

Reference

Whether in the area of animal health, plant health or food safety, the health authorities need an effective surveillance system based on a network of reliable laboratories to conduct official analyses of certain common, exotic and emerging health hazards. These hazards are usually of major importance and regulated. They can be pathogenic micro-organisms (viruses, bacteria, fungi, parasites), macro-organisms (insect pests, invasive plants) or chemical contaminants.

For every health hazard or class of health hazards that needs to be monitored, a "reference" laboratory is designated by the national, European or international health authorities. Most of the time, approved laboratories for conducting official field analyses are also designated, along with, in some specific situations, recognised laboratories for carrying out own check analyses for companies in the food processing sector.

Each reference laboratory ensures the reliability of the analyses carried out by all the officially designated laboratories.

Through their multiple national, European and international reference mandates, ANSES's laboratories are largely responsible for the proper functioning of the official analysis system, which guarantees territorial surveillance and the safe trade of animals, plants and foodstuffs in France and Europe.

ANSES holds 66 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 • WOAHL RL: WOAHL Reference Laboratory • WOAHL CC: WOAHL Collaborating Centre	
European Union • EURL: European Union Reference Laboratory • EURC: European Union Reference Centre	
National • NRL: National Reference Laboratory	

The missions of a reference laboratory

To ensure the reliability of the analyses performed by the network of laboratories under its responsibility, a reference laboratory develops, approves and transfers analytical methods. To do so, it produces and characterises or acquires reference materials and creates and maintains a collection of characterised samples that it uses for its activities. When possible (depending on costs and availability), and if necessary, it can share some of these products with its network of laboratories.

With the same objective of ensuring reliable analyses, the reference laboratory can monitor the quality of the biological reagents used for analyses in its sphere of competence and can distribute, within this framework, certain reference materials and/or characterised samples to reagent producers.

The reference laboratory organises training for its network of laboratories and also carries out inter-laboratory proficiency tests (PTs) to verify the performance of the network's laboratories.

Tools useful for the reference laboratory's activities are developed by the Agency; these include glossaries, guides for the validation and transfer of analytical methods, and transfer file templates.

These reference activities place Anses at the heart of the analysis networks. In this way, the Agency benefits from a direct link with the field, which is essential for its monitoring and alert missions, giving it greater responsiveness in the event of a resurgence or emergence of new pathogens and contaminants in the area of competence of the reference laboratory.



Reference Mandates

Read more



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Investigate, evaluate, protect

ANSES Reference Mandates

FRENCH AGENCY FOR VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

Antimicrobial Resistance*	FAO RC
Veterinary medicinal products	WOAH CC

NANCY LABORATORY FOR RABIES AND WILDLIFE

Research and management on zoonoses control	WHO CC
Rabies	WOAH CC
Rabies	EURL
Rabies serology	EURL
<i>Echinococcus</i> spp.	NRL
Rabies (including monitoring the effectiveness of rabies vaccines)	NRL

FOUGÈRES LABORATORY

Antimicrobial Resistance*	FAO RC
Residues of antibacterial substances and dyes in food	EURL
Residues of certain substances ¹ covered by regulations on veterinary medicinal products	NRL
Antimicrobial resistance	NRL

NANCY LABORATORY FOR HYDROLOGY

Monitoring of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater and sewage sludge	NRL
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

LYON LABORATORY

Antimicrobial resistance*	FAO RC
Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies	NRL

SOPHIA ANTIPOLIS LABORATORY

Bee diseases (6 mandates) ²	WOAH RL
Q Fever	WOAH RL
Bee health	EURL
Bee health	NRL
Pesticide residues in foodstuffs of animal origin and commodities with high fat content	Laboratory affiliated to the NRL
Residues of certain substances ¹ covered by regulations on veterinary medicinal products	Laboratory affiliated to the NRL
Q Fever	NRL

LABORATORY FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

Maisons-Alfort and Normandy sites

Foot-and-mouth disease and vesicular diseases	FAO RC
Avian chlamydiosis	WOAH RL
Bovine tuberculosis	WOAH RL
Brucellosis (3 mandates) ³	WOAH RL
Contagious equine metritis	WOAH RL
Dourine	WOAH RL
Enzootic abortion of ewes (ovine chlamydiosis)	WOAH RL
Epizootic haemorrhagic disease	WOAH RL
Foodborne zoonotic parasites from the European Region	WOAH CC
Foot-and-mouth disease	WOAH RL
Glanders	WOAH RL
Ovine epididymitis (<i>Brucella ovis</i>)	WOAH RL
Brucellosis	EURL
Equine diseases (other than African horse sickness)	EURL
Foot-and-mouth disease ⁴	EURL
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 - Equine Surra	NRL
Epizootic haemorrhagic disease in deer	NRL
Equine herpes virus	NRL
Equine infectious anaemia	NRL
Equine viral arteritis	NRL
Food-borne parasites, excluding <i>Echinococcus</i> sp.	NRL
Foot-and-mouth disease	NRL
Glanders	NRL

Continued

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

PLANT HEALTH LABORATORY

Insects and mites ⁴	EURL
Fungi and oomycetes	EURL
Nematodes ⁴	EURL
Bacteria (bananas, citrus and tropical plants)	NRL
Bacteria (except those covered by other mandates held by ANSES or by another body ⁵)	NRL
Fungi and oomycetes (except those covered by other mandates held by another body ⁵)	NRL
GMOs in maize (vegetative parts), potato, beet, rice, cotton, wheat and vegetable plants (seeds and vegetative parts)	NRL
Insects, mites plant pests and auxiliaries (except those covered by other mandates held by another body ⁵)	NRL
Invasive plants	NRL
Phytoplasmas (all matrices)	NRL
Plant parasitic nematodes (except those covered by other mandates held by another body ⁵)	NRL
Sharka virus (PPV), potato viruses and citrus viruses	NRL
Viroids (all matrices)	NRL
Viruses (bananas and tropical plants)	NRL
Viruses (except those covered by other mandates held by ANSES and Pepino mosaic virus on true seeds)	NRL

LABORATORY FOR FOOD SAFETY

Maisons-Alfort and Boulogne-sur-Mer sites

<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> Coagulase positive staphylococci (including <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>)	EURL
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	EURL
Coagulase-positive staphylococci, including <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> and staphylococcal enterotoxins	NRL
Foodborne parasites, excluding <i>Echinococcus</i> sp.	Laboratory affiliated to the NRL
Foodborne viruses in foodstuffs of animal origin (excluding shellfish)	NRL
Histamine in fishery and aquaculture products	NRL
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	NRL
Marine biotoxins	NRL
Pesticide residues by single-residue methods	NRL
Pesticide residues in foodstuffs of animal origin and commodities with high fat content	NRL
Residues of certain substances ¹ covered by regulations on veterinary medicinal products	Laboratory affiliated to the NRL
<i>Salmonella</i> spp.	Laboratory affiliated to the NRL
Trace metals in foodstuffs of animal origin (according to Annex I of the Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/931)	NRL
<i>Vibrio</i> spp. in fishery products	NRL

PLOUFRAGAN - PLOUZANÉ - NIORT LABORATORY

Antimicrobial Resistance*	FAO RC
Aujeszky's disease	WOAH RL
Infectious bursal disease (Gumboro disease)	WOAH RL
Paratuberculosis	WOAH RL
Turkey rhinotracheitis	WOAH RL
Welfare of poultry and other small farmed animals ⁴	EURC
African swine fever	NRL
Antimicrobial resistance	Laboratory affiliated to the NRL
Aujeszky's disease	NRL
Avian botulism	NRL
Avian influenza	NRL
Avian salmonellosis	NRL
Bovine hypodermosis	NRL
Bovine viral diarrhoea	NRL
<i>Campylobacter</i> spp.	NRL
Classical swine fever	NRL
Enzootic Bovine Leukosis	NRL
Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis	NRL
Listed fish diseases	NRL
Mycoplasmoses in poultry	NRL
Newcastle disease	NRL
<i>Salmonella</i> spp.	NRL
Swine influenza	NRL

¹ prohibited substances listed in table 2 of Regulation (EU) 37/2010 and dyes (groups A2a, A2b, A2c, A2d and A3a according to Annex 1 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1644; - pharmacologically active substances not listed in Table 1 of the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 37/2010, or substances not authorised for use in food-producing animals (A3b, A3c, A3d, A3f according to Annex 1 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1644); - pharmacologically active substances authorised for use in food-producing animals (B1a, B1b, B1c, B1d except corticosteroids and glucocorticoids, B1e, and B2 according to Annex 1 of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1644).

² 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.

³ *Brucella abortus*, *Brucella melitensis*, *Brucella suis*.

⁴ leading a consortium with one or more partners.

⁵ Regulated non-quarantine bacteria on true seeds (except *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *insidiosus*).

⁶ Regulated non-quarantine fungi on true seeds, strawberry plants, asparagus clumps and *Allium* bulbs.

⁷ Regulated non-quarantine bruchids on true seeds.

⁸ Regulated non-quarantine nematodes on true seeds, strawberry plants and *Allium* bulbs (except *Longidorus elongatus*, *L. attenuatus*, *L. macrosoma*, *Xiphinema diversicaudatum*).

* Activities spread over several ANSES entities.