

Proficiency Test for the Automobile Guideline VDA 270 - 2024



Announcement and invitation to participate

As in previous years, we offer a proficiency test for the automobile guideline VDA 270 in 2024.

Accredited proficiency test VDA 270



For the 11th time since 2004, Olfasense offers the proficiency test for the automobile guideline VDA 270 - Determination of the odour characteristics of trim materials in motor vehicles.

Like in the past, this proficiency test is combined with training sets for the preparation of each participant. These enable the participant to reach and reinforce a common understanding of the VDA 270 scale. The range of proficiency test samples again comprises different materials. Since 2014, the evaluation considers the individual orientation of each laboratory and their experience more closely.

We cordially invite you to participate in this proficiency test. Registration is done online via [this link](#). Alternatively, please send an email to qaqc@olfasense.com.

As in the past, the concept of the proficiency test 2024 was developed together with representatives of the automotive industry; the independent performance and organisation is the responsibility of Olfasense GmbH.

Concept

In preparation for the test, each participant will be provided with one training set. Each set consists of materials that already demonstrated their suitability for this purpose. A reference group characterized and referenced the types of material regarding their odour emission according to VDA 270:2022-05. The training set includes test samples that must be prepared for evaluation as described in the VDA 270:2022-05, with the relating VDA 270 grade. Knowing the reference grade, your panelists will get to know the scale and understand it better.

The proficiency test is organized in a decentralised way. That means that the test is carried out in the laboratory of the participant with their equipment as well as their panelists.

The range of proficiency test samples includes materials like polypropylene variants, fleece, foam, heavy layer, PVC foil and leather (optional). Please note, that the real leather option will be available for a restricted number of 30 laboratories only!

The materials will be delivered in finished size/amount in emission-sealed bags. With the shipment of the samples, each participating laboratory receives a test description, a questionnaire that needs to be completed, and further information about the proficiency test. The scope of the odour evaluation comprises 12 test sample types. Additionally, 4 leather sample types can be ordered and evaluated as an option. The exact procedure is explained in the SOP (standard operation procedure), which will be provided with the samples, and must be followed.

The standard proficiency test contains the following types of material:

- Group 1: Hard plastics
- Group 2: Thin layer materials
- Group 3: Foam & textiles

Optional:

- Group 4: Leather (real) - available for a restricted number of 30 laboratories only!



According to VDA 270:2022-05, participants should carry out the tests with 3 panelists. The 7 days pre-storage of the samples before the test will not be applied. Depending on the sample, the storage variants 2, 3, 4 and 5 of VDA 270:2022-05 will be used.

The publication of results will be anonymous. The language of documentation is English. Each participant receives a report (results are anonymous) and certificate in digital PDF format.

¹The accreditation applies to the scope listed in the annex of the accreditation certificate

Evaluation

In principle, in the context of the evaluation, the z-score method according to ISO 13528 is applied.

Based on the values of qualified laboratories, the relevant robust mean will be calculated and is base for the performance evaluation (z-score calculation). A qualified laboratory is defined as follows: Using a questionnaire, participants will be asked what materials (material groups) they are having experience within everyday laboratory life. Once the laboratory has relevant experience with the material group it is defined as qualified as long as there is no justified objection. Moreover, the number of total measurements conducted by the laboratory per year is taken into account.

The performance of the laboratory is reported for each material group separately.

Cost

Option of participation	Costs (net)
Standard Proficiency Test with 12 sample types in total and training set	900.00 EUR
Leather option*	300.00 EUR

*The leather option is only available in combination with the Standard Proficiency Test

For participants outside Europe an additional processing fee of 200.00 EUR and additional transport costs will be charged.

Hardcopy printouts of the certificate are available on request for free. Hardcopy printouts of the report are available on request and will be charged with 75.00 EUR.

Time Schedule

Registration until:	26 July 2024
Mailing of training sets + samples:	September/October 2024
Performance of the proficiency test:	Calendar week 46 / 47 (11 - 22 November 2024)
Transmission of measurement results until:	2 December 2024 to qaqc@olfasense.com at the latest
Report/certificate (PDF) delivery until:	20 January 2025

Registration

Registration for participation will be accepted until 26 July 2024. Please use [this link](#).

We are looking forward to the interesting results of this proficiency test and hope for active participation. Should there be any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,
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