

Flexible scope experience in Finnish Food Safety authority Evira in Finland

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EPPO workshop on flexible scope
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Scopes

- Currently only one flexible scope for detecting viruses with ELISA (+ 10 fixed scopes)
- Preparing for accreditation of several flexible scopes (September 2017)

Flexible scope		
Material/product	Type of test/ measured range	Test method
Plantmaterial	Viruses	ELISA, RT-PCR, real-time PCR
Plantmaterial	Phytophthora sp.	ELISA, PCR, real-time PCR
Plantmaterial, invertebrate	Invertebrates (pests of plants)	Morphology, PCR, real-time PCR

Validation

- At least one test per organism group and test type has been validated 'completely' according to PM 7/98
 - Other (commercially available/adopted from literature) tests are verified for
 - Analytical sensitivity: dilution series from one positive sample, tested three times
 - Analytical specificity: one - several targets + one – several non-targets (depends on availability)
 - Repeatability: three tests conducted with same materials by the same operator (data collected from positive and negative controls used during routine testing)
 - Reproducibility: three tests conducted with same materials by different operators (data collected from positive and negative controls used during routine testing)

Quality assurance

- Positive and negative control (+ extraction controls, water control, environmental controls where applicable) in each test

- Blind samples according to a multiple year plan:
 - Each method is tested every year
 - Each organism group is tested every year
 - Each person takes part in testing the blind samples each year

- Proficiency tests conducted when available
 - a multiple year plan exists, but tests are not always available

- Internal audits according to a multiple year plan
 - Each method/organism group is not audited each year

Demonstrating expertise

- CV with education and work experience (prior to working in Evira)
- Current qualifications for performing tests
- Participation in proficiency tests and testing the blind samples
- Participation in training courses