

Terms of the proficiency test (PT)

DLA ptALS1 (2026) Allergen-Screening I - 4 Samples semi-quantitative: Almond, Brazil Nuts, Cashew, Coconut, Hazelnut, Macadamia, Pecan, Pine Nuts, Pistachio, Walnut (Test of Action Levels included)

Test material*:

There are **4 different samples** possibly containing the allergenic parameters **Almond, Brazil Nuts, Cashew, Coconut, Hazelnut, Macadamia, Pecan, Pine Nuts, Pistachio, Walnut** for qualitative determination. The allergens are contained in a simple food matrix (rice flour / maltodextrin) and all parameters are contained in 2 of 4 samples providing 2/3 and 1/6 of the new Action Levels (VITAL 4.0, 2024), respectively. The "action level" in mg/kg is calculated from the allergen protein reference dose per 100 g food portion. The positive detection of the 2/3 action level ensures that the action level can be detected safely even when the measurement uncertainty of the applied method is about 50%. While the 1/6 action level can proof the method performance at lower levels close to the LOQ.

Sample weight: 4 samples 20 g each.

* Note: Qualitative tests and testing of the content, homogeneity and stability of PT parameters are carried out by DLA. Additional tests can be subcontracted by DLA.

Methods + realisation time:

The analytical methods **ELISA (+ Lateral Flow), PCR (+ NGS) and LC/MS** can be applied for qualitative determinations. There is a 6 weeks period for performing the analysis. The results are transmitted online via our customer portal.

Evaluation report:

The **evaluation** is carried out **strictly qualitatively** (positive/negative) with indication of the obtained agreements with the consensus values of the participants and the spiking of samples 1-4.

All results including quantitative results, limits of detection and/or quantification and remarks to the methods will be documented. DLA intends to finish the evaluation report within 6 weeks after deadline of results submission.

Each participant receives an anonymized, complete evaluation report as a PDF-file, identifying the own results by individual code in case payment was done and can object in writing to the evaluation within 6 weeks.

Individual participant data will only be shared with third parties with the participant's prior consent or due to legal requirements. When sharing or publishing PT data or evaluations for scientific, educational or promotional purposes, all information will be anonymized to ensure the participant's confidentiality.

Registration:

The reliable order can be placed via our webshop at my DLA | participant's portal (<https://my.dla-pt.com/>) or by sending the PDF-form available on our website www.dla-lvu.de to DLA or our authorized sales partner.

Registration deadline is **April 2026-04-15**.

Shipment + number of participants:

Required minimum number of participants is 10. The samples will be sent to participants on **2026-04-22** by parcel service with tracking (delivery time 2-5 days within Europe, 2-10 days worldwide).

Deadline of result submission:

Last date for submission of results **2026-06-05**.

Invoice + price:

Invoicing will be done by DLA along with the sample shipment or by our authorized partner in parallel to the sample shipment. The price for the proficiency test is 400,- € (participation with one method) and 460,- € (participation with two or more methods) per participant plus shipping and tax. Costs for **double sample material** € 90,00. Please note: there can be a handling charge of approx. € 35,00 for payments from non-EU countries.

Shipping costs: within Germany € 12,50, EU-countries and Europe € 30,00, North America € 60,00 - 80,00, other countries approx. € 80,00 (e.g. South America, Asia), all shipping prices are provisional and subject to change. For cold shipping, additional costs of up to € 20,00 may be charged.

Our General Terms and Conditions GTC apply: www.dla-lvu.de/AGB.html

Status / last change: 17/02/2026