

# Proficiency Test for Olfactometry - 2024 -



Announcement and invitation to participate

Olfasense GmbH has been accredited for performing proficiency tests since 2005, allowing laboratories to confirm compliance to the performance criteria of EN 13725.

**olfasense** ::::

# Proficiency test accredited since 2005



**We invite you to participate in the 2024 proficiency test (PT). This PT will allow your laboratory to confirm compliance with the performance criteria of EN 13725:2022 and is therefore essential for those laboratories that maintain ISO 17025 accreditation.**

Participation in proficiency tests according to EN ISO/IEC 17025:2017 shall be conducted to monitor the laboratory performance (see clause 7.7.2) and to identify opportunities for improvement.

Olfasense GmbH has been accredited for performing proficiency tests since 2005, and obtained accreditation<sup>1</sup> according to the standard for proficiency testing bodies, EN ISO/IEC 17043:2010, in December 2011.

The PT allows participating laboratories to ascertain the key performance criteria as defined in EN 13725:2022, specifically:

- precision under repeatability conditions  $r$ , and
- accuracy  $A$  for 1-butanol.

Showing to fulfill these performance criteria for 1-butanol within a proficiency test is therefore the most powerful statement for you and your clients.

To determine these performance characteristics, Olfasense GmbH shall provide participants with 10 pressurised gas samples with different concentrations of 1-butanol. Participating laboratories will be asked to provide evidence of their laboratory's ability to satisfy the general requirements of EN 13725:2022, such as panel qualification.



Additionally, in 2024 the option is available to also analyse 3 pressurised gas samples of Tetrahydrothiophen (THT). This option only takes place if at least 8 participants have registered for it. With these samples, a routinely triple evaluation, that normally is applied for real samples, is simulated. Participants registering for the THT option will receive the final confirmation about the THT option until 5<sup>th</sup> of June 2024.

For the THT measurement, a z-score evaluation will be conducted. This calculation will include values of laboratories that show compliance concerning  $A$  and  $r$  on 1-butanol from 2024, as well as back to values from 2021, to calculate a most robust mean of THT values. Based on the robust mean, the z-score evaluation will be applied for all participants.

The z-score evaluation is based on the relation between the number of replicates and the 95% confidence interval of table F.1 of EN 13725:2022. Moreover, the analytical measurement uncertainty for THT is also taken into account.

- Note: The applied criteria are on the basis of EN 13725 and typical proficiency test evaluation is processed (ISO 13528).
- The schematic of the z-score evaluation is as follows:

$|z_i| \leq 2$ : class 1: results successful

$2 < |z_i| < 3$ : class 2: results questionable

$|z_i| \geq 3$ : class 3: results not successful

Participants will send the final results directly to Olfasense GmbH. According to our ISO 17043 accreditation, the department for proficiency tests within Olfasense GmbH keeps all data fully confidential. This has ever since successfully been audited by our national accreditation body DAkkS.

As in previous years, participating laboratories are encouraged to ensure transparency by appointing an independent observer to witness the conditioning of the samples, the actual olfactometric measurement procedure and the dispatch of the results. In case an observer has been nominated, the name will be mentioned in the individual certificate with the results for your laboratory.

For the generation of the pressurised containers and the analytical measurement of the 1-butanol and THT concentrations, a renowned, accredited German subcontractor and proven specialist in the highest quality Specialty Gases is assigned.

<sup>1</sup>The accreditation applies to the scope listed in the annex of the accreditation certificate.

## The proficiency test will be carried out as follows:

- Odour samples will be dispatched to participating laboratories by Olfasense GmbH in disposable pressurised gas cylinders, suitable for safe shipment. From these cylinders, participants will fill their own sample bags, as sample bags are an element of the measurement process.
- Olfactometric measurements will be carried out under normal operating conditions at the regular location of the odour laboratory of each participant, using their own olfactometer, panel members, measurement room, and other laboratory equipment.
- The actual measurements will need to be carried out within a given time frame of 10 working days. The laboratories are free to decide whether to perform measurements all on one day or spread over several days.
- Samples have to be measured in the order predefined by Olfasense GmbH.

## Time schedule:

- Please confirm your participation by May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the latest. (Please note the more economical early registration option in the costs overview!)
- The measurements for the proficiency test need to be carried out between August 26<sup>th</sup> and September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, inclusive.
- Individual results must be sent to Olfasense GmbH and received before September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 22:00 GMT.
- An (anonymised) report and a performance certificate (both in digital PDF format), detailing the complete data analysis and conclusions, will be sent to participants before November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

## Olfasense GmbH will provide the following services:

- Design, organisation, and planning.
- Shipment of the odour samples, one reducing valve\*, and detailed instructions to execute the PT.
- Data processing and reporting of the measuring results, performance parameters, and compliance with EN 13725 criteria for 1-butanol and z-score evaluation for THT. The report will include an overview table and a graph chart of the anonymous results of all participants. The report and the certificate will be provided in a digital PDF format.
- All documentation in English language.

## Cost:

The participation fees are as follows:

	Early registration, before April 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Regular registration, before May 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2024
Standard Proficiency Test	3159 EUR	3395 EUR
Option THT	1015 EUR	1085 EUR
Hardcopy report	75 EUR	75 EUR
Hardcopy certificate (on request)	0 EUR	0 EUR
“No valve”-discount	- 80 EUR	- 80 EUR

Please note:

- The THT option is only available in combination with the Standard Proficiency Test.
- The THT option will only take place if at least 8 participants have registered for this option. Registered laboratories will be informed until 5<sup>th</sup> of June if the THT option will be provided.
- For each regular 1-butanol and each THT sample one pressurised gas cylinder will be provided, the cylinder volume is 1 litre pressurised to 12 bar, yielding approximately 12 litres of sample at ambient pressure. Participants using an olfactometer with a higher gas consumption can order additional batches of cylinders for 1300 EUR per batch of 10 cylinders 1-butanol, and 600 EUR per batch of 3 cylinders THT.
- VAT (currently 19%) will be charged to participants within Germany and those EU participants who do not provide a valid Value Added Tax registration number.
- Participants from EU member countries who provide a valid Value Added Tax ID number will be VAT exempt from this tax (VAT 0%).
- Shipping charges within the EU are included in the participation fee. Additional shipping charges at cost will be charged to participants located outside the EU.
- All fees are due in advance.

## Application:

Please confirm your participation before April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 to obtain early registration benefits, and by May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the latest.

Please submit your application using the following link:

[Registration Form for the Proficiency Test Olfactometry - 2024](#)

Or send your order as hardcopy, fax or email to:

Olfasense GmbH  
Dr.-Ing. Laura Brosig  
Schauenburgerstr. 116  
D- 24118 Kiel  
Fax: +49 431 2201217  
Mail: qaqc@olfasense.com

Olfasense GmbH will confirm your registration with an order confirmation until June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at the latest.

\*The valve is part of the proficiency test and belongs to every order. If you still have a corresponding valve in stock from the past proficiency tests, there is the possibility to use an already existing valve for reasons of environmental protection (in this case, an 80€ discount on the fee will be given). Note: For QA reasons, however, we recommend using a new valve, as contamination from previous measurements is avoided here.

## Benefits from participating in accredited Olfasense GmbH proficiency tests

If you operate an odour laboratory, you'll want it to achieve the highest possible standards. Not only that – you'll want to be able to demonstrate them too.

Olfasense GmbH is a renowned provider for proficiency tests supporting you in this aim.

Olfasense GmbH has been accredited for performing proficiency tests since 2005, allowing laboratories to confirm compliance to the performance criteria of EN 13725.

Fulfilling the performance criteria for 1-butanol as defined in EN 13725 is a powerful statement for you to foster the confidence of the users of your laboratory services. Moreover, z-score evaluation for THT gives the possibility to compare performance for real samples with other participants.

In addition, Olfasense GmbH is ready to support you in your ISO 17025 audit preparation, as some of our odour experts have been appointed as Technical Auditors of the German accreditation body DAkkS. Participants in our proficiency tests can receive special rates on these services.

Contact us to find out more!

We would be delighted with your participation and are looking forward to receiving your confirmation of participation.

Sincerely yours,  
Laura and Björn



Dr.-Ing. Laura Brosig  
Head of Proficiency Testing  
T: +49 431 22012-110  
E: qaqc@olfasense.com or  
lbrosig@olfasense.com



Björn Maxeiner  
Deputy Head of Proficiency  
Testing  
T: +49 431 22012-22  
E: qaqc@olfasense.com

Find our more on [www.olfasense.com](http://www.olfasense.com)

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