

# ASTA CHECK SAMPLE PROGRAM



[www.astaspice.org](http://www.astaspice.org)

# PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The ASTA Check Sample Program aims to strengthen laboratory credibility and promote high levels of accuracy within and among laboratories using standard analytical test methods for spices and herbs. The methods, such as ASTA's Official Analytical Methods, provide a uniform way to measure results within and among laboratories.

The ASTA Check Sample Program is designed to evaluate spice laboratories for a common range of analyses and spices that are significant to the spice trade. The program allows individual laboratories to evaluate their performance and set goals for improvement and consistency in analyses.

2023 participating labs can select from the following options:

- Red Pepper Chemistry - HPLC Heat, ASTA Color, Water Activity
- Black Pepper Chemistry - Volatile Oil, Moisture, Piperine, Water Activity
- Oregano Chemistry - Total Ash, Acid Insoluble Ash, Moisture, Volatile Oil, Water

ASTA check samples are prepared from materials donated by member companies. In order to ensure homogeneity of the samples, all samples are prepared from a single batch for each round of testing.

The ASTA program is administered every quarter, with each laboratory receiving samples, instructions, and data reporting forms with each shipment. All of the studies are open for 30 days, during which time participants may enter their data via a secure online data entry website. Online data entry is confirmed through automated emails, or laboratories can print confirmations directly from the website.

The ASTA Check Sample Program is open to both ASTA members and non-members worldwide. As an ASTA program, the usage of ASTA methods is required. Please refer to the ASTA website at [www.astaspice.org](http://www.astaspice.org).

The American Spice Trade Association will provide its members and other interested parties with a cost-effective means for the comparison and evaluation of their capabilities with regard to both precision and accuracy. The program will maintain a commitment to continuous evaluation of necessary and appropriate methods to meet the needs of its membership.



# 2023 ASTA Check Sample Order Form

<b>Program Selection</b> <i>All prices include shipping cost except clearance of samples at customs</i>	<b>Non- Member Rate</b>	<b>Member Rate</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Proficiency Testing Program – 4 quarterly shipments</b>				
	<i>Non-Member Rate</i>	<i>Only ASTA Members qualify for this special rate</i>	<i>Check all that apply</i>	<i>Indicate the price per laboratory for each desired program</i>
Red Pepper Chemistry	\$750 per laboratory	\$395 per laboratory		
Black Pepper Chemistry	\$750 per laboratory	\$395 per laboratory		
Oregano Chemistry	\$750 per laboratory	\$395 per laboratory		
<b>Additional Samples – Sent at the same time as PT samples</b>				
	<i>Non-Member Rate</i>	<i>Only ASTA Members qualify for this special rate</i>	<i>Indicate # of samples</i>	<i>Multiply the quantity by the cost per sample</i>
Red pepper – additional sample	\$250 per sample	\$125 per sample		
Black pepper – additional sample	\$250 per sample	\$125 per sample		
Oregano chemistry – additional sample	\$250 per sample	\$125 per sample		
<b>Quality Control Samples – Sent after the publication of the report</b>				
	<i>Non-Member Rate</i>	<i>Only ASTA Members qualify for this special rate</i>	<i>Indicate # of samples</i>	<i>Multiply the quantity by the cost per sample</i>
Red pepper – quality control sample	\$400 per sample	\$200 per sample		
Black pepper – quality control sample	\$400 per sample	\$200 per sample		
Oregano chemistry – quality control sample	\$400 per sample	\$200 per sample		
<b>Grand Total</b>				

Please register and submit your payment by **January 25, 2023.**

(Please Print – **All Fields Required**)

Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Address for Sample Delivery (No P.O. Box) \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

For your protection, ASTA will no longer accept credit card payments by mail. If paying by credit card, please go online to [www.astaspice.org](http://www.astaspice.org) to use ASTA's secure online payment. For check payment, please make check payable to American Spice Trade Association and mail your payment to: American Spice Trade Association 1101 17th Street N.W., Ste. 700 Washington, DC 20036 USA For questions, call (202) 331-2460 or email us at [info@astaspice.org](mailto:info@astaspice.org).





BIPEA is a scientific and independent nonprofit organization providing **proficiency testing programs** and **external reference materials** for testing laboratories concerned by quality control and analytical accuracy. Present in more than 130 countries worldwide, the offered services cover different fields like **cereals** (*grain, milling, feed*), **agro industry** (*dairy food, beverages, contaminants*) **environment** (*feed waters, waste waters, soils, sludge, air*), **cosmetics** (*sunscreen, fragrances, flavorings*), **pharmaceutics** and **surface**. BIPEA offers more than 200 regular programs of **interlaboratory comparisons** covering a wide range of matrices and criteria in microbiology, physics, chemistry and sensory.

**ISO 9001certified and ISO/IEC 17043 accredited** (scope 1 1495 available on [www.cofrac.fr](http://www.cofrac.fr)).

