

To: Laboratories participating in Proftest Syke proficiency tests

Proficiency test WW 13/2026 – Wastewater analyses II

Proftest Syke will organise a proficiency test (PT) for the analysis of alkalinity, conductivity 25 °C, colour, NH₄-N, NO₂-N+NO₃-N, N_{tot}, PO₄-P, P_{tot}, and pH in wastewaters.

The purpose of this proficiency test is to ensure the comparability and accuracy of the results of the participants. About 50 laboratories are expected to participate in this proficiency test. The measurands and samples of this proficiency test are included in the Water chemistry scheme of the Proftest Syke accreditation scope (finas.fi/sites/en).

Sample matrices

Synthetic sample, pulp and paper industrial wastewater, and municipal wastewater.

Timetable

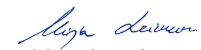
Registration	25 September – 23 October 2026	
Sample dispatch date (national participants)	24 November 2026 (see Chapter 4 <i>Sample delivery</i>)	
Analysis of the samples	NH ₄ -N, NO ₂ -N+NO ₃ -N, PO ₄ -P	26 November 2026
	pH, conductivity 25 °C	26 November 2026
	Alkalinity, colour	26 – 27 November 2026
	N _{tot} , P _{tot}	at the latest on 7 December 2026
Reporting of the results	25 November – 7 December 2026	

Participation fee

The participation fee is **868 €** (+ VAT) including all measurements and samples.

See detailed information in Chapter 9 *Participation fee*.


Mervi Pajula,
Coordinator


Mirja Leivuori,
Group manager

Proftest Syke is proficiency testing provider PT01
(SFS-EN ISO/IEC 17043:2023) accredited by FINAS
(Finnish Accreditation Service, finas.fi/sites/en).



Proftest Syke guide for participants is available on Proftest Syke website (syke.fi/proftest/en).

ProftestWEB is the electronic client interface for Proftest Syke proficiency tests wwwp5.ymparisto.fi/Labtest/en. Within the pages, instructions are available on every page. A short *Getting started* manual is available on ProftestWEB front page.

Organising the proficiency test

1 Organiser

Proftest Syke, Finnish Environment Institute Syke
Address: Mustialankatu 3, FI-00790 Helsinki, Finland
Email: proftest@syke.fi

Contact

Coordinator: Mervi Pajula, tel. +358 295 252 320
Substitute for coordinator: Mirja Leivuori, tel. +358 295 251 366
Email: firstname.lastname@syke.fi

Analytical expert

Mika Sarkkinen (Syke), tel. +358 295 251 620

Expert laboratory Finnish Environment Institute, Oulu (T003, finas.fi/sites/en)

2 Sample and measurands

The sample matrices in this proficiency test are: synthetic sample, pulp and paper industrial wastewater, and municipal wastewater. Samples, measurands, concentration ranges and sample preservations are presented in Appendix 1.

Note! Check the samples volumes and, if needed, order additional samples.

3 Registration

The registration for this proficiency test is open until **23 October 2026**.

Registration is done via the electronic client interface, ProftestWEB: wwwp5.ymparisto.fi/Labtest/en. If there are problems when using ProftestWEB or you need username and password, please contact proftest@syke.fi.

4 Sample delivery

The sample dispatch day for national participants is **24 November 2026**. To ensure timely arrival, the samples are dispatched earlier for participants abroad.

If the sample package does not arrive **at the latest on 25 November 2026**, or there are missing and/or broken sample containers, please contact the provider immediately (proftest@syke.fi). More contact details in Chapter 1 *Organiser*.

5 Sample storage and analysis

The samples are stored at 4 °C and they are stabilised to room temperature before analysis.

Note! Conductivity samples are either analysed at a temperature of 25 °C or the results are reported as a value corresponding to a temperature of 25 °C.

Samples are analysed within the laboratory where they are delivered to, and analyses are conducted according to the participant's normal procedures. For the samples and measurements, replicated analyses

should not be performed more than what is required by the analytical method or the instructions within the sample letter.

Timetable for sample analysis is on the first page of this letter.

6 Reporting the results

The participant results are reported to ProfTest Syke at the latest on **7 December 2026**.

ProfTest Syke delivers the preliminary results report to the participants latest in the week 51 (14 – 18 December 2026). The final report will be published at the latest in March 2027, and it is then available on ProfTestWEB and on ProfTest Syke website (syke.fi/proftest/en). The availability of the report will be informed to the participants.

7 Assigned values and evaluation of the results

Either the calculated concentration (synthetic samples) or the robust mean, the median, or the mean of the results reported by the participants will be used as the assigned value for the measurand. The calculation of the assigned value is based on the results reported according to the given guidelines. Also, when needed, the result of the expert laboratory can be used as the assigned value. The evaluation of the results will be based on z scores. The preliminary standard deviation for proficiency assessment will be given in the cover letter of the sample. In special cases also E_n or D% scores can be used for the performance evaluation.

8 Confidentiality

The results of participants are treated anonymously. The participants' results and the preliminary results report of the round are confidential and should not be shared with third parties during the implementation of the round.

9 Participation fee

The participation fee is **868 €** (+ VAT) including all measurements and samples. The basic fee is **470 €** (+ VAT) and the fees for each sample and measurand are as follows:

Alkalinity	28 €/sample	(2 samples)
Colour	23 €/sample	(3 samples)
N compounds	41 €/sample	(3 samples)
P compounds	30 €/sample	(3 samples)
pH, conductivity 25 °C	15 €/sample	(4 samples)

The invoice will be sent after the delivery of the preliminary result report. If the participant orders additional samples, they are charged according to the prices listed above.

Note! In Finland VAT is 25.5 %. Furthermore, if the delivery or invoicing address, or any other additional information needs to be corrected after the first sample delivery or after invoicing, an extra handling charge will apply. The participant is also responsible for possible custom clearance or customs fee of the sample.

10 Appendices

Appendix 1 Samples, measurands, concentration ranges and preservations.

Appendix 1. Samples, measurands, concentration ranges and preservations.

Measurand	Sample matrix	Sample code	Sample volume ¹⁾ , container and preservation	Concentration range
Alkalinity	Synthetic sample	A1A	250 ml, plastic bottle	0.2 – 2 mmol/l
	Municipal wastewater	V3A	<i>Not preserved at Syke.</i>	
Colour	Synthetic sample	A1V	250 ml, plastic bottle	10 – 500 mg/l, Pt
	Pulp and paper industry wastewater	P2V	<i>Not preserved at Syke.</i>	
	Municipal wastewater	V3V		
Conductivity 25°C	Synthetic sample	A1J	100 ml, glass bottle	2 – 800 mS/m
	Pulp and paper industry wastewater	P2H	<i>Not preserved at Syke.</i>	
	Municipal wastewater	V3H		
NH ₄ -N	Synthetic sample	A1N	app. 400 ml, glass bottle <i>Autoclaved at Syke.</i>	> 0.5 mg/l
	Municipal wastewater	V3N	500 ml, plastic bottle <i>Autoclaved at Syke.</i>	
NO ₂ -N+NO ₃ -N	Synthetic sample	A1N	app. 400 ml, glass bottle <i>Autoclaved at Syke.</i>	> 0.5 mg/l
	Municipal wastewater	V3N	500 ml, plastic bottle <i>Autoclaved at Syke.</i>	
N _{tot}	Synthetic sample	A1N	app. 400 ml, glass bottle <i>Autoclaved at Syke.</i>	> 1 mg/l
	Pulp and paper industry wastewater	P2N	500 ml, plastic bottle <i>Not preserved at Syke.</i>	> 1 mg/l
	Municipal wastewater	V3N	500 ml, plastic bottle <i>Autoclaved at Syke.</i>	> 2 mg/l
pH	Synthetic sample	A1H	100 ml, glass bottle	4 – 9 pH unit
	Pulp and paper industry wastewater	P2H	<i>Not preserved at Syke.</i>	
	Municipal wastewater	V3H		
PO ₄ -P	Synthetic sample	A1P	250 ml, plastic bottle <i>Not preserved at Syke.</i>	> 0.05 mg/l
	Municipal wastewater	V3P	250 ml, plastic bottle <i>Autoclaved at Syke.</i>	
P _{tot}	Synthetic sample	A1P	250 ml, plastic bottle	> 0.05 mg/l
	Pulp and paper industry wastewater	P2P	<i>Not preserved at Syke.</i>	
	Municipal wastewater	V3P	250 ml, plastic bottle <i>Autoclaved at Syke.</i>	

¹⁾ Please check the sample volume and, in case needed, order additional samples.

Sample codes (first letter showing sample matrix):

A = Synthetic sample

P = Pulp and paper industrial wastewater

V = Municipal wastewater