BIPEA, FIRST INTERLABORATORY PROFICIENCY TESTS
ORGANIZER, ACCREDITED BY COFRAC

Since already two years, the President of Bi pea
Mr. Hervé HASLE was officializing my coming to
Bi pea, and its General Secretary Mr. Gérard
SCOTTI was leaving me the keys of his office,
not without some nostalgia, even if he could
benefit of a deserved retirement. Both were
leaving me a team of 15 professionals, to the
service of 900 laboratories, a tool which they
had taken care to develop during the last years,
from cereal field to agro-food and environment fields. Face to
this turning point in history of Bi pea, the new President of Bi pea,
Mr. Charles BRETT did not fail to remind me, in the name of the
Board of Directors, the two main objectives that were fixed to
me:
   ◦ To confirm the Quality politics started through the Certification
     with an international acknowledgement of the professionalism
     of Bi pea: the COFRAC Accreditation. That one was moreover
     answering to the growing expectations of many member
     laboratories, which were themselves on the way to ISO 17025.
   ◦ To equip Bi pea with a structure and a computerization able to
     answer to enlarged requirements in term of data processing and
     statistical analysis (some requirements are strictly bound to the
     precedent point) ; also able to answer to the very significant
     international increase of Bi pea in term of members and of activity.

Here was a big challenge for someone whose culture and Quality
spirit were not used to this kind of exercise: real marathon, long
and exacting run, whose arrival appears meter after meter, breath
after breath, with a control of the efforts and building of the
necessary steps, in order the line to be crossed in good
conditions...

During two years, the whole team of Bi pea has worked by my
side, and not always easily so great the changes sometimes were,
but always, I must precise it, with confidence, motivation and
professionalism.

During two years, the Presidents of Committee have advised
me, sometimes they taught me their culture in order to put me
on the right way. At the same time, I relayed as well
communication to the members to explain the choices. That was
not always very easy because it was at first necessary to
understand each other, but here as well, always with confidence
and a strong associative spirit.

Today, I am very proud to inform you that we have crossed
together the first arrival line. First Intercomparaison organizer, all
activities considered, to submit to the new COFRAC reference
frame LAB CIL 02 end of 2003 and first so to be audited beginning
of 2004.

Bi pea is, dear members, the first organizer of interlaboratory
comparisons, all activities considered, to be accredited within
reference frame COFRAC LAB CIL 02 on the described perimeter
(see Marie-Philippe SEILLIER's article) since April 1st, 2004.
It's a real performance, and now that the line is crossed, I
congratulate all of you, as members, because you maintained
confidence in Bi pea in spite of changes that were imposed to
you; all of you, Presidents, members of Technical Groups,
suppliers and subcontractors of Bi pea for your permanent support,
your patience and investment, most of the time volunteers, for
Bi pea.

Finally, I would like to seize the opportunity of this letter to echo
what I hear in Committees: "With the team surrounding you,
you cannot fail". Today this team is marked with a professionalism
label that you often gave to it. It is especially that team which
worked and succeeded in that objective for your best service.
We always remember the runner who wins the marathon, but
never his trainer. And that is a good thing. I am happy and proud
for them.

Unfortunately or happily, just the time to take a break, and we
have started again the course:
   ◦ Communicate on this accreditation and prepare its extension
     while submitting to new scopes, to cover all activity fields
     represented in Bi pea.
   ◦ Set up our new data processing under computerization.
That is only the visible side of our efforts. The hidden side of our
engagements are the setting in intranet of our whole functioning
chain, starting from raw materials reception, until the edition of
the Intercomparaison bulletin, via all validation steps: production,
homogeneity control, etc.

I do not doubt that we will success as well in a few months as for
accreditation. But for that the whole team of Bi pea will still need
your agreement and your trust, I have no doubt about it and
thank you in advance.

So, congratulations to all of you!

Nota: For those who would still doubt, a last information: Bi pea
has just been again certified ISO 9001 version 2000 for three
new years.

Jean-Max ROUYER – Manager of Bi pea

CONTENT

Accreditation seen by Quality ......................... Page 2
Agenda of committees ................................. Page 2
Just out (Standards) ................................. Page 3
Extraitant Bi pea (A few advices) ....................... Page 4
ACCREDITATION SEEN BY THE QUALITY

Bipea has just been accredited by COFRAC for the realization of intercomparison tests, in order to evaluate the aptitude of laboratories, within reference frame "Lab Cif Ref 02(4)" in its three fields of competence, for the following activity fields:

- **Agro-food**: for the comparison of physico-chemical, rheological, and wheat analysis, on common wheat (PTS n°01 – Common wheat);
- **Agronomy and vegetals**: for the comparison of physical, granulometric and chemical analysis, on soils (PTS n°15 – Soils);
- **Environment**: for the comparison of physicochemical analysis on feed waters, natural waters and waste waters (PTS n°34 – Waters: Physicochemical analysis).

The accreditation requirement frame, edited in July 2002, is based on the ILAC G 13(2) guide which takes the main requirements of the ISO/CEI 43-1(3) guide and the organizational requirements of the ISO/CEI 17025(4) standard.

The accreditation is in keeping with the continuation of the Quality politics of Bipea, started by the Board of Directors in 1993, when Bipea’s members accredited by RNE in France were more and more numerous (one year later, the RNE became the COFRAC after amalgamation with BNH). Waiting for a COFRAC reference frame applicable to intercomparison tests organizers, the Board of Directors wished Bipea’s engagement in the way to certification, which was finalized in June 2001 by ISO 9001 certification version 2000.

Thus, after the certification of its system of Quality management, its technical competences are now officially acknowledged: the competence of Bipea’s staff and also the outside competence and precious of its specialized committees represented by their Presidents and Technical Groups. Therefore, the three Presidents of the concerned(*) Committees must be specially thanked because they personally invested themselves in this way even if it was beyond their usual mission.

The success of this challenge for Bipea, to be the first intercomparison tests organizer accredited by COFRAC in France, shows the wish of its Board of Directors and of its Technical Board which always put the members satisfaction in the centre of their priorities. This wish was relayed by a strong implication of the Direction in that way of progress and of improvement of the quality of the provision of Bipea for its members. This acknowledgement also proves a constant and rigorous work of the whole Bipea’s staff which applied itself, during last years, to identify, set up, move its processes, follow its indicators, with always the concern of continuous improvement.

You were able to see some exterior signs of this step, especially the setting of homogeneity and stability controls or the sending of samples by express carrier to assure their traceability.

Today, my thanks are going to Board of Directors, to the Bipea’s members through every technical institutions, and to the Direction of Bipea. I also wish to thank the Bipea’s staff which was a central actor of that Quality way which finds its result in that acknowledgement by the COFRAC.

Now strengthened to better answer to the needs of all its members, Bipea wants to extend the acknowledgment of its competences by an extension of accreditation to other proficiency testing schemes, which are necessary tools to our members to improve and guarantee the quality of their analysis.

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**AGENDA**

**Commissions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PTS n°06 – Durum wheat</th>
<th>08/06/2004</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PTS n°12 – Food pulses</td>
<td>08/06/2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTS n°07 – Semolina</td>
<td>09/06/2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTS n°08 – Impurities</td>
<td>08/06/2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTS n°19 – Pesticides</td>
<td>15/06/2004</td>
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<td>PTS n°31 – Mycotoxins</td>
<td>15/06/2004</td>
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<td>PTS n°28 – Patulin determination</td>
<td>15/06/2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTS n°44 – PCB-PAH</td>
<td>18/06/2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTS n°20 – Health food and dietary products</td>
<td>24/06/2004</td>
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<td>PTS n°11/23 – Brewing barley</td>
<td>01/07/2004</td>
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<td>PTS n°15 – Soils</td>
<td>16/09/2004</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTS n°13/42 – Animal feeds /Premix</td>
<td>28/09/2004</td>
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**Renewal of the bureau of CDT**

*End of mandate on June 30th, 2004*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Mr Michel BLANC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>Mr Eric TRUCHOT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>- Mr Max FEINBERG</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Mrs Jacqueline LE BRUN</td>
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<td>- Mr Marc PROVOT</td>
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<td>- Mrs Valérie SALVADOR</td>
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<td>- Mr Jacques VIGNERON</td>
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**Accreditation: international situation**

Many organizations deliver accreditations to interlaboratories comparisons organizers: RVA, BELAC, UKAS, METAC, SWEDAC, BELTEST. They usually base themselves on the ILAC G 13 and ISO/CEI 43-1 guides.

For now, there is no agreement for international acknowledgement for the comparison organizers. However, a new agreement, "Proficiency Testing", made with experts from EA, Eurolab, Eurachem and Euromet, registers all needs and studies the different practices in every country. Its aims: to suggest harmonisation axes and to contribute to the creation of a coherent politics in that domain.

*(Extract from "toujours d'actualité" - Compétences no 31 de janvier 2003).*

**Reference of organisations and texts named**

**EA**: European Co-operation for accreditation.

**Eurachem**: A focus for analytical chemistry and quality in Europe.

**Eurolab**: European Federation of National Associations of Measurement, Testing and Analytical Laboratories.

**Euromet**: European Collaboration in Measurement Standards

1. **COFRAC**: Lab Cif Réf 02 "Organisateurs de comparaisons interlaboratoires - Exigences pour l'accréditation" - Comité Français d'Accréditation.
2. **ILAC G 13**: "Lignes directives relatives aux exigences en matière de compétence des organisateurs d'essais d'aptitude" - International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation.
3. **ISO/CEI 43-1**: "Essais d'aptitude des laboratoires par intercomparaison - Développement et mise en œuvre des systèmes d'essais d'aptitude".
4. **NF EN ISO/CEI 17025**: "Prescriptions générales concernant la compétence des laboratoires d'étalonnages et d'essais".

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**Marie-Philippe Seiller** - Quality Manager

(*) Mrs Jacqueline Le Brun (Arvalis) - Mr. Henri Ciesieliski (INRA) - Mr. Daniel Foiret (Camp 66)
AFNOR STANDARDS AND PROJECTS


Chemical analysis of soils ........................................... PTS 15
NF ISO 11262 - Soils quality - Determination of cyanide - Replaces XP X 31-430:200107 (X 31-430) - Classification index X 31-407

General agro-food products ....................................... PTS 20
NF EN 14152 - Food products - Determination of vitamin K1 by HPLC - Classification index V 03-129

Fertilizers ................................................................. PTS 24
XP U44-164 - Organic conditioner and culture supports - Method of analysis of inert components in a compost - Classification index U44-164
XP U44-551/A1 - Culture supports - Denominating, specifications and marking - Classification index U44-551/A1

Fats from animal and vegetal origins .............................. PTS 21
NF ISO 10540-2 - Fats from animal and vegetal origins - Determination of phosphorus content - Part 2: method by atomic absorption spectrometry with graphite oven - Classification index 10540-2

ISO STANDARDS AND PROJECTS


Water Microbiology ..................................................... PTS 35

Determination of chemical substances in water ............. PTS 34
ISO 15586:2003 - Water quality - Determination of trace elements by atomic absorption spectrometry in graphite oven


General tests of waters ............................................... PTS 34, 35 and 37

Determination of chemical substances in water .......... PTS 34
ISO 17681-1:2003 - Water quality - Determination of orthophosphates and total phosphorus by analyse in flow (FIA and CFA) - Part 1: method by analyse with injection flow (FIA)
ISO 17681-1:2003 - Water quality - Determination of orthophosphates and total phosphorus by analyse in flow (FIA and CFA) - Part 2: method by analyse with continuous flow (CFA)

We remind you that Bipea does not sell these standards. They must be bought directly at the AFNOR.
EXTRANET BIPEA
THE ELECTRONIC FORMS : A FEW ADVICES

Some information on how to manage forms
The application manages, from your member code and the date, the available forms. It depends on:
- your participation to the PT schemes.
- the date of the samples sending.
The form appears online the day after the sample sending. It is automatically suppressed the day after the deadline.
Note : Even if the form can be filled in until the deadline, we hardly advise you not to wait for the last day to send your results. So you will avoid the risk of incidents on internet or saturation of the servers.

Practical advices about forms:
1-Initial step: access to the forms
- Connect to www.biopa.org
- Click on the Members area
- Enter the two passwords in the Biopa secured area.

2-Select your form
To access to the form, only click on the arrow on the right side of the line. Four possible statutes for the forms: Free - In progress - Sent - Treated.
- Free: unmodified form.
- In progress: form filled in partially or completely.
- Sent: form already sent to Biopa.
- Treated: form validated by Biopa.

3-Fill in your form: a few advices to input.
- The tab key allows you to move from case to case.
- The enter key (ENTER) allows you to save the form at any moment without clicking on the Save button.
- You find the different usual elements, choice of methods (obligatory), information about units, orange grid with box format (numbers before and after the comma to be respected).

Remarks:
- The square case does not replace the comma.
- The comma (or decimal point according to your country) must be input if your result contents one!
- When the analytical criterion includes a method code, this code MUST be input. If it is not, the application will send you back an error message when saving (a red vertical mark is indicating the mistake). If your method is not listed, you will find a choice « other methods » (z).

Note: when filled in, the numbers are not aligned to the boxes. This difference is bound to the possibility to indicate the sign before the value (+ or -). You can:
- Either input the numbers naturally in the left side,
- Either put a space before to align them to the box.

In every case, after saving, the alignment is automatically corrected.
- The filling in of the form can be done in any sessions as you want. It is just necessary to think of saving before quitting the form.
- The person who inputs the results can write remarks for the one who validates and sends the results. These remarks are not accessible by Biopa.
- The button "Save" allows you to put the filled form in memory on a buffer base. Biopa has no access to that area.
- You can print the form at every moment.
- Le button "Back" allows you to go back to the list of available forms.

If you click on « Back » without saving, you will lose your data!

4-Send your form to Biopa
Two possible ways:
1 - After the data input, click on the button "Access to validation" that sends you back to the identification screen
2 - Pass directly by the identification screen by using the sending password.

When validating a form, no change is possible. You have to come back to the input area to modify it.

Do not forget to write your name out in full. It is the electronic equivalent of your visa on the paper forms (blocking error).

After verifying, you can send the form by clicking on the button "Send to Biopa". After clicking on the button "Send to Biopa", a dialogue box informs you that the sending is definitive. Click on Ok! You will receive a transaction number. It will be shown at the top of the screen in white colour on blue background. PRINT IT! It will be asked in case of an eventual dispute about these results or their sending.

Now, you have sent your results to Biopa. They have been transferred on our work base, where they will be validated and treated.