



ICC Standardisation

(Status 01-01-2009)

For over 50 years ICC has validated and published analytical standard methods serving to the safety and quality assessment of cereals and crops, cereal based products, foods and feeds. Validated methods are published in the ICC Standards Collection and can be purchased via ICC Services GmbH. ICC Standard Methods serve international trade, national and international legislation, industry standards such as ISO and CEN, and as guidelines for food manufacturers and control laboratories.

ICC Validation Studies – Basic Requirements

1. Principle:

In principle ICC validation studies/ring trials follow the minimum requirements of the IUPAC/AOAC/ISO international harmonised protocol for collaborative trials.

2. Minimum Requirements:

- A minimum of 8 useful results from min. 8 laboratories, respectively (after elimination of outliers and non-compliant laboratories) ^{*)}
- Participating laboratories must be from at least 3 different ICC Member Countries
- A maximum of 50% of the participating laboratories may show a organisational relationship (e.g. laboratories in various locations, but belonging to the same company or distribution network)
- A detailed description of the ring trial setup and a full report including a copy of all original data and statistical calculations must be provided to ICC for review by the ICC Technical Director and final discussion and approval by the ICC Technical Committee.
- It is advisable to discuss the planned trial with the ICC Technical Director, before undertaking the study. If a study was not planned with the ICC Technical Director it can be submitted to ICC Headquarters for approval/acceptance, but ICC reserves the right to turn the certification as ICC Standard Method down based on non-compliance to ICC rules.
- Statistical evaluation of the method must include the following parameters:
 - a) description of the “analyte”
 - b) description of the “sample”/reference material
 - c) homogeneity test results of the sample material
 - d) detailed protocol
 - e) details of participating laboratories
 - f) copy of original results/data
 - g) repeatability
 - h) reproducibility
 - i) Limit of Detection (LOD) and Limit of Quantitation (LOQ), where applicable
 - j) Measurement uncertainty
 - k) Traceability to SI units, if applicable

^{*)} ICC recommends to include at least 12 laboratories in a ring trial

3. Samples:

- Any material used as a sample needs to be well described (origin, ingredients, concentration,...)
- Homogeneity and stability needs to be tested, documented and monitored throughout the ring trial
- According to the IUPAC/AOAC/ISO international harmonised protocol for collaborative trials at least 5 different samples or 2 different matrix samples at 4 different concentration levels (including a zero/blank sample) should be used

4. Costs for proprietary methods:

- a) Publication as ICC Standard Method
includes final editorial check and formatting, promotion and announcement via ICC print media € 1,500.—
- b) Final statistical evaluation after all calculations are completed and all data is generated by the submitting party. Statistics will be approved by the ICC Technical Director and finally by the ICC Technical Committee € 1,500.—
- c) Optional: Raw data is received by ICC and statistical evaluation is done by ICC € 4,000.—
- d) Optional: ICC organises and manages the ring trial. Any additional costs such as shipping of materials, appliances, training of personnel, production of samples are covered by the method provider. € 6,000.—

5. Publication:

- After approval of an analytical method or a reference material, it is published as ICC Standard Method and can be purchased either as single method standard or as part of the ICC Standard Method Collection.
- ICC requires the publication of the obtained results of the validation study in a peer-reviewed journal. Publication in the official ICC Journal “Quality Assurance and Safety of Crops & Feeds” is recommended.

6. Ownership:

ICC Standard Methods are owned by ICC and thus are protected by ICC copy right. ICC Standard Methods are sold by ICC Services GmbH and authorised distributors contracted by ICC.

7. Liability:

ICC is only liable for the content and the performance data at the time of evaluation and publication. ICC is not responsible for deviations of performance quality due to manufacturing or non-compliant method application.

8. Revisions:

- ICC will revise its ICC Standard Methods at a minimum of 10 year intervals.
- ICC reserves the right to ask for revision a withdrawal of an ICC Standard Method in ease of doubt.
- The method provider is obliged to inform ICC, if changes or additions have been made to a published method.