What is meant by reference activities?

For certain pathogens (viruses, bacteria, parasites) or major chemical contaminants, either regulated or emerging, the health authorities need to have the support of an effective surveillance system which depends on a network of reliable laboratories in order to conduct official analyses.

For each pathogen or regulated contaminant under surveillance, laboratories accredited for conducting analyses, as well as a “reference" laboratory, are appointed by the health authorities. This reference laboratory guarantees the reliability of the analyses conducted by all of the accredited laboratories. It may have:

- a national mandate (NRL for animal health, plant health or food safety),
- a European mandate (EURL, in which case it leads a network of national reference laboratories) or,
- an international mandate (OIE Reference Laboratory).

Depending on the pathogen or contaminant being investigated and the level of circulation of the agent under scrutiny, the number of accredited laboratories to be supervised can vary from just a few to nearly one hundred.

A collaborating centre (OIE or WHO) and a reference centre (EU or FAO) are centres of expertise appointed in a particular area of competence.
ANSES holds 65 national reference mandates, 13 European mandates and 29 international mandates.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- FAO RC: FAO Reference Centre

World Health Organization
- WHO CC: WHO Collaborating Centre

World Organisation for Animal Health
- OIE RL: OIE Reference Laboratory
- OIE CC: OIE Collaborating Centre

European Union
- EURL: European Union Reference Laboratory
- EURC: European Union Reference Centre

National
- NRL: National Reference Laboratory

Reference Laboratories develop and validate official analysis methods for pathogens or contaminants for which they have been designated and send them to Laboratories in view of their accreditation.

In order to guarantee the accuracy of the analyses conducted by the laboratory network it coordinates, a Reference Laboratory organises training sessions on the newly developed methods and performs inter-laboratory proficiency tests (ILPTs), which test the effectiveness of official analyses.

These inter-laboratory proficiency tests are organised at a rhythm which is determined by the Reference Laboratory itself depending on the difficulty of the method implemented and the maturity of the laboratory network. Frequency varies between one and four tests over a two-year period.

In practice, the Reference Laboratory sends the accredited laboratories samples to analyse, the contents of which are known only to the Reference Laboratory itself. Accredited laboratories implement the official method and submit their results to the Reference Laboratory. All non-compliant results require discussions with the laboratory or laboratories concerned, in order to identify the adjustments which need to be applied.

These reference activities place ANSES at the core of the analysis networks. Thus, the Agency benefits from a direct link to the field, which is essential for its monitoring and alert missions, and which enables it to be highly responsive when pathogens or contaminants emerge or re-emerge in France.

FRENCH AGENCY FOR FOOD, ENVIRONMENTAL
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anses

Reference Mandates

August 2021

INVESTIGATE, EVALUATE, PROTECT

ANSES Reference Mandates

FRENCH AGENCY FOR VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

OIE Mandate	
Veterinary medicinal products	OIE CC

FOUGÈRES LABORATORY

EU Mandates	
Residues of antibacterial substances and dyes in food	EURL
NATIONAL Mandates	
Antimicrobial resistance	NRL
Residues of veterinary medicinal products and dyes in foodstuffs of origin and animal feed (except glucocorticoids) (Annex I of Council Directive 96/23/CE)	NRL

SOPHIA ANTIPOLIS LABORATORY

OIE Mandates	
Bee diseases (6 mandates[1])	OIE RL
Q Fever	OIE RL
EU Mandates	
Bee health	EURL
NATIONAL Mandates	
Bee health	NRL
Pesticides in food of animal origin and commodities with high fat content	Laboratory affiliated to the NRL
Q Fever	NRL

[1] Infection of honey bees with *Melissococcus plutonius* (European foulbrood) / *Paenibacillus larvae* (American foulbrood) / *Tropilaelaps* spp. / *Varroa* spp. (Varroosis) / *Aethina tumida* (Small hive beetle) / Nosemosis of honey bees.

PLANT HEALTH LABORATORY

EU Mandates for plant pests	
Insects and mites[3]	EURL
Fungi and oomycetes	EURL
Nematodes[3]	EURL
NATIONAL Mandates	
Bacteria (bananas, citrus and tropical plants)	NRL
Bacteria (other other than bacteria on banana, citrus and tropical plants, and other than regulated non-quarantine bacteria on true seeds (except *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp *insidiosus*))	NRL
Fungi (other than regulated non-quarantine fungi on true seeds, and on strawberry, asparagus and *Allium sp.* planting material)	NRL
GMOs in maize (vegetative parts), potato, beet, rice, cotton, wheat and vegetable plants (seeds and vegetative parts)	NRL
Insect plant pests (other than true seeds regulated non-quarantine bruchids), plant parasitic mites and biological control agents	NRL
Invasive plants	NRL
Phytoplasmas (all matrices)	NRL
Plant parasitic nematodes (other than regulated non-quarantine nematods on true seeds, and on strawberry, and *Allium sp.* planting material)	NRL
Sharka virus (PPV), potato viruses and citrus viruses	NRL
Viroids (all matrices)	NRL
Viruses (bananas and tropical plants)	NRL
Viruses (other than viruses on banana and tropical plants, other than Sharka virus (PPV), other than potato viruses, other than citrus viruses and other than Pepino mosaic virus on true seeds)	NRL

NANCY LABORATORY FOR HYDROLOGY

NATIONAL Mandates	
Water intended for human consumption, natural mineral water and water used for leisure activities	Biology NRL
Water intended for human consumption, natural mineral water and water used for leisure activities	Chemistry NRL

[3] As a leader of a consortium with at least one partner.

LABORATORY FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

Maisons-Alfort and Normandy sites

FAO Mandate	
Foot-and-mouth disease and vesicular diseases	FAO RC
OIE Mandates	
Avian chlamydiosis	OIE RL
Bovine tuberculosis	OIE RL
Brucellosis (3 mandates[2])	OIE RL
Contagious equine metritis	OIE RL
Dourine	OIE RL
Enzootic abortion of ewes (ovine chlamydiosis)	OIE RL
Epizootic haemorrhagic disease	OIE RL
Foodborne zoonotic parasites from the European Region	OIE RL
Foot-and-mouth disease	OIE RL
Glanders	OIE RL
Ovine epididymitis (*Brucella ovis*)	OIE RL
EU Mandates	
Brucellosis	EURL
Equine diseases (other than African horse sickness)	EURL
Foot-and-mouth disease[3]	EURL
NATIONAL Mandates	
African horse sickness	NRL
Animal anthrax	NRL
Avian chlamydiosis	NRL
Bluetongue	NRL
Brucellosis in animals (including official control of brucellins)	NRL
Contagious equine metritis	NRL
Dourine	NRL
Epizootic haemorrhagic disease in deer	NRL
Equine herpes virus	NRL
Equine infectious anaemia	NRL
Equine viral arteritis	NRL
Food-borne parasites, excluding *Echinococcus* sp.	NRL
Foot-and-mouth disease	NRL
Glanders	NRL
Swine vesicular disease	NRL
Tuberculosis (including official control of reagents for use in analyses, especially tuberculins)	NRL
Tularaemia (clinical form)	NRL
Vesicular stomatitis	NRL
Viral encephalitis in equids: West Nile encephalitis	NRL

LYON LABORATORY

FAO Mandate	
Antimicrobial resistance	FAO RC
NATIONAL Mandate	
Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies	NRL

NANCY LABORATORY FOR RABIES AND WILDLIFE

WHO Mandate	
Zoonoses (research and management)	WHO CC
OIE Mandate	
Rabies	OIE RL
EU Mandates	
Rabies	EURL
Rabies serology	EURL
NATIONAL Mandates	
Echinococcus spp.	NRL
Rabies (including monitoring the effectiveness of rabies vaccines)	NRL

[2] *Brucella abortus, Brucella melitensis, Brucella suis.*

LABORATORY FOR FOOD SAFETY

Maisons-Alfort and Boulogne-sur-Mer sites

EU Mandates	
Coagulase positive staphylococci (including *Staphylococcus aureus*)	EURL
Listeria monocytogenes	EURL
NATIONAL Mandates	
Avian botulism	Laboratory affiliated to the NRL
Coagulase-positive staphylococci, including *Staphylococcus aureus* and staphylococcal enterotoxins	NRL
Foodborne parasites, excluding *Echinococcus sp.*	Laboratory affiliated to the NRL
Foodborne viruses in foodstuffs of animal origin (other than shellfish)	NRL
Histamine in fishery and aquaculture products	NRL
Listeria monocytogenes	NRL
Marine biotoxins	NRL
Pesticide residues in foodstuffs of animal origin and high-fat products (Annex I of Council Directive 96/23/EC)	Laboratory affiliated to the NRL
Pesticide single-residue methods	NRL
Salmonella spp.	Laboratory affiliated to the NRL
Trace metals in foodstuffs of animal origin (Annex I of Council Directive 96/23/EC)	NRL
Vibrio spp. in fishery products	NRL

PLOUFRAGAN - PLOUZANÉ - NIORT LABORATORY

OIE Mandates	
Aujeszky's disease	OIE RL
Infectious bursal disease (Gumboro disease)	OIE RL
Paratuberculosis	OIE RL
Turkey rhinotracheitis	OIE RL
EU Mandates	
Welfare of poultry and other small farmed animals[3]	EURC
NATIONAL Mandates	
African swine fever	NRL
Antimicrobial resistance	NRL
Aujeszky's disease	NRL
Avian botulism	NRL
Avian influenza	NRL
Avian salmonellosis	NRL
Bovine hypodermosis	NRL
Bovine viral diarrhoea	NRL
Campylobacter spp.	NRL
Classical swine fever	NRL
Enzootic Bovine Leukosis	NRL
Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis	NRL
Mycoplasmoses in poultry	NRL
Newcastle disease	Laboratory affiliated to the NRL
Listed fish diseases	NRL
Salmonella spp.	NRL
Swine influenza	NRL