

## 21th Needle/Leaf Interlaboratory Comparison Test

Dear colleague,

The Forest Foliar Co-ordinating Centre invites your laboratory to participate in its 21<sup>th</sup> Needle/Leaf Interlaboratory Comparison Test 2018/2019. The test is open for all laboratories but is primary needed to check the laboratory and data quality of the *ICP-FORESTS laboratories*, which analysing the foliage, litterfall and ground vegetation data collected for the monitoring activities within UN/ECE ICP-FORESTS program.

- To improve the communication between the laboratories, it was decided to open the laboratory codes within the group of the laboratories, the NFCs and the QA/QC working group and the Expert Panel Foliage and Litterfall. The report will only mention the Lab ID.
- Pre-set tolerable limits will be applied on the ring test results as in the former tests (see <http://bfw.ac.at/rz/bfwcms2.web?dok=2896>)
- Maximum tolerable limits of quantification will be applied on the ring test results (see: <http://bfw.ac.at/rz/bfwcms2.web?dok=8882>).
- The registration and the data submission for this Interlaboratory Comparison Test must be done on-line from the participants, using following link [http://bfw.ac.at/ws/ring\\_nadel.login](http://bfw.ac.at/ws/ring_nadel.login)
- To register you need your Lab ID and your password.

In case of any problems, please contact Alfred Fürst by email ([Alfred.fuerst@bfw.gv.at](mailto:Alfred.fuerst@bfw.gv.at)). **The registration is open till 2018-07-09.**

- The **participation fee is 250€**. Please, fill the billing information on the registration page carefully to avoid extra costs. If you need your VAT number and an order

number on the invoice, please write it here. Also special requirements for the invoice can be noted or added here or send per email to me, **before** the invoice will be submitted. **If the invoice must be re-submitted, because of missing or wrong billing data extra costs from 25 € must be paid.**

- Data submission is only possible AFTER we receive your participation fee **till 2019-01-01.**
- **Remember that all results have to be reported on an oven-dry basis (105°C) and you had to analyse four replicates.**
- The results for the elements S, N, P, K, Ca, Mg, C, Zn, Mn, Fe, Cu, Pb, Cd, B, As, Co, Cr, Hg and Ni will be evaluated in the report. All possible parameters you can find here: <http://bfw.ac.at/rz/bfwcms2.web?dok=3078>. All other submitted parameters will be only reported.
- **NEW:** To avoid unit errors a new feature is implemented in the web interface. You can submit your results in the same units like you use in your laboratory. You can select the units on the data input page. During data submission the results will be recalculated in the correct unit used for the ring test. But further corrections must be done in this unit format!
- All participating *ICP-Forests* laboratories must analyze at **least all mandatory parameters (N, S, P, Ca, Mg, K and C).**
- A system for qualification and re-qualification is foreseen for this test. After the ringtest each participant can download a qualification report. It has been decided to qualify the results of each parameter separately. If 50% or more of the results for this parameter for all the samples of the ringtest are within the tolerable limits, the laboratory is qualified for this parameter. **Re-qualification is mandatory for ICP-Forests laboratories, if monitoring survey results (foliage, litterfall, ground vegetation) are reported to the PCC database in Eberswalde from the vegetation period 2018.** Deadline for the requalification is always the 1<sup>st</sup> of September of the ringtest evaluation year (=2019). Please, use the form for your re-qualification report (see: <http://bfw.ac.at/600/pdf/Requalification.xls>). There is no special qualification process for other laboratories foreseen, but they are invited to do a re-qualification in the same way.
- **NEW:** The information on qualification and requalification will be stored in the central database of PCC to assure an actual link with the reported survey results. This information will be submitted up from now from the ringtest provider to PCC. If you need qualification report too, please download it in time ([http://bfw.ac.at/ws/ring\\_nadel.login](http://bfw.ac.at/ws/ring_nadel.login)).
- **For future tests I urgent need dried and powdered foliage samples from one tree and one "leaf type" or needle set (dry weight approx. 4-5kg leaves or needles) or a homogenized litterfall sample (dry weight approx. 4-5kg). If someone is willing to support this ringtest programme with a test sample and**

**to do this sampling and preparation work for one of the next ringtests, please contact me by e-mail.**

- Additional information about the current interlaboratory test (status, costs, evaluation, reports,...) you can find on the web-page of the FFCC - [www.ffcc.at \(http://bfw.ac.at/rz/bfwcms2.web?dok=3002\)](http://bfw.ac.at/rz/bfwcms2.web?dok=3002)

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me. **Please, mention your lab ID in all communication.**

I wish you successful interlaboratory comparison test participation,

Kind regards



Alfred Fürst