



To Local Government Environmental Health Teams

Guidance for Laboratory submissions in WA

The Local Health Authorities Analytical Committee (LHAAC) Sampling Scheme aims to facilitate local government access to analytical services for the purpose of monitoring and protecting community health.

The LHAAC scheme currently has contracts with the following analytical service providers:

- **AgriFood Technology (food, water and environmental microbial and chemistry testing),**
- **ChemCentre WA (water chemistry testing only),**
- **Eurofins ARL (food, water and environmental microbial and chemistry testing),**
- **PathWest (microbial testing only) and**
- **Symbio Laboratories (food, water and environmental microbial and chemistry testing)**

While the above LHAAC contracted Analysts are NATA accredited laboratory facilities and registered Food Analysts under the *Food Act 2008*, not all analytical methods offered are NATA accredited.

The Department of Health (DOH) Environmental Health Directorate funds PathWest to analyse food and water samples collected by local government as part of the state's critical and/or legislated monitoring programs.

The DOH has direct arrangements in place with PathWest to allow for automatic direct data transfer from PathWest to the DOH's databases to allow for timely reporting and data trending.

To assist local government, the table below provides guidance on laboratory submissions based on sampling program/investigations and funding arrangements:

DOH funded programs (Samples to be submitted to PathWest)	LHAAC funded programs (Samples to be submitted to any of the LHAAC contracted analysts*)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water sampling for aquatic facilities microbial analysis prescribed under the <i>Health (Aquatic Facilities) Regulations 2007</i>. 	LHAAC Coordinated Sampling Projects (CSPs)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental recreational water quality microbial monitoring. • Drinking water microbial monitoring • Air handling water system testing (legionella investigations) • Wastewater microbial monitoring (recycled waters) 	Request for analysis of ad-hoc environmental health hazards not listed in the left column or not part of a CSP (for example: asbestos, bore water/rainwater tank sampling, nutrient sampling)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foodborne pathogen outbreak or DOH coordinated investigations 	Investigation of community-based complaints or public health risks identified by EHOs (for example, foreign objects in

	food, unauthorised discharge to rivers/drains)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National coordinated food sampling surveys 	Local Government routine (discretionary) sampling activities (for example, food quality/nutritional testing, randomised food microbial testing, surface swab samples from food or skin penetration businesses)

*LHAAC contracted analysts: Agrifood Technology, ChemCentre WA, Eurofins ARL, PathWest and Symbio Laboratories

A decision-making chart is attached to assist with choosing the relevant lab and chain of custody form based on the funding arrangements by either DOH or LHAAC.

Note:

- If the sample collected cannot be analysed by Pathwest or LHAAC contracted analysts, then contact the Department of Health for further advice.
- Funding arrangements between LHAAC/DOH with the relevant laboratories cover only the in-laboratory analytical and data management costs.
- Cost of taking the sample on site and delivery to the laboratory are not included therefore need to be paid for by:
 - either the proprietor or landowner,
 - the Local Government, or
 - other funding arrangements (contact LHAAC for further assistance).

Contacts for further information:

LHAAC Coordinator - Ryan Janes

DOH - Henry Tan (Food) and Richard Theobald (Water) 9222 2000

Resources:

DoH Funded arrangements: [PathWest Forms](#)

LHAAC Funded arrangements: [LHAAC Chain of Custody Forms](#)

Guidance for Laboratory Selection and Chain of Custody (COC) form – PathWest vs LHAAC

