

# Proficiency Testing For Mycotoxins

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FAPAS Analytical Chemistry Proficiency Scheme

4/13/2015

Randox Food Diagnostics is pleased to continue its participation in FAPAS proficiency testing for Mycotoxins. FAPAS is the largest and most comprehensive analytical chemistry proficiency testing scheme in the food sector. The scheme, which has more than 2000 participants in over 100 countries, was established in 1990 as part of UK government agency FERA (formerly known as CSL).

Proficiency testing is an independent, confidential check of a laboratory's procedures and usually involves participating laboratories running a number of 'blind' samples that are provided by the proficiency testing provider. The laboratories then return their results to the proficiency testing provider who then compares these to both the 'true values' and the values (results) from other laboratories who participated in the same scheme.

FAPAS is an experienced, accredited provider of proficiency tests with options for the food and water, environmental chemistry and microbiology sectors. By taking part in FAPAS proficiency testing schemes, users can be confident in their lab processes, equipment and staff, and thus the results that they produce. Participation can also help laboratories gain and maintain ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation.

Randox Food Diagnostics participated in FAPAS proficiency test 17146 for Mycotoxins which commenced in February 2015. The samples were run on the Biochip Array Technology Evidence Investigator analyser utilising the Mycotoxins Array. Each participant received an animal feed sample (procured from a retail source) to be analysed for Ochratoxin A (OTA). An assigned value ( $\chi_a$ ) was determined for each analyte and in conjunction with the standard deviation for proficiency ( $\sigma_p$ ) was used to calculate a z-score for each result. Results for this proficiency test are summarised as follows.

Table 1

Analyte	Assigned value, $\chi_a$ $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$	Number of scores, $ z  \leq 2$	Total number of scores	% $ z  \leq 2$
OTA	57.8	31	35	89

The Randox Food Diagnostics' scores lie within the 'z' score and therefore the Randox Food Diagnostic result has been used for the overall assigned value of this FAPAS proficiency sample. This confirms that the method is fit for purpose and comparable to all other methods of testing.

Table 2: Results and Z scores

Laboratory Number	Analyte	Assigned Value $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$	Result $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$	z-score
027	OTA	57.8	57.20	0

Radox Food Diagnostics results recorded as laboratory 027.

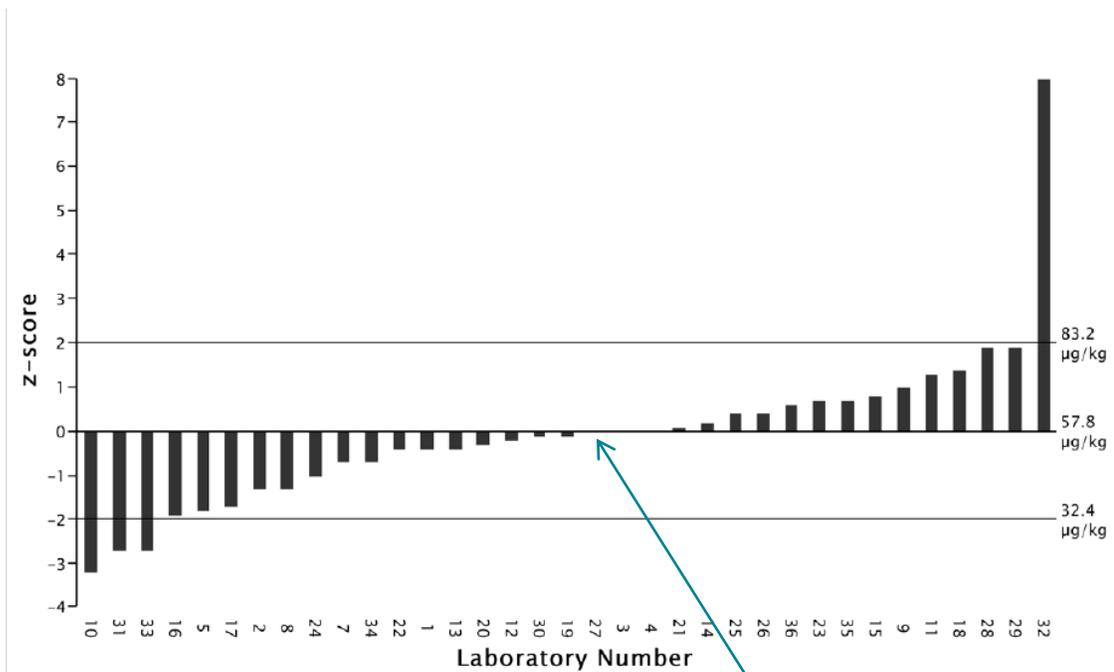


Figure 1: z-Scores for OTA

Radox Food Diagnostics (Lab 27) achieved a Z score of 0 for OTA.

Source: FAPAS Report - 17146 Animal Feed OTA