

# Microbiology proficiency scheme

## Membership-based scheme

Become a member of the Campden Microbiology Proficiency Scheme, which uses anonymous inter-laboratory comparisons to determine the performance of each individual laboratory.



## Benefits

- Measure your own performance against other laboratories
- Reports issued along with charts indicating the performance of other laboratories
- Results statistically analysed using assigned values providing z-scores
- Confidence in the reliability of your laboratory's results
- Participate only in those proficiency tests relevant to you
- Simple and straightforward
- Cost-effective
- Full support including advice and 'trouble-shooting' available utilising the experience and knowledge of the Campden BRI Microbiology Department
- Results trending service available
- Service provided under an ISO 9001 recognised management system

For more information contact:  
[microproficiency@campdenbri.co.uk](mailto:microproficiency@campdenbri.co.uk)

# Microbiology Proficiency Scheme

## Information/Registration form

Please return the **signed** form to Fiona Cawkell via E-mail: [microproficiency@campdenbri.co.uk](mailto:microproficiency@campdenbri.co.uk). The test material contains a freeze-dried cocktail of microorganisms which include common food spoilage organisms and pathogens (see below). The test material together with instruction sheets for testing purposes will be despatched to arrive at your laboratory and you will be given a deadline of three weeks in which to complete the test and return your results to Campden BRI for analysis.

The mix of microorganisms varies per distribution thus enhancing the challenges faced in the modern microbiology laboratory.

You can join the scheme at any time during the year; the membership is for a period of 12 months from the date of joining.

Simply select a test material type and frequency of distribution.

### Test material types

Please enter a cross in the relevant box for the test material you require:

<p><b>Intermediate</b></p> <p>Covers the following tests, however content is varied for each distribution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aerobic Colony Count</li> <li>• Coliforms</li> <li>• Enterobacteriaceae</li> <li>• Lactic acid bacteria (presumptive/confirmed)</li> <li>• Yeasts and Moulds</li> <li>• Acidified Yeasts and Moulds</li> <li>• Osmophilic Yeasts and Moulds</li> <li>• <i>Pseudomonas</i> (presumptive/confirmed)</li> <li>• Thermoduric Count Heat Shock 63.5°C for 35 minutes Incubation @ 30°C</li> <li>• <i>Bacillus cereus</i></li> <li>• <i>Escherichia coli</i></li> <li>• <i>Enterococcus faecalis</i> (faecal <i>Streptococci</i>)</li> <li>• <i>Clostridium perfringens</i></li> <li>• Sulphite Reducing Clostridia</li> <li>• Coagulase-positive Staphylococci</li> <li>• Mesophilic Spore Count Heat Shock 80°C for 10 minutes Incubation @ 30°C</li> <li>• Thermophilic Spore Count Heat Shock 100°C for 5 minutes Incubation @ 55°C</li> </ul>	<input style="width: 50px; height: 30px;" type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Advanced</b></p> <p>(This should only be requested if you have a pathogen testing facility)</p>	<p>Covers <u>all of the tests</u> included in the Intermediate test material <u>plus</u> the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Listeria</i> sp.</li> <li>• <i>Salmonella</i> sp.</li> <li>• <i>Campylobacter</i> sp.</li> <li>• <i>E. coli</i> O157 (non-toxigenic)</li> </ul>	<input style="width: 50px; height: 30px;" type="checkbox"/>

**Please note that content is varied for each distribution therefore not all the organisms will be included each time.**

**Frequencies and costs (Intermediate or Advanced)**

Please enter a cross in the relevant box for the frequency you require:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>6 test materials per year</b>                £1,332 + VAT (plus courier fee for non-UK clients)                Repeats £105 + VAT (plus courier fee for non-UK clients)</li> </ul>	<input style="width: 60px; height: 30px; border: 1px solid black;" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>5 test materials per year</b>                £1,154 + VAT (plus courier fee for non-UK clients)                Repeats £105 + VAT (plus courier fee for non-UK clients)</li> </ul>	<input style="width: 60px; height: 30px; border: 1px solid black;" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>4 test materials per year</b>                £1,006 + VAT (plus courier fee for non-UK clients)                Repeats £105 + VAT (plus courier fee for non-UK clients)</li> </ul>	<input style="width: 60px; height: 30px; border: 1px solid black;" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>3 test materials per year</b>                £714 + VAT (plus courier fee for non-UK clients)                Repeats £105 + VAT (plus courier fee for non-UK clients)</li> </ul>	<input style="width: 60px; height: 30px; border: 1px solid black;" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2 test materials per year</b>                £531 + VAT (plus courier fee for non-UK clients)                Repeats £105 + VAT (plus courier fee for non-UK clients)</li> </ul>	<input style="width: 60px; height: 30px; border: 1px solid black;" type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>1 test material per year</b>                £280 + VAT (plus courier fee for non-UK clients)                Repeats £105 + VAT (plus courier fee for non-UK clients)</li> </ul>	<input style="width: 60px; height: 30px; border: 1px solid black;" type="checkbox"/>

**Please circle the month(s) you wish to receive your test material(s)**

February	April	June	August	October	December
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**Contact details**

**Sample delivery address**

Name:

Company:

Address:

Postcode / Zip code:

Country:

Tel:

Email:

**Purchase order number:**

**Report delivery address (if different from above)**

Name:

Company:

Address:

Postcode / Zip code:

Country:

Tel:

Email:

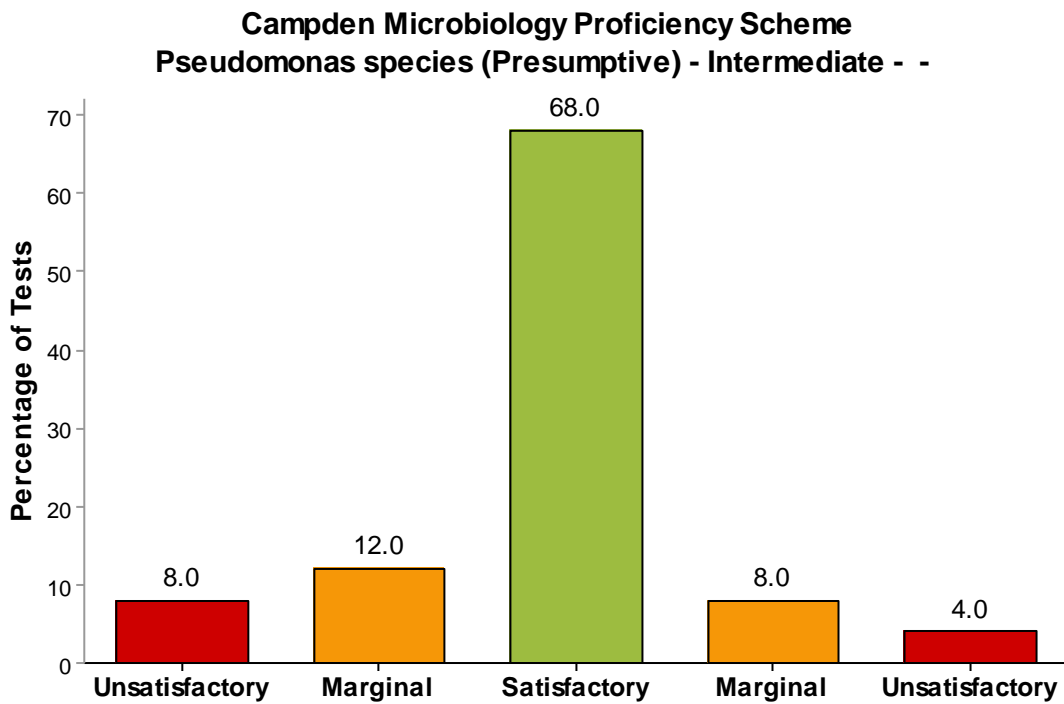
**We have read the terms and conditions of participation (overleaf) for the Campden Microbiology Proficiency Scheme ("CMPS") and agree to abide by them in addition to the Campden BRI Standard Terms and Conditions of contract as amended from time to time, a copy of which can be provided on request or can be downloaded from <http://www.campdenbri.co.uk/campdenbri/terms.pdf>. We understand that the CMPS samples are likely to contain virulent pathogenic organisms of ACDP categories 1 & 2 and confirm that our laboratory facilities and staff expertise are fully competent and equipped and that we possess all necessary permissions and permits for safe handling of these organisms. We understand also that the CMPS samples are supplied on the basis that they will not be re-sold or supplied to any organisation or individuals outside the purchasing authority.**

**Please tick here to accept the terms and conditions of participation**

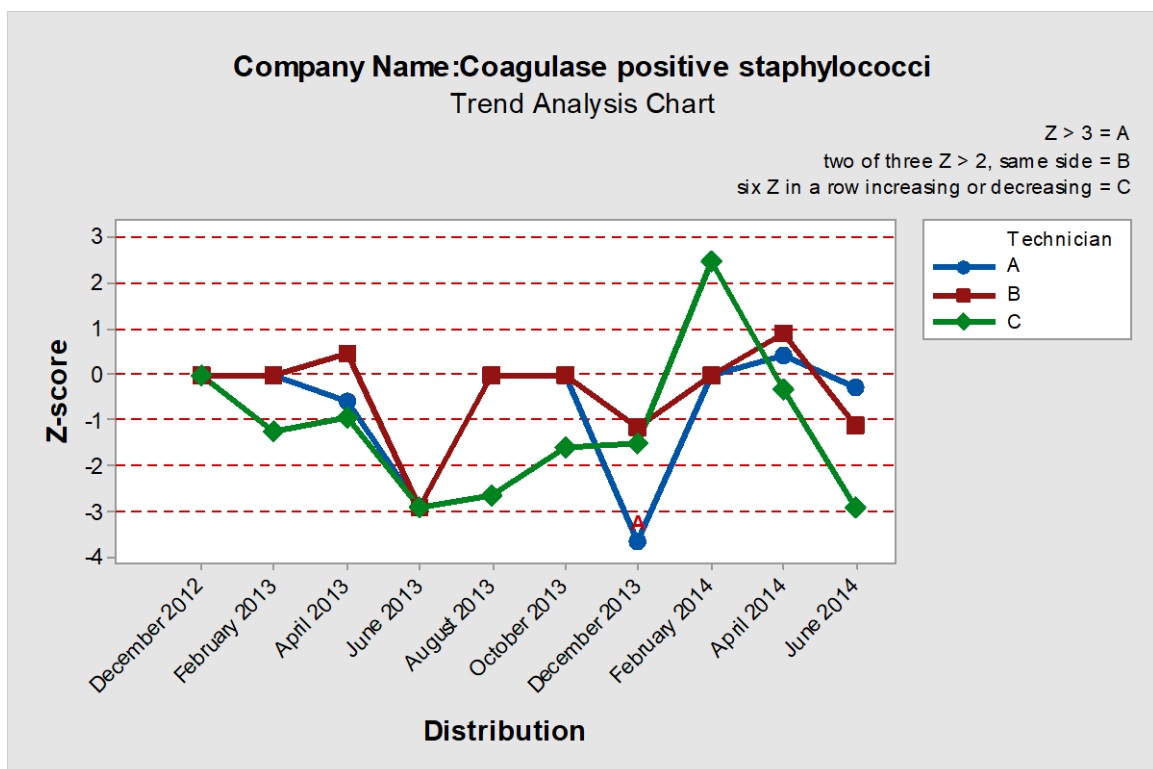
Signed for and on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ (Company name) by its duly authorised signatory:

<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Print name and position:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
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Example of histogram



Example of trend analysis graph





## Terms and Conditions of Participation

1. Samples distributed as part of the Campden Microbiology Proficiency Scheme (CMPS) may contain microbiological pathogens of Hazard Groups 1 and 2 as defined by the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (Categorisation of pathogens according to hazard and categories of containment. 4th edition, London: HMSO, 1995). Members must ensure that their laboratory facilities and expertise are adequate to ensure the safe handling of these organisms during their participation in the CMPS in order with all applicable health and safety legislation, regulations or otherwise.
2. Membership of the CMPS is for a period of 12 months. A member may withdraw from the CMPS Scheme at any time on giving 30 days' written notice to Campden BRI (Chipping Campden) Ltd, but this shall not entitle the member to a refund in respect of any fees paid.
3. Campden BRI (Chipping Campden) Ltd. reserves the right to decline renewal of membership at the end of each annual period or to change the annual fee, but, in either case, will give the member at least 2 months' written notice of its intention to do so.
4. Membership to the CMPS is offered with the understanding that members will carry out analyses in the same way as their routine samples. This will enable the laboratory to independently assess its ability to produce accurate test results.
5. In the event of a member failing to pay the membership fee by the due date Campden BRI (Chipping Campden) Ltd. reserves the right to terminate, without notice, the membership of that member without prejudice to any claim for payment for samples already provided.
6. All reports, and the data they contain, issued by the CMPS are Copyright and may not be published in any form without permission of Campden BRI (Chipping Campden) Ltd.
7. All members' results will be treated as confidential.
8. Members must inform the CMPS team if their test material has not arrived within 7 working days of the despatch date. CMPS shall have no liability for replacement of the test material if the member has not informed CMPS that the test material has not arrived within these timescales.
9. In the unlikely event of test material arriving damaged or incorrect when delivered, the member must inform the CMPS team immediately. It is at CMPS sole discretion to replace the test materials or refund the goods.
10. Campden BRI (Chipping Campden) Ltd. shall not be liable in any circumstances for indirect or consequential loss howsoever caused, including, without limitation, loss of anticipated profits, goodwill, reputation, business receipts or contracts, or losses or expenses resulting from third party claims.
11. Members of CMPS have entire responsibility and liability for all samples distributed to them under the Scheme and all activities carried out by them or any third party in relation to the samples from the time of delivery of the samples.
12. Campden BRI (Chipping Campden) Ltd. warrants that all work carried out by it in relation to the Scheme will be carried out using all reasonable care and skill. All conditions, terms and warranties implied by common law, statute or otherwise are, to the extent permitted by law, hereby excluded.
13. Members shall abide by the Campden BRI Standard Terms and Conditions of contract as amended from time to time ("Standard Terms"), a full copy can be provided on request or can be downloaded from our website <http://www.campdenbri.co.uk/campdenbri/terms.pdf>. If there is an inconsistency between any of these conditions and the provisions of the Campden BRI Standard Terms and Conditions, these conditions shall prevail.
14. The liability of Campden BRI (Chipping Campden) Ltd. to the member in any 12 month period resulting from or in connection with the provision of the Campden Microbiology Proficiency Scheme by Campden BRI (Chipping Campden) Ltd. to the member shall under no circumstances exceed the amount of the annual fee paid by the member in respect of that 12 month period.
15. These conditions shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English law and Campden BRI (Chipping Campden) Ltd. and the member submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### Q. How can the CMPS benefit my laboratory?

A. Participation in an external proficiency programme is an essential part of laboratory quality assurance. It is not possible for a laboratory to independently adequately assess their ability to produce accurate and precise test results. Participating in the CMPS scheme will help demonstrate that staff within the laboratory are proficient in microbiological techniques and methods.

### Q. Some proficiency schemes are complicated, how straightforward is CMPS?

A. It couldn't be easier! Simply:

- (a) select which type of test material that you would like to receive (Intermediate or Advanced) - this will reflect the tests/methods you do in your laboratory;
- (b) select the frequency of receipt of test material; and then
- (c) carry out the tests that you wish to cover.

Because the test material contains a 'cocktail' of micro-organisms you don't have to worry about choosing numerous samples at different points of the year.

### Q. Can I join at any point during the year?

A. Yes. You can join the scheme at any time during the year, the membership is for a period of 12 months from the date of joining.

### Q. What if I require an option that is not included on the information sheet?

A. Please contact the CMPS team. We will be happy to discuss the possibilities of a schedule especially tailored for your laboratory's needs.

### Q. When are the distribution dates?

A. February, April, June, August, October and December.

### Q. How do I choose the right type of test material for my laboratory?

A. Two types of test material are available: 'Intermediate' contains a matrix of spoilage and pathogenic microorganisms and 'Advanced' contains the same as the Intermediate test material plus major pathogens e.g. *Salmonella*, *Listeria* and *Campylobacter* sp. (The Advanced test material should only be requested if you have a pathogen testing facility).

### Q. What tests do I need to do?

A. You only need to perform the analyses applicable to your laboratory.

### Q. In what format is the test material provided?

A. The test material takes the form of a freeze-dried matrix in an 'easy to open' vial.

### Q. How will I receive my CMPS test material?

A. You will receive your sample in packaging compliant with internationally accepted regulations.

### Q. How do I handle my CMPS test material?

A. Vials must be opened and used by, or under the direct supervision of, person(s) trained and competent in microbiological techniques, and in laboratories meeting the containment requirements for ACDP Category 2 organisms.

## FAQs continued

### Q. How do I store my CMPS test material?

A. In a refrigerator at 2-8° C.

### Q. How soon do I need to return my results.

A. You will have 3 weeks from the despatch date to return the results.

### Q. How soon will I receive the analysis of my results?

A. The results analysis is usually returned within 3 weeks of the deadline date.

### Q. What will my report consist of?

A. Your laboratory will receive a detailed and precise report explaining the results. Included with the report are charts representing your enumeration results compared to other laboratories plus statistical information e.g. z-scores, assigned value, mean etc.

### Q. Why does CMPS not supply their test microorganisms in real food/water matrices?

A. In order to ensure that all proficiency test material is sufficiently stable and homogenous for each participating laboratory, it is necessary to supply test material in a freeze-dried state. This adequately simulates food samples.

### Q. What additional technical support is provided?

A. The scheme can provide full support including advice and 'trouble-shooting' utilising the experience and knowledge of staff of the Campden BRI Microbiology Department.

### Q. Is the CMPS accredited?

A. Yes. We follow the strict guidelines as laid down by the ISO 9001 Quality Management Standard.

### Q. Are my CMPS results confidential?

A. Yes. All clients' results are treated as confidential and would not (unless agreed by the participant) be disclosed to a third party.

### Q. How are my results assessed?

A. An 'assigned value' is established for each microorganism under test. Z-scores are calculated as differences between the laboratory's results and the assigned value, divided by the 'standard deviation for proficiency assessment'. Performance is then assessed using the Z-score thus:

- $\leq 2$  is 'Satisfactory';
- 2-3 is 'Marginal'; and
- $> 3$  is Unsatisfactory.

### Q. Can you 'trend' results for clients as an extra service?

A. Yes. If required, we can trend clients results for them. Sufficient results would be needed before we could offer this service.