

ASEAN REFERENCE LABORATORIES (ARLs) for Prepared Foodstuff

Role of ARLs:

1. To provide training and technical advice and services to ASEAN Member Countries, including National Reference Laboratories in ASEAN, on the definition, selection and application of methods of analysis and sampling, as well as on the organisation and management of food testing activities in the ASEAN region.
2. To become resource and information centres by linking to existing information platforms or networks established under ASEAN, where appropriate, in their specified field of competence, and in particular :
 - i. Establish and maintain a roster of ASEAN experts;
 - ii. Collect and disseminate information related to the methods of analysis and sampling, as well as on procedures for quality assurance and quality management in food analysis laboratories;
 - iii. Establish networking between ARLs, NRLs and EU Community; Reference Laboratories (CRLs) for the purpose of exchanging technical information and enhancing collaboration.
3. To coordinate inter-laboratory comparisons or proficiency testing in the ASEAN region and envisage the organisation of such activities at a future date.
4. To become resource centres for Certified Reference Materials (CRMs), through the provision of information on the sources where CRMs can be obtained, and to assist in obtaining Reference Material (RMs)