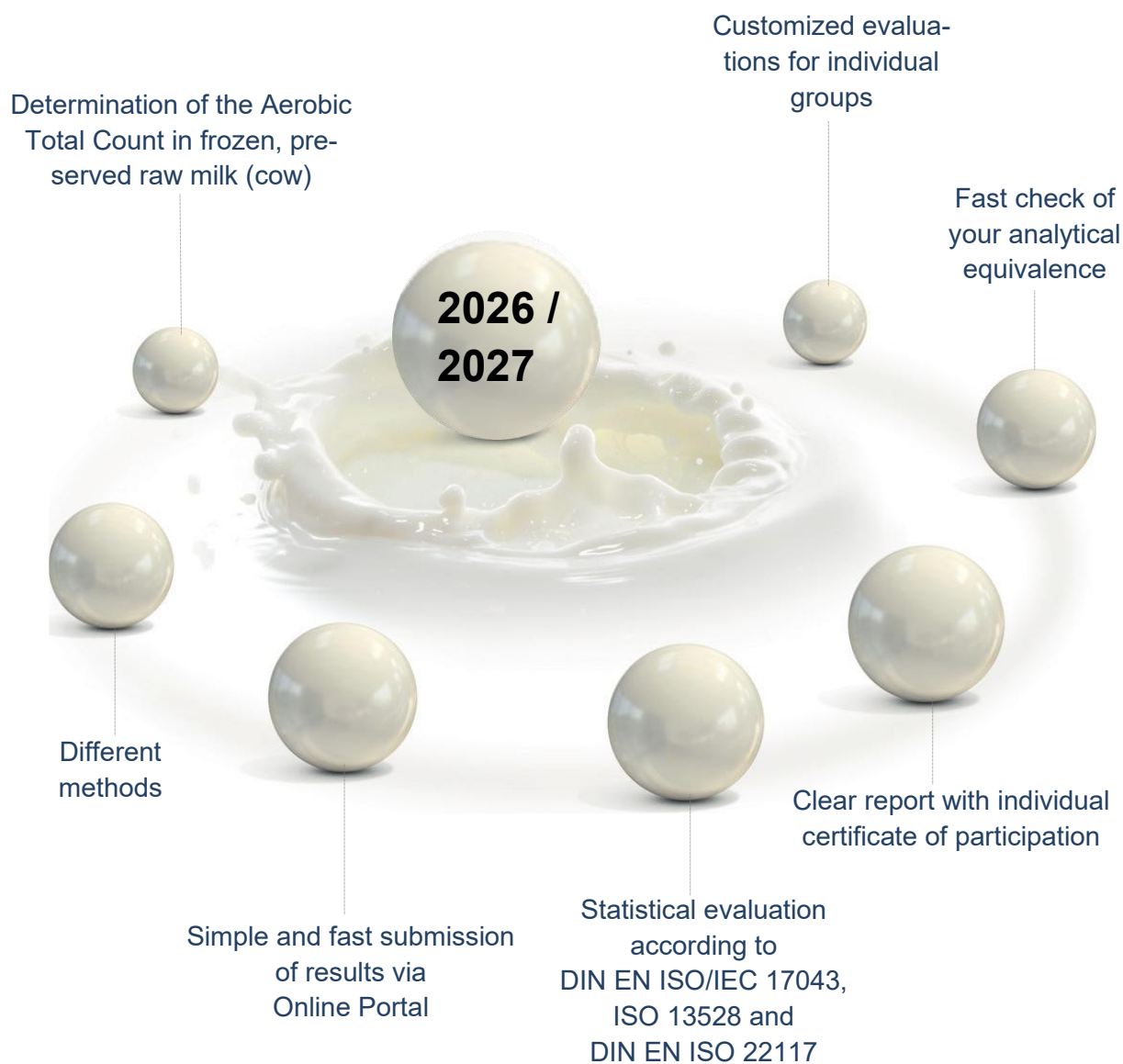


QSE Total Microbiological Count Proficiency Test



Your tool for quality assurance performance



Invitation to 5th Total Microbiological Count* Proficiency Test 2026/2027

2026-09-17

Dear Sir or Madam,

we are very pleased to invite you to participate in our 5th Total Microbiological Count Proficiency Test - determination of the Total Aerobic Bacterial Count in frozen, preserved raw milk (cow) - which will take place in January 2027.

Content and form of the proficiency test:

- The provider is QSE GmbH, which independently carries out the entire organization and implementation of the proficiency test. This includes the production and shipment of samples for the PT, homogeneity and stability tests, customer support, performance evaluation, and authorization/approval of the final report, certificates as well as the long-term evaluations.
- A competent subcontractor will be engaged to provide the PROLab_HUB online portal for transmitting results and performing statistical calculations.
- The responsibility for externally offered services lies with the proficiency test provider. Of course, all data is treated confidentially by both QSE GmbH and its subcontractors.
- For the analysis, both colony counting at 30 °C using the cast plate method and/or flow cytometric counting of microorganisms can be used (see Regulation on the Promotion of Raw Milk Quality (Raw Milk Quality Regulation)). The results must be reported in the unit CFU/ml.
- Laboratory facilities that comply with protection level 1 must be available for examining the samples.
- The 10 samples are supplied as frozen preserved raw cow's milk with different bacterial counts (naturally occurring bacterial counts). This guarantees high stability and easy handling. The sample volume per bottle is approximately 40 mL.
- We will confirm your participation with a certificate. The results will enable you to compare the analytical performance of your laboratory with third parties at an international level, ensure the quality of your analyses, and document your competence in accordance with ISO 17025.
- You will quickly receive a clear final report with simple graphs and tables.
- You can identify potential sources of error in the performance of your analysis and thus improve the performance of your laboratory.
- If you did not pass the proficiency test, you can reorder the sample material from us up to four weeks after the final report has been published and measure it again (costs according to the current product and price list). This is possible because our sample material has a long shelf life. This allows you to demonstrate in a pragmatic way that you are committed to identifying and solving problem areas in your analytical process.

The exact procedure for the proficiency test and the registration form are enclosed.

Sincerely,
QSE GmbH

Katharina Colosimo, QSE GmbH
Head of Division Proficiency Tests

This invitation was created automatically and is valid without a signature.

*This proficiency test is not included in the accredited scope

Timeline of the 5th Total Microbiological Count Proficiency Test 2026/2027

A prerequisite for participation in the microbiological proficiency test is the binding registration of your company. Please return the completed registration form to us by October 30, 2026, at the latest.

Please note the following procedure:

Schedule	Date	Content
Registration deadline	October 30, 2026	- The cost per sample set is €290 plus packaging and shipping costs. - Please fill in the registration form and send it to the following address by the specified date: <u>E-mail:</u> multipt@qse-gmbh.com <u>Mailing address:</u> QSE GmbH Steingruber Straße 6 91746 WEIDENBACH/TRIESDORF DEUTSCHLAND
Shipment of samples	January 25, 2027	 - Information on storage, preparation instructions, and safety data sheets are included with the sample shipment. - Please note that this is shock-frozen sample material. Handle the material as specified in the thawing instructions for storage and use. We also ask you to ensure that delivered packages are unpacked as soon as possible and that samples are refrozen if they are not used immediately. - If you do not receive the milk samples or receive them late, or if the delivery is damaged, you must notify QSE GmbH by January 28, 2027. Otherwise, you will be charged for the proficiency test. - For participants outside Germany, import fees and customs duties may apply in addition to delivery costs. These fees are not covered by QSE GmbH.
Deadline for result submission	February 15, 2027	- The results (in CFU/ml) are reported via our online portal PROLab_HUB (https://qse.quodata.de); you can log in here using your existing access data. - If you are taking part in our proficiency test for the first time, we will send you new access data along with the sample shipment. - Please note that the analysis results must be determined independently and without outside assistance using your own personnel and laboratory equipment in your own laboratory. Please also note that the test items must be treated in the same way as routine analysis samples. - We ask that you analyse each sample in duplicate. The measurements must be carried out under repeatable conditions. - The performance record includes all steps of the examination, including evaluation and interpretation of results. Therefore, "0" values and "</>" values are not included in the evaluation and do not receive a z-score. If the sample set is not analyzed entirely or if only individual values are transmitted, this will be indicated in the certificate and report. In the case of values that are reported with incorrect units, incorrect signs, or obvious transposed digits, the entire duplicate determination is excluded from the statistical evaluation. - If the results are only saved in the portal by the deadline for results but are not finally transmitted, we assume that the participant agrees with the usage of the results for the statistical evaluation. If no results are reported, the laboratory will not receive a certificate/confirmation of participation. It will only be given access to the report.

**Final report
and certificate**

March 18, 2027

- Statistical evaluation is carried out in accordance with DIN EN ISO/IEC 17043 in conjunction with ISO 13528 and DIN EN ISO 22117.
- The two methods are evaluated separately. QSE GmbH does not guarantee that the minimum number of participants for each method will be reached or that all registered participants will return their results. If the minimum number of participants is not reached, an informative evaluation will be carried out
- A laboratory has participated successfully if at least 80% of the results are considered acceptable ($|z| \leq 2$).
- You will receive the final report and certificate of participation via our online portal, where you can view your results using your laboratory code.

For **further information about the** proficiency test, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone

+49 (0)9826/6234-10 or mail: multipt@qse-gmbh.com.