

Laboratory approval BNN e.V. - Changes as of 01.01.2021

The procedure of laboratory approval of BNN e.V. was evaluated and modified in some points or adapted to the experiences of the last years and current developments.

The applicability of the new version of the guidelines for laboratory approval of BNN e.V. starts on 01.01.2021.

Existing approvals will be adapted to the new version in the course of the year 2021. New applications and (re-)applications for renewal of approval will be carried out in accordance with this version of the guidelines from 01.10.2020.

Special competence tests, which are obligatory and which take into consideration especially the special features of organic products (e.g. pesticide concentrations at very low levels, no announcement of test samples, verification of evaluation competencies according to BNN requirements) are still the most important objective of the approval system.

A fundamentally new feature is the **obligation** to take part in exactly specified laboratory competence tests of external suppliers during the approval period, which is usually limited to 3 years. The specification and determination of the competence tests is performed by BNN. This concerns one competence test per year for each approved module. This only applies to the area of "pesticide analysis" and enables both a fair and comparable evaluation of the analytical competence of BNN-approved laboratories and the specification of analytical questions that are of particular relevance to the organic sector.

In the field of "contaminants", the previous regulation remains in place (at least 2 successfully passed participations with any external provider for laboratory competence tests within the last 24 months per substance group).

In future, laboratory approval within the framework of BNN e.V. will consist of only **two analytical areas**:

- **Pesticide analysis** (area A) and
- **Analysis of contaminants** (area B).

Area A) Pesticide analysis

Laboratory approval in this area is modular. The individual **modules** each represent different product groups. The previous modules B1 and B2 have been combined into one module (M1) "Fruit and vegetables (fresh and processed)". The previous module "Cereals and cereal products, rice, oilseeds, vegetable oils and fats" has been divided into 2 new modules M2 and M3 and supplemented by pulses (M2). The new module M5 "Honey and bee products" is new, while the previous module B5 "Animal-based food" is no longer applicable:

- M1: Fruit and vegetables (fresh and processed)
- M2: Cereals and cereal products, rice, pulses
- M3: Oilseeds and vegetable oils and fats
- M4: Tea, fruit and herbal teas, dried herbs and spices
- M5: Honey and bee products

Laboratories must have different specific method accreditations according to EN/ISO/IEC 17025 depending on the module. Details are described in the lab approval guidelines.

Area B) Contaminant analysis

Laboratory approval in this area is now structured according to **substance groups**. These groups are - in contrast to pesticide approval - not further subdivided in terms of product groups. An approval for one of the substance groups below therefore includes all product groups.

- S1: Mycotoxins
- S2: Pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PA) / Tropane alkaloids (TA)
- S3: Metals and other elements
- S4: Phthalates and other plasticisers
- S5: PAH and MOSH/MOAH
- S6: Dioxins and PCBs

Assessment competence related to the BNN-orientation value for pesticides

As before, the test reports must indicate the reporting limits and the currently applicable EU maximum levels for identified and quantified levels of active substances. The test reports must also contain an assessment in accordance with the currently applicable EU maximum levels (Regulation (EC) No. 396/2005) as well as in accordance with the current requirements of the BNN orientation value.

If a test report contains an assessment or interpretation with regard to the **BNN-orientation value for pesticides**, it is **mandatory to use a scheme specified by BNN e.V.** - either as an integrated part of the test report or as an appendix/attachment to the corresponding test report. Details are given in the guidelines.

Fees

The fee schedule for BNN laboratory approval has been restructured and is now more transparent. With the exception of the annual fee, the fees remain unchanged in amount. In the case of the annual fee, the fees may change slightly depending on the number of modules or substance classes. For only one module or substance class the annual fee is reduced by EUR 50, for two modules or substance classes it remains constant, for three or more modules or substance classes the fee increases by EUR 50 per module or substance class.

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