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Proficiency testing

Participation in proficiency testing is a proven way for laboratories to monitor, safeguard and improve the quality of their analyses and therefore serves as a means to evaluate a laboratory's competence. Since many years DUCARES organises proficiency tests and develops new proficiency tests continuously. DUCARES is supported by a network of experts from industry, research institutions and (semi) government. Proficiency tests can be executed in relation to the whole food and feed sector on macro-and micro-nutrients, additives, contaminants, critical and prohibited substances.

DUCARES was the first company in the Netherlands to have the ISO 17043 accreditation for organising proficiency tests. In addition to frequent ISO 17043 accredited proficiency tests, DUCARES can provide fast and customised services regarding matrices, parameters, methods, statistics, performance characteristics, reporting and follow-up.

Quality and privacy are of crucial important for DUCARES. All our processes are secure, traceable and anonymous.

Quality

DUCARES is ISO/IEC 17025 accredited for performing chemical analyses. DUCARES also holds an ISO/IEC 17043 accreditation for the organisation of proficiency tests. A full overview of DUCARES' accredited analyses and proficiency test is published on the website of the Dutch Accreditation Council (RvA).

As a recognised laboratory, DUCARES is also obligated to safeguard, improve and regularly benchmark the quality

of its analyses. This is facilitated by our participation in proficiency tests directed by European Union Reference Laboratories, in which DUCARES consistently achieves high scores.



How can we assist you?

If you have any questions or would like to engage our research services, please contact us.

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Pioneering research and contract laboratory

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About DUCARES

An independent and autonomous TNO company, DUCARES was founded as a leading research and contract laboratory on 1 January 2008, formed out of well-established TNO research activities, namely: Hormones, Veterinary Medicines & Proficiency Testing.

DUCARES is specialised in the development and performance of chemical analyses aimed at the protection and promotion of:

- Animal food safety and quality
- Animal health and welfare
- The development of veterinary medicines

We also actively design and organise proficiency testing.

Our services are provided to Dutch and foreign companies, government institutes and private clients, primarily in the following markets:

- Livestock production sector (agrofood)
- Animal feed sector (agrofeed)
- Veterinary medicine sector (pharma)

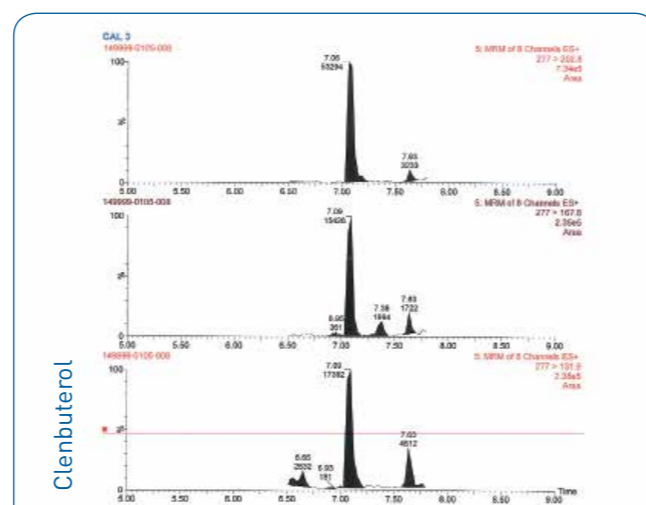
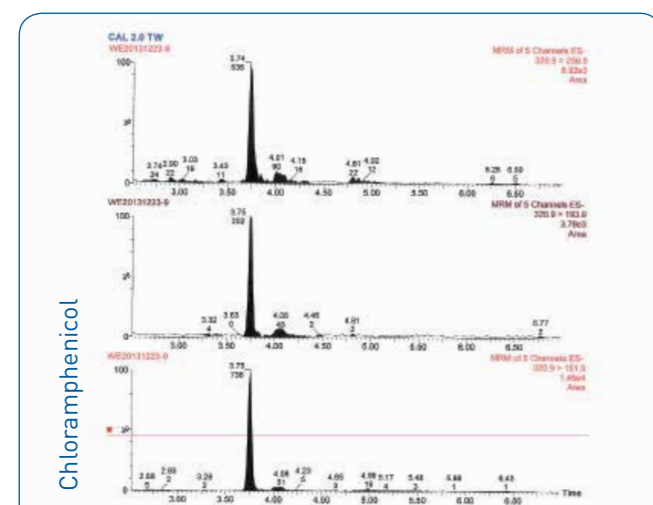
Advising clients and providing input and ideas is a central part of our package of services. As a regular participant in national and international applied scientific research projects, we are knowledgeable about all the latest scientific developments.

Superior technology - mass spectrometry

DUCARES uses mass spectrometry for its analyses. This is a technique with many applications for the detection, identification and quantification of molecules in biological and chemical compounds. Mass spectrometry is commonly employed in residue analysis, doping tests, forensic

investigations, to determine molecule structures and in impurity profiling.

DUCARES can conduct all of these. DUCARES has several UPLC-MS/MS (triple quad MS) and one Q-TOF MS.



What can DUCARES do for you?

Food safety

Consumers, producers and government authorities demand food safety. Working across the food safety chain, DUCARES makes key contributions to food safety assurance and improvement. We facilitate inspections and conduct chemical analyses. Analyses are performed on contaminants and residues of permitted and prohibited human and veterinary

medicines, and can be used to trace antibiotics, hormones and other substance residues, for example. These analyses are performed in a variety of matrices including animal feed, water, meat, organs, blood, urine, faeces, eyes and hair.

Animal health and veterinary medicine research

In need of a lab equipped to conduct mass spectrometry measurements to ISO/GLP standards? And looking for a lab that can carry out research-driven analyses on top of the routine work – for example for applications in the development and quality assurance of veterinary medicines? Look no further than DUCARES.

Our skilled and qualified staff have extensive knowledge in the field of veterinary medicine, and we also have considerable experience in all aspects of veterinary medicine development and the associated preparation of registration dossiers.

Knowledge and method development

With a team of specialised, skilled staff members, DUCARES has extensive knowledge on - and develops - methods for:

- The analysis of contaminants and residues of permitted and prohibited human and veterinary medicines
- The detection and/or verification of concentrations of hazardous substances in foods and animal feed

- The demonstration, verification and quantification of the presence of specific proteins, whether as desirable or undesirable additives
- The (rapid) demonstration of the presence of undesirable substances in (large) sets of samples
- The chemical profiling of samples

Consultancy

DUCARES is an analytical laboratory offering consultancy services, and can develop and conduct new analyses within a short time span as needed. Results are meticulously interpreted and reported and, if desired, furnished with our

recommendations (including legal). It goes without saying that all research results are treated with the utmost confidentiality.