

Criteria for Centres Of Expertise

The Analytical Methods Working Group (AMWG) considered and endorsed a set of criteria that a Centre of Expertise for food authenticity testing would be expected to demonstrate. These criteria also reflect the recommendations contained in the recently published AMWG report in response to Recommendation 4 of the Elliott review on laboratory services carrying out food authenticity testing.¹

Centres of Expertise should be:

- Operating in the food authenticity field and a recognised expertise in one or more of the key methodologies used in food authenticity testing.
- Accredited to ISO 17025 for the pertinent analytical techniques.
- Demonstrating the use of “Fitness for purpose” criteria when carrying out analytical measurement in food authenticity testing which uphold the basic principles of the Eurachem guide.
- Demonstrate a proven track record in method validation, data interpretation and evaluation and reporting of analytical results.
- Experience in dealing with complex technical authenticity challenges and the ability to provide solutions.
- Capacity to provide advice on areas of expertise and assist others through partnership working or sharing of information
- Able to demonstrate collaborative working and a willingness to enhance the UKs standing in the field of authenticity testing.

¹ Response to Elliott review on ‘integrity and assurance of food supply networks’ –Recommendation 4