



## EAC PROFICIENCY TESTING SCHEME

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> ROUND 2023

#### Part 1: General Information

Proficiency Testing (PT) is one of the analytical tools laboratories use to benchmark with peers and also demonstrate their competencies. PT participation provides a quality assurance tool to laboratories in the region to compare performance and take necessary remedial action to facilitate improvement, to produce accurate and reliable test results.

The Bureaux of Standards in the EAC region have been given the mandate to organize Proficiency Testing Schemes as part of the EAC SQMT improvement. In the EAC region, the EAC PT Scheme is an annual activity, currently with one PT round covering all the matrices in the scheme.

During the EAC 17<sup>th</sup> round 2022, the matrices of Energy Drink, Instant Coffee, Green Coffee, Paints, Leather and Foam Mattresses were provided as free trial PT by TBS, UNBS and KEBS. However, it was agreed by the PT providers that in 2023, the matrices be provided as paid PT except Leather which is supported by PTB.

PT providers will send out two different samples where applicable each with a different composition profile, details of matrices, parameters, a brief description of test methods where applicable, and contact details of PT providers/coordinators/contact persons as indicated in Part 2 document attached.

This round of PT exercise is highly recommended for regions of the EAC, SADC, COMESA, MAGHREB, and ECOWAS. However, other regions (The Middle East, Europe, Asia, Latin America, USA, The Caribbean, etc) are equally encouraged to participate.

Please note the following:

- (i) The PT fee payable to the PT provider shall be USD 220 net per matrix exclusive of bank charges. The participants shall bear the cost of bank charges.
- (ii) PT participants from outside the East African Community region will be required to meet the cost of the courier charges for the delivery of the PT samples to their labs, in addition to the participation fee in (i) above.
- (iii) PT participation fee shall be paid before the PT samples are dispatched to the intending participants, and evidence of the payment shall be communicated to the PT Provider/Coordinator.
- (iv) Payment of the participation fee shall be made in advance before the said lab/institution can be deemed to have registered and confirmed participation in the PT round.

- (v) Registration for each round is a very important part of the planning stage. Registration is compulsory for every round and only registered laboratories will receive PT samples. No registration will be accepted after the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023 deadline.

The purpose of this notification is to announce the 18<sup>th</sup> EAC PT round and also to invite interested laboratories/institutions to register for participation in the PT round. In case your laboratory/institution is interested in participating in this 18<sup>th</sup> PT Round, kindly proceed and fill out the Registration form (Part 3), and send it by email to the respective PT coordinator/contact person indicated in the Part 2 document for the matrix of interest as soon as possible. Proforma Invoices containing banking information will only be issued on request and only after the duly completed registration forms have been received by the PT provider.

Immediately after receiving the invoice and banking information, you will be requested to proceed and pay the charges invoiced, and submit evidence of payment (see Note (ii) above) as soon as possible to the respective PT coordinator for the matrix in which you would like to participate (by e-mail). For any further information please contact any of the PT Contact persons indicated in the Part 2 document.

Additional information can be accessed from the websites of the respective PT providers indicated above. The same information can be accessed via the web link: <https://www.eptis.bam.de>

