

[BFAR FISHERIES ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 234, S. OF 2010, April 28, 2010]

ACCREDITATION OF MARINE BIOTOXIN TESTING CENTERS

In line with Articles 6 and 17 of RA 7394, this order for the accreditation of marine biotoxin testing laboratories for monitoring and regulatory purposes is hereby issued pursuant to Rule 67 (1 & 2) of the IRR for RA 8550 for guidance of all concerned,

SECTION 1. The term "accreditation" as used in this order shall be construed as the official recognition of satellite laboratories in analyzing marine biotoxins and identifying toxic phytoplankton and other microalgae species.

SECTION 2. Scope and Coverage - The laboratory of the Marine Biotoxin Monitoring Section, FRMD of the BFAR shall be the Central Laboratory, while other satellite shall be those of Fisheries Regional Offices and of the local government units duly accredited which shall monitor the incidence of marine biotoxins in their jurisdictional areas subject to verification by the Central Laboratory.

SECTION 3. Accreditation panel - An accreditation panel shall be created and presided by the Chief of FRMD with the Marine Biotoxin Section Chief and three other members, which shall determine the competence and capability of the laboratories applying for accreditation and recommend the same to the BFAR Director whether for approval or otherwise.

SECTION 4. Evaluation - Application for accreditation shall undergo the preliminary assessment and on-site evaluation:

a. Preliminary assessment shall require submission to the panel of the following documents:

1. Application form embodying the letter of intent addressed to the BFAR Director;
2. Analysis reports for the preceding three (3) months for independent analysis by the Central Laboratory; and
3. Certified true copy of applicant laboratory's Manuals.

b. On-site evaluation of the laboratory shall be conducted based on the documents submitted and its compliance to the protocols.

SECTION 5. Levels of Accreditation - Depending on the capability of the applicant laboratory, accreditation shall be on the following levels:

- a. Level 1 – Capable of microscopic analysis of PSP causative organisms

Requirement: Ability to identify and quantify the following organisms:

Paralytic Shellfish Poison

Pyrodinium bahamense variety compressum
Alexandrium tamiyavanichii
Alexandrium minutum
Gymnodinium catenatum

Diarrhetic Shellfish Poison

Dinophysis caudata
Dinophysis fortii
Dinophysis miles
Dinophysis rotundata
Prorocentrum concavum
Prorocentrum lima

Amnesic Shellfish Poison

Pseudonitzschia spp.
Nitzschia spp.

Ciguatera Fish Poison

Gambierdiscus toxicus

Microalgae associated with Fish Kills

Chatonella marina
Cochlodinium polydrikoides
Gonyaulax polygramma
Gymnodinium sanguineum
Gyrodinium galatheanum
Heterosigma akashiwo
Noctiluca scintillans
Prorocentrum micans
Prorocentrum minimum

Level II – Full level accreditation is for the capability to analyze PSP, TTX and CFP but shall be further categorized depending on present capacity of the laboratory

Level II-A - Capable of PSP and TTX analysis by mouse assay

Requirements:

- Level I accreditation
- Test Kits readily in the laboratory

Level III – Full level accreditation is for the capability to analyze DSP and ASP (domoic acid) but shall be further categorized depending on present capacity of the laboratory.