

To: Laboratories participating in ProfTest Syke proficiency tests

## Proficiency test MET 05/2026 – Water and sludge metal analyses

ProfTest Syke will organize a proficiency test (PT) for the analysis of metals in drinking waters, industrial wastewaters and in sludge. The measurands for the synthetic sample, drinking water and industrial wastewater are: Al, As, B, Ba, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, Hg, Mn, Mo, Ni, P, Pb, Sb, Se, Sn, Ti, V ja Zn. For the sludge sample acid soluble fraction of the same measurands together with dry matter (Drw), and N will be tested.

The purpose of this proficiency test is to ensure the comparability and accuracy of the results of the participants. About 25 laboratories are expected to participate in this proficiency test. The measurands and samples of this proficiency test are included in the Elements scheme of the ProfTest Syke accreditation scope ([finas.fi/sites/en](https://finas.fi/sites/en)).

### Sample matrices

Synthetic sample, drinking water, industrial wastewater, and sludge.

### Timetable

Registration	<b>27 February – 27 March 2026</b>	
Sample dispatch date (national participants)	14 April 2026 (see Chapter 4 <i>Sample delivery</i> )	
Analysis of the samples	Mercury in water samples	at the latest on 8 May 2026
	Other measurands and samples	at the latest on 25 May 2026
Reporting of the results	<b>15 April – 26 May 2026</b>	

### Participation fee

The participation fee is **1225 € (+ VAT)** including all measurements and samples. See detailed information in Chapter 9 *Participation fee*.



Mirja Leivuori,  
Group manager



Päivi Grönroos,  
Substitute for coordinator

ProfTest Syke is proficiency testing provider PT01  
(EN ISO/IEC 17043:2010) accredited by FINAS  
(Finnish Accreditation Service, [finas.fi/sites/en](https://finas.fi/sites/en)).



ProfTest Syke guide for participants is available on ProfTest Syke website ([syke.fi/proftest/en](https://syke.fi/proftest/en)).

ProfTestWEB is the electronic client interface for ProfTest Syke proficiency tests [wwwp5.ymparisto.fi/Labtest/en](https://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.

## Organizing the proficiency test

### 1 Organizer

ProfTest Syke, Finnish Environment Institute Syke  
Address: Mustialankatu 3, FI-00790 Helsinki, Finland  
Email: [profTest@syke.fi](mailto:profTest@syke.fi)

#### Contact

Coordinator: Mirja Leivuori, tel. +358 295 251 366  
Substitute for coordinator: Päivi Grönroos, tel. +358 295 252 174  
Email: [firstname.lastname@syke.fi](mailto:firstname.lastname@syke.fi)  
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#### Analytical experts

Metals, ID-ICP-MS	Timo Sara-Aho (Syke), tel. +358 295 251 618
Hg, ID-ICP-MS	Teemu Näykki (Syke), tel. +358 295 251 471
Email:	<a href="mailto:firstname.lastname@syke.fi">firstname.lastname@syke.fi</a>

**Expert laboratory** Finnish Environment Institute, Helsinki (T003, [finas.fi/sites/en](https://finas.fi/sites/en))

### 2 Sample and measurands

The sample matrices in this proficiency test are: synthetic sample, drinking water, industrial wastewater, and sludge. Samples, measurands, concentration ranges and sample preservations are presented in Appendix 1.

**Note!** Check the samples volumes and, in case needed, order additional samples.

### 3 Registration

The registration for this proficiency test is open until **27 March 2026**.

Registration is done via the electronic client interface, ProfTestWEB: [wwwp5.ymparisto.fi/Labtest/en](https://wwwp5.ymparisto.fi/Labtest/en).  
If there are problems when using ProfTestWEB or you need username and password, please contact [profTest@syke.fi](mailto:profTest@syke.fi).

### 4 Sample delivery

The sample dispatch day for national participants is **14 April 2026**. To ensure timely arrival, the samples are dispatched earlier for participants abroad.

If the sample package does not arrive **at the latest on 16 April 2026**, or there are missing and/or broken sample containers, please contact the provider immediately ([profTest@syke.fi](mailto:profTest@syke.fi)). More contact details in Chapter 1 *Organizer*.

## 5 Sample storage and analysis

The samples are stored at 4 °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 analysis is done no more than according to the method of analysis 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 **26 May 2026**.

ProfTest Syke delivers the preliminary result report to the participants latest in the week 24 (8 – 12 June 2026). The final report will be published at the latest in November 2026 and it is then available on ProfTestWEB and on ProfTest Syke website ([syke.fi/proftest/en](https://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 sample letter. 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 **1225 € (+ VAT)** including all measurements and samples. The basic fee is **480 € (+ VAT)** and the fees for each sample and measurand are as follows:

Metals in water samples	140 €/ sample	(3 samples)
Hg in water samples	55 €/ sample	(3 samples)
Metals and Hg in sludge	160 €/ sample	(1 sample)

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 %. Further, if the invoicing address or any other additional information needs to be corrected after sample delivery or the invoice, the extra handling cost will be charged. 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.**

Measurands	Sample type (volume) <sup>1)</sup> and preservation	Sample code	Concentration range
<b>Metals in synthetic sample</b> Al, As, B, Ba, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, Mn, Mo, Ni, P, Pb, Sb, Se, Sn, Ti, V ja Zn (20 measurands)	Synthetic sample (60 ml plastic bottle)  <i>0,3 ml conc. HNO<sub>3</sub>/60 ml</i>	<b>A1M</b>	As, Cd, Co, Pb, Se, V: 0,5 -5 µg/l Cr, Ni, Sb, Sn, Ti: 5 - 10 µg/l Al, B, Ba, Cu, Fe, Mn, Mo, Zn: 10 - 100 µg/l P: > 100 µg/l
<b>Metals in drinking water and industrial wastewater</b> Al, As, B, Ba, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, Mn, Mo, Ni, P, Pb, Sb, Se, Sn, Ti, V ja Zn (20 measurands)	Drinking water (125 ml plastic bottle)  <i>0,6 ml conc. HNO<sub>3</sub>/125 ml</i>	<b>D2M</b>	Cd: 0,1–1 µg/l Al, As, Ba, Cr, Ni, Pb, Sb, Se, Sn, Ti, V, Zn: 1–10 µg/l B, Cu, Mo, P: 10–100 µg/l Fe, Mn: > 100 µg/l
	Industrial wastewater (125 ml plastic bottle)  <i>0,6 ml conc. HNO<sub>3</sub>/125 ml</i>	<b>T3M</b>	Cd, Co: 0,1–1 µg/l As, Pb, Sb, Se: 1–10 µg/l Cr, Cu, Ni, P, Sn, Ti, V, Zn: 10–100 µg/l Al, B, Ba, Fe, Mn: > 100 µg/l Mo: > 1000 µg/l
<b>Hg in synthetic sample, drinking water and, industrial wastewater</b>	Synthetic sample (250 ml glass bottle)  <i>12,5 ml conc. HCl/250 ml</i>	<b>A1Hg</b>	0.05–1 µg/l
	Drinking water (250 ml glass bottle)  <i>12,5 ml conc. HCl/250 ml</i>	<b>D2Hg</b>	0.05–0.25 µg/l
	Industrial wastewater (250 ml glass bottle)  <i>12,5 ml conc. HCl/250 ml</i>	<b>T3Hg</b>	0.1–1.5 µg/l
<b>Metals and nutrients in sludge (acid soluble)</b> Al, As, B, Ba, Cd, Co, Cr, Cu, Fe, Hg, Mn, Mo, Ni, P, Pb, Sb, Se, Sn, Ti, V ja Zn In addition: Drw ja N (23 measurands)	Sludge (125 ml plastic bottle) circa 20 g	<b>L4M</b>	Cd, Hg: 0,5 – 1 mg/kg As, Co, Mo: 1 – 10 mg/kg B, Ba, Cr, Cu, Mn, Ni, Pb, Sb, Se, Sn, Ti, V: 10 – 500 mg/kg Zn: 500 - 1000 mg/kg Al, N, P: 5 – 100 g/kg Fe: > 100 g/kg

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

Sample codes (first letter showing sample matrix):

A = Synthetic sample

D = Drinking water

T = Industrial wastewater

L = Sludge