



Network of recognized laboratories performing challenge-tests in France

CONSTITUTION OF THE NETWORK

- In France, the Competent Authority has decided to set up a network of recognized laboratories for challenge-testing

How were these laboratories selected ?

- In 2013, a working group of the Competent Authority and of the NRL *Listeria monocytogenes*, made a first selection based on an application file sent by labs to the Ministry of Agriculture
- Selected criteria applied:
 - ✓ use of the french standard on challenge-tests or the EURL *Lm* technical guidance document
 - ✓ accreditation or participation to PT on detection and enumeration of *Lm*, on pH and a_w measurements
 - ✓ be experienced in achieving challenge-tests



CONSTITUTION OF THE NETWORK

- In 2014, initial audits were realized by the NRL *Listeria monocytogenes* on the retained laboratories
 - The initial audit includes a review of several reports depending on:
 - ✓ the area of the application: assessment of the growth potential and/or assessment of the maximum growth rate
 - ✓ the repository used: French standard and /or the EURL Lm technical guidance document
 - For each report, the following points were expertised:
 - the data provided by the FBO
 - the protocol of the challenge-test



CONSTITUTION OF THE NETWORK

- Depending on the conclusion of the audit, the laboratory is recognized or not by the Competent Authority for the type of challenge test performed
 - Currently 12 laboratories belong to this network of recognized laboratories for challenge-testing
 - Possibility to enter the network at any time



ROLE OF THE NRL Lm

- Realisation of on site-audits
- Organization of a training on shelf-life studies
- Organization of an annual proficiency testing
 - PT for assessing the growth potential
 - PT for assessing the maximum growth rate
- Organization of an annual meeting of the network



What about in your country?

accreditation of labs?

recognition of labs?

What is the procedure?

