



Invitation
Date: 17 September 2018

9th Deposition and soil solution Working Ring Test 2018/2019

Dear Colleagues,

I'm glad to invite all laboratories that perform deposition and soil solution analyses in ICP-Forests programme to participate in the 9th Working Ring Test in order to assess the quality of the deposition and soil solution data collected in the ICP Programme on the Intensive Monitoring of Forest Ecosystems (EC-UN/ECE ICP Forests).

- To improve the communication between the laboratories, it was decided to open the laboratory codes within the group of the laboratories and ICP-Forests (especially the QA/QC working group and the concerned expert panels).
- Pre-set tolerable limits will be applied on the ring test results. For each variable, at least 50% of the results should fall between the tolerance limits. You may consult the list of tolerable limits for deposition and soil solution ring test in Quality Assurance and Control in the Laboratories - Part XVI of the ICP-Forests Manual (<http://icp-forests.net/page/icp-forests-manual>) and <http://icp-forests.net/group/qualityinlaboratories/page/deposition-and-soil-solution-ringtest-and-qa-qc-information>. The evaluation will be done in an automatic way based on the median of all values (excluded only values higher than the max. accept. LOQs) reported by the labs.
- After the ring test, the laboratories can download their automatically generated qualification report (https://bfw.ac.at/depo/ring_depo.login). In case the laboratory failed for a certain parameter, or did not determine it, it needs to requalify. The information on qualification and requalification will be stored in the central ICP-Forests database to assure an actual link with the reported survey results.
- The registration to the Deposition and Soil Solution Working Ring Test will be done on-line, using following link https://bfw.ac.at/depo/ring_depo.login. To register, laboratory needs the unique ID and password. In case the laboratory participates in working ring test for the first time and/or does not have its ID nor password, please contact me (A.Kowalska@ibles.waw.pl).
- **The registration is open till 19th October 2018**. In case of any problems, please contact me by e-mail. Also the data submission will be on-line, using following link https://bfw.ac.at/depo/ring_depo.login.

- **After 13th November 2018** the lab will receive six samples: Samples 1-5 are natural water samples (open field, throughfall, stemflow, and soil solution), sample 6 SYN is synthetic sample. **The following parameters** have to be analysed and reported:
on Samples 1–5 (irrespective of whether they are stated as “mandatory” or “optional” in the relevant sub-manuals): pH, conductivity, alkalinity, DOC, Total Nitrogen, Sodium, Potassium, Calcium, Magnesium, Ammonium-N, Chloride, Nitrate-N, Sulphate-S, Phosphate-P, Iron, Manganese, Aluminium;
on Sample 6 SYN: Alkalinity.
Two bottles will be sent for each sample. One is intended for the exercise, and the second for the requalification procedure.
Before submitting the results, **please perform the data checks** as outlined in the Quality Assurance and Control in the Laboratories - Part XVI of the ICP-Forests Manual (<http://icp-forests.net/page/icp-forests-manual>).
- Additionally, another set of samples: 3 natural and 2 synthetic (altogether 5 bottles labeled with “HM”) acidified, for the analysis of heavy metals: **Zinc, Cadmium, Copper, Chromium, Cobalt, Nickel, and Lead** will be prepared. If the lab wants to analyse heavy metals in the ringtest, please **confirm that at the registration page** (“participation with heavy metals”) and then the lab will receive also the HM samples.
- **Submission of results will be possible till 23rd January 2019. Requalification process is foreseen for February 2019.**
- **Participation fee is max 360 € per participant.** Please, fill the billing information on the registration page carefully. Also special requirements for the invoice can be added there or sent by email (A.Kowalska@ibles.waw.pl). The payment of the participation fee is possible to do in December 2018 or latest before submission of the ring test results on **23rd January 2019**.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me (A.Kowalska@ibles.waw.pl), tel. +48 22 71 50 534. **Please, mention your lab ID in all communication.**

I wish you a successful ring test,

Best wishes,



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