



Instruction Sheets

QBS Soft Drinks & Fruit Juice Proficiency Testing Scheme

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Detailed information about samples, matrices, ranges, units, etc. can be found in the [QBS Scheme Description](#)

Issue No: 23

Issued: 20/05/2025

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Storage after receipt

On receipt of the test material, record the date and store as appropriate

Storage temperature	Samples			
Room temperature (20±5°C)	PT-BV-515			
Refrigerated (2 to 8°C)	PT-BV-500	PT-BV-501	PT-BV-505	PT-BV-506
	PT-BV-507	PT-BV-510	PT-BV-514	PT-BV-518
	PT-BV-519	PT-BV-521	PT-BV-522	PT-BV-524
	PT-BV-527	PT-BV-528	PT-BV-529	PT-BV-530
	PT-BV-531			
Frozen (-20°C)	PT-BV-516	PT-BV-517	PT-BV-520	

Please note:

- Conditions for storage after receipt of the sample may differ from the conditions under which the PT sample was transported
- Stability data have shown that uncooled transport of samples intended to be stored at 2-8°C does not affect the stability of the test materials for the time of the PT round

The test material(s) should be analysed in accordance with the deadlines shown on the website: <https://portal.lgcstandards.com>

Choice of method or procedure

Participants are expected to use the test method, calibration, or measurement procedure of their choice. This method should be consistent with the participant's normal procedures, for example, duplicate analysis should only be performed if that is part of the routine analytical process. Some samples may require specific preparation or analysis, if so, this is indicated in this document.

Participants may submit results for some, or all the parameters requested.

Sample Details (Chemistry)

- Chemistry test materials are presented in a ready-to-use format.

Sample Details (Microbiology)

- Microbiological test materials BV500 and BV501 are provided with 10ml primary diluent and 90ml secondary diluent. When fully reconstituted, the test material represents a 'real' beverage sample, which may or may not contain the target organism(s) at a range of inoculums levels. Background flora may also be present.
- Microbiological test materials may contain high numbers of microorganisms that may require dilution in order to enumerate accurately. Further details on levels are given in the Scheme Description.

Precautions

- Microbiological test materials contain viable micro-organisms and are supplied on the understanding that the purchaser has suitably competent and qualified personnel to handle them safely. Test materials must only be opened in a laboratory by qualified personnel.
- Refer to the Safety Data Sheet for information on the safe handling and disposal of the test materials

Reporting Results

- All results should be submitted using PORTAL
- Please go to <https://portal.lgcstandards.com>
- Login using your Lab ID, username, and password.
- A PORTAL user guide can be downloaded from the help section.

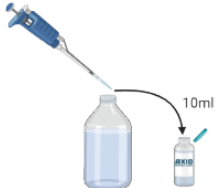
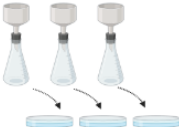
If you need any help at all, please do not hesitate to contact our support team using the details below or your local LGC representative.

Tel: +44(0)161 762 2500

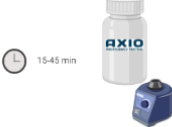
Email: axiopt@lgcgroup.com

Protocol BM1V1L1D	Sample codes: PT-BV-500 PT-BV-501	Description: 90ml simulated fruit juice or soft drink + 10ml primary diluent + vial	
Step 1 Aseptically remove the cap and rubber stopper from the vial and reconstitute the freeze-dried test material by adding the 10ml primary diluent provided		Step 2 Replace the stopper and shake to dissolve, then leave the test material to resuscitate	
Step 3 Add this concentrate to the 90ml simulated fruit juice. Rinse the vial two or three times to ensure all test material is transferred from the vial		Step 4 Immediately before testing, mix the sample thoroughly	 This step now represents an undiluted sample
Step 5 Proceed with your routine testing			

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Protocol BM1V	Sample codes: PT-BV-505 PT-BV-506	Description: 10ml glass vial containing lyophilised pellet	
Step 1 Prepare 1L sterile deionised water to use as a diluent	 1L	Step 2 Aseptically remove cap and rubber bungstopper from the vial and reconstitute the freeze-dried test material by adding a small quantity (approximately 10ml) of the diluent prepared in Step 1	
Step 3 Replace the vial stopper and mix/shake to dissolve		Step 4 Add this concentrate to the remaining diluent. Rinse the vial out 2 or 3 times to ensure all freeze-dried test material is transferred from the vial	
Step 5 Gently mix sample, then allow to resuscitate before proceeding	 This now represents undiluted product	Step 6 Filter 100ml aliquots for each of the target parameters (other methods and volumes may be used and results calculated accordingly)	

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Protocol BM1V1L	Sample codes: PT-BV-507	Description: 100ml simulated fruit juice + vial	
Step 1 Aseptically remove the cap and rubber stopper from the vial and reconstitute the test material by adding 10ml of the simulated fruit juice provided		Step 2 Replace the stopper and shake to dissolve	
Step 3 Add this concentrate to the remaining 90ml simulated fruit juice. Rinse the vial two or three times to ensure all test material is transferred from the vial		Step 4 Leave to stand 15 to 45 minutes. Immediately before testing, mix the sample thoroughly	 This now represents undiluted product
Step 5 Proceed with your routine testing			

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Protocol BC-BV1	Sample codes:			Description: Various volumes supplied in bottle(s) or can(s)	
	PT-BV-510	PT-BV-514	PT-BV-515		
	PT-BV-518	PT-BV-519	PT-BV-520		
	PT-BV-521	PT-BV-522	PT-BV-524		
	PT-BV-527	PT-BV-528	PT-BV-529		
	PT-BV-531				

Step 1

Analyse the test materials with the routine methods used by your laboratory



Note (reporting):

For **Conductivity in PT-BV-524**, both mS/cm and $\mu\text{S/cm}$ (at both 20 and 25°C) are available to participants as reporting units. However, results will be reported back to participants in **$\mu\text{S/cm}$ (at 20°C)**

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Protocol BC-BV2A	Sample codes: PT-BV-516	Description: 2 x plastic bottle	
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Step 1 Remove the bottles from the freezer and leave at room temperature until completely defrosted		Step 2 Analyse the test materials with the routine methods used by your laboratory	
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Protocol BC-BV2B	Sample codes: PT-BV-517	Description: 2 x plastic bottle	
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Odd round numbers (ending with 1, 3, 5, 7 or 9)

Step 1 Remove the bottles from the freezer and leave at room temperature until completely defrosted		Step 2 Analyse the test materials with the routine methods used by your laboratory	
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Even round numbers (ending with 0, 2, 4, 6 or 8)

Step 1 Remove the bottles from the freezer and leave at room temperature until completely defrosted		Step 2 Dilute each test material separately by a factor of 5 (e.g. 50ml test material and 200ml deionised water)	
Step 3 Analyse the diluted test materials with the routine methods used by your laboratory		Step 4 Report your diluted test materials results in PORTAL	

Note: Sorbic Acid needs to be analysed within 3 days of receipt

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Protocol BC-BV3	Sample codes: PT-BV-530	Description: 1 x LDPE bottle	
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pH			
Step 1 Measure the pH directly on the test material provided, using your routine method		Step 2 Report your result in PORTAL	

Brix, Acidity			
Step 1 Dilute the test material 1/10 with distilled water, then mix carefully		Step 2 Test using your routine methods	
Step 3 Report your results in PORTAL, taking into account the dilution factor			

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