

Outcome of the activities of the relana® working group

## **Analytical Quality Control (AQC)**

*Conclusion of the AQC approaches of private laboratories  
for pesticide residue analyses:*

***There are many ways to meet the requirements  
of the document SANTE***

***“Analytical Quality Control and Method Validation  
Procedures for Pesticide Residues Analysis in Food and Feed”  
which originally is dedicated to official laboratories***

**December 2023**

## Aims and objectives of the relana® working group

The SANTE Document on “Analytical Quality Control and Method Validation Procedures for Pesticide Residues Analysis in Food and Feed” is mandatory in the framework of ISO17025 accreditation and consequently applies to laboratories performing analyses on behalf of state authorities. All relana® laboratories thus are concerned meeting the requirements of this SANTE document in terms of analytical quality control and in terms of method validation procedures for pesticide residue analysis in food and feed.

A **working group of relana® laboratories was set up in 2020** to exchange different perspectives on the requirements formulated in the SANTE document. The outcome - the *relana® AQC document* - thus represents the contributions of all relana® laboratories. An additional objective of the working group was also sharing of knowledge related to routine constrains in private based laboratories meeting the requirements of the SANTE document.

As routine processes in private laboratories can be differently organised compared to those established in official laboratories, the activities of the relana® working group “Analytical Quality Control” follows the aim to consider also routine aspects of private laboratories.

In any case, analytical results between private and official laboratories should be comparable - thus the laboratories shall work on the same quality level.

As the SANTE document sometimes allows different choices for interpretation of the requirements, relana® considers some clarifications of these requirements.

The relana® working group members were asked to comment on selected SANTE chapters, which are considered being of highest importance in terms meeting analytical performances in routine analyses. Depending on the individual requirements, the relana® working group members either provided

- additional comments to the SANTE requirements, or
- re-formulated the requirements by their perspectives.

Conclusively, this paper addresses selected chapters of the SANTE document aiming to provide detailed procedures and interpretations of relevant requirements for the routine analyses of private laboratories.

The objective of this relana® AQC document is:

- the provision of appropriate tools for routine laboratories to meet the requirements of the SANTE document.
- the improvement of laboratories’ competencies and performances on a day-to-day routine level.
- to highlight that this document is not a closed, holistic overall work. In particular, the *relana® AQC document* addresses individual analytical aspects that private analytical service laboratories must face in their daily routines to meet the requirements of the SANTE document.

The document is intended to provide examples of possible solutions aimed at improving the performance and organisation of laboratories to provide reliable and valid analytical results.

**The document is NOT publicly available.**

For further information, please contact any relana® laboratory of your choice.