): PROCORAD may send to the General Manager of the Regional Health Agency a state of participation and results of the External Quality assessments. Following the Health Public Code and other regulatory obligations, PROCORAD may notify to the Regional Health Agency the discrepancies in the interlaboratory comparison results that may lead to a major risk to patient health.

5.2 Protection of personal data.

The General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 ("GDPR") became enforceable beginning 25 May 2018. PROCORAD changed his privacy policy to reflect this.

6. Statistical exploitation of results

The analysis of results and performance evaluations are conducted in accordance with the ISO 13528 standard, "Statistical methods for use in proficiency testing by interlaboratory comparisons."
The statistical plan will be made available at the time of registration.