

COLLECTIVE EXPERT APPRAISAL: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

regarding the expert appraisal on recommending occupational exposure limits for chemical agents on the evaluation of biomarkers of exposure and recommendation for biological limit values and biological reference values for dimethylformamide (CAS n°68-12-2)

This document summarises the work of the Expert Committee on “Health reference values” and the Working Group on biomarkers (Biomarkers WG).

Presentation of the issue

Within the framework of the European research program HBM4EU, a joint effort of thirty countries, guidance values for biomonitoring (or Human Biomonitoring Guidance Values (HBM-GVs)), are recommended for the general population and workers. These values are proposed for substances of interest identified as priorities. Dimethylformamide (DMF) has been the subject of proposals for guidance values within the HBM4EU program (see HBM4EU: Deliverable Report D5.9 - 3rd substance specific derivation of EU-wide health-based guidance values¹).

The methodology applied within the framework of the HBM4EU project (Apel *et al.*, 2020) for the identification of the biomarkers of exposure (BME) of interest and the proposal of biological values for workers is partly based on Anses methodology (ANSES, 2017).

As part of the memorandum of understanding on occupational exposure limits and biological limit values (OELs and BLVs) established in July 2018 between Anses and the Directorate General for Labor (DGT), Anses was asked to recommend biological values for DMF. This document has been drawn up in response to this request, on the basis of the assessment previously carried out by Anses employees as part of the HBM4EU research program for the recommendation of biological values for DMF in the workplace.

Currently, France has a binding 8h-OEL for DMF of 15 mg.m⁻³ (5 ppm) and a binding short-term limit value over 15 minutes (or VLCT-15min) of 30 mg.m⁻³ (10 ppm).

Scientific background

Biological monitoring of exposure in the workplace has emerged as a complementary method to atmospheric metrology for assessing exposure to chemical agents. Biological monitoring assesses a worker's exposure by including all the routes by which a chemical penetrates the body (lung, skin, digestive tract). It is particularly worthwhile when a substance has a systemic effect, and:

- when routes other than inhalation contribute significantly to absorption,

¹ Available on HBM4EU website: <https://www.hbm4eu.eu/work-packages/deliverable-5-9-3rd-substance-specific-derivation-of-eu-wide-health-based-guidance-values/> ; accessed on December 2021

- 37 - and/or when the pollutant has a cumulative effect,
38 - and/or when the working conditions (personal protection equipment, inter-individual
39 differences in respiratory ventilation, etc.) determine large differences in internal dose that
40 are not taken into account by atmospheric metrology.

41 With regard to prevention of chemical risk in the workplace, the French Labour Code provides for
42 the use of biological monitoring of exposure and biological limit values.

43 Committee definitions

44 Biomarker of exposure (BME): parent substance, or one of its metabolites, determined in a
45 biological matrix, whose variation is associated with exposure to the targeted agent. Biomarkers
46 of early and reversible effects are included in this definition when they can be specifically
47 correlated to occupational exposure.

48 Biological limit value (BLV): This is the limit value for the relevant biomarkers.

49 Depending on the available data, the recommended biological limit values do not all have the
50 same meaning:

- 51 - if the body of scientific evidence is sufficient to quantify a dose-response relationship
52 with certainty, the BLVs will be established on the basis of health data (no effect for
53 threshold substances or risk levels for non-threshold carcinogens);
- 54 - in the absence of such data for substances with threshold effects, BLVs are calculated
55 on the basis of the expected concentration of the biomarker of exposure (BME) when
56 the worker is exposed to the 8-hour OEL. For carcinogens, in the absence of sufficient
57 quantitative data, the biological limit value is calculated on the basis of another effect
58 (pragmatic BLV). These latter values do not guarantee the absence of health effects,
59 but aim to limit exposure to these substances in the workplace.

60 Whenever possible, the Committee also recommends biological reference values (BRVs). These
61 correspond to concentrations found in a general population whose characteristics are similar to
62 those of the French population (preferentially for BMEs) or in a control population not
63 occupationally exposed to the substance under study (preferentially for biomarkers of effects).

64 These BRVs cannot be considered to offer protection from the onset of health effects, but do
65 allow a comparison with the concentrations of biomarkers assayed in exposed workers. These
66 values are particularly useful in cases where it is not possible to establish a BLV (ANSES, 2017).

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68 **Organisation of the expert appraisal**

69 Anses entrusted examination of this request to the Expert Committee on "Health reference
70 values". The Agency also mandated the Working Group on biomarkers of exposure (WG on BME)
71 for this expert appraisal.

72 The methodological and scientific aspects of the work of this group were regularly submitted to
73 the Expert Committees. The report produced by the Working Group takes account of observations
74 and additional information provided by the Committee members.

75 This expert appraisal was therefore conducted by a group of experts with complementary skills.
76 It was carried out in accordance with the French Standard NF X 50-110 "Quality in Expertise
77 Activities".

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81 Preventing risks of conflicts of interest

82 ANSES analyses interests declared by the experts before they are appointed and throughout their
83 work in order to prevent potential conflicts of interest in relation to the points addressed in expert
84 appraisals.

85 The experts' declarations of interests are made public on the website: <https://dpi.sante.gouv.fr/>.

86

87 Description of the method

88 Two ANSES employees and two experts from the WG on BME produced the report on the BME
89 and the recommendation of human biomonitoring guidance values for workers (HBM-GV_{Worker}),
90 for the BME selected as relevant in the context of the HBM4EU research program. To this end, a
91 review of the studies provided by the IARC (IARC, 2018), ECHA (ECHA, 2019), ACGIH (ACGIH,
92 2017 and 2018), DFG (DFG, 2006 and 2019) and SCOEL (SCOEL, 2006) was conducted with a
93 search for more recent studies on the following databases: Medline, Scopus.

94 The scientific articles selected for the evaluation of DMF biological monitoring data were identified
95 based in particular on the following keywords: "Dimethylformamide", "DMF", "guidance value",
96 "toxicity reference value (TRV)", "biomarker of exposure", "biomonitoring", "toxicokinetic*", "health
97 effects", "liver", "carcinogenicity", "reprotoxic effects".

98 In this document, only the results of the collective expert appraisal are detailed. The toxicological
99 profile and data on DMF exposure can be found in the HBM4EU Deliverable Report D5.9.

100 The summary and conclusions of this collective expert appraisal work (in French) were adopted
101 by the Expert Committee on "Health reference values" on 30/06/2022.

102

103 **Result of the collective expert appraisal**

 104 **Choice of BME(s)**

 105 The table below (Table 1) details the advantages and limits of each BME identified in literature
 106 for DMF exposure.

 107 **Table 1: Advantages and limits of the relevant BME**

Analyte	Matrice	Avantages	Limites
NMF total (tNMF)	Urine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Half-life adapted to estimate daily exposure - Database available - Specific - Undetectable in the general population - Dose response with health effects - Good correlation with airborne DMF - Non invasive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delayed excretion after skin absorption - Influenced by alcohol consumption
AMCC	Urine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Half-life enabling to estimate weekly exposure - Database available - Dose response with health effects - Good correlation with airborne DMF - Directly linked to MIC, causing the hepatotoxic effects - Non invasive 	Environmental source of exposure (active or passive smoking) that may cause interferences*
MCVal	Blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very stable, assess long term exposure - Directly linked to MIC formation - Dose response with health effects - Good correlation with airborne DMF 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited database - Probably influenced by smoking - Invasive
DMF	Urine	Specific	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very limited database - Very short half-life (2 h) - Low excreted levels for high absorbed doses
Formamide	Urine	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No data available on correlation with DMF exposure or its health effects - Not specific, can be found in absence of DMF exposure

108 *tobacco smoke are a source of MIC, precursor of AMCC

 109
 110 Total NMF (which is the sum of N-hydroxymethyl-N-methylformamide (HMMF) and NMF) and
 111 AMCC measured in urine are recommended by several agencies/organisations (SCOEL, DFG,

112 ACGIH) as BMEs for biomonitoring of occupational DMF exposure. These two BMEs have many
 113 advantages; they are the best studied in the context of assessing DMF exposure and its health
 114 effects in the workplace. The many advantages of these two BMEs make it possible to retain them
 115 for deriving BLVs or BRVs. Their measures are not redundant because they provide different
 116 information: total NMF measured at the end of the shift on any day of the week reflects the
 117 exposure of the day while AMCC measured at the end of the shift and at the end of the week is
 118 an indicator of weekly exposure. It also has the advantage of being an indicator of the production
 119 of the methylisocyanate (MIC), at the origin of DMF hepatotoxic effects.

120 The MCV_{al} has the advantage to reflect DMF exposure of the previous months and is a direct
 121 indicator of the hepatotoxic risk. However, the lack of data does not allow to retain it currently for
 122 the derivation of a BLV.

123 Regarding the other potential BMEs, formamide and DMF in urine, the available data do not allow
 124 the characterization of associations of these BMEs levels with the health effects of DMF or with
 125 atmospheric exposure.

126 **Consequently, only tNMF and AMCC in urine are retained as relevant BMEs for the**
 127 **biomonitoring of occupational exposure to DMF.**

128

129 **Proposal for biological limit values**

130 ***Choice of critical effect***

131 Many studies conducted at the workplace make it possible to establish dose-response
 132 relationships between tNMF concentration and health effects. Among these health effects linked
 133 to occupational exposure to DMF, the most sensitive effects retained, as critical effects, are the
 134 effects on liver. These effects are assessed by measuring liver enzymes such as ALT, AST and
 135 γ GT. In several published studies, an antabuse effect² was observed in the absence of liver
 136 damage in workers exposed to DMF. However, the great inter-individual variability of alcohol
 137 intolerance and the indirect nature of this effect (which requires the intake of alcohol to manifest
 138 itself), makes it unsuitable for setting a reference value to protect all workers exposed to DMF.
 139 The choice of DMF hepatotoxicity as the critical effect is a consensus among the various agencies
 140 or organisations recommending OELs and limit values for biological indicators in the workplace.

141 DMF is a reprotoxic substance but studies conducted in animals report points of departure (PODs)
 142 for these effects at higher levels than those observed for hepatic effects. Regarding the
 143 carcinogenic effects, it should be reminded:

- 144 - that there is insufficient evidence of DMF genotoxicity;
- 145 - that the two clusters of testicular cancers published do not constitute sufficient proof of the
 146 carcinogenicity of DMF in humans and that, in animals (rats and mice), the only tumors induced
 147 by DMF in rats and mice are hepatic and that they are always preceded by hepatotoxic effects.
 148 From these observations, it can be deduced that a BLV offering protection against hepatic
 149 damage also most likely protects against a possible risk of cancer.

150

151 ***Choice of key study(ies) and POD***

152 *Urinary total NMF*

153 The database provides many studies that can be selected as key studies. However, for
 154 methodological reasons (error in the units of measurement, inappropriate analytical methods

² Effects occurring when ethanol is taken a few hours to a few days after contact with N,N-dimethylformamide and consisting of peripheral vasodilation, predominantly on the face, neck and in the upper part of the trunk, responsible for hypotension, tachycardia, headaches and dizziness, and frequently accompanied by sweating, vomiting and a feeling of chest tightness

155 leading to an overestimation of the results), the following studies were not retained: Lyle *et al.*,
 156 1979, Catenacci *et al.*, 1984 and Fiorito *et al.*, 1997. Despite the interest of the results reported
 157 by Lauwerys *et al.* (Lauwerys *et al.*, 1980) and Wrbitzky *et al.* (Wrbitzky and Angerer, 1998 and
 158 Wrbitzky, 1999). These studies conducted on European populations cannot be retained either for
 159 the following reasons:

160 - the non-representativity of the subjects in the study by Lauwerys *et al.*: In this study the authors
 161 do not report any effect on the liver enzymes of workers exposed to DMF (N=22) up to 40-50
 162 mg/g cr of tNMF. They emphasize that the recruitment selection criteria (not specified in the
 163 article), were quite strict. According to ACGIH, these criteria could lead to a selection bias,
 164 implying that the results may not be representative of those of unskilled workers (ACGIH, 2017)
 165 - the uncertainty on the effects on liver related to alcohol consumption not taken into account in
 166 two publications of the same study conducted in a cohort of 126 workers (Wrbitzky and Angerer,
 167 1998; Wrbitzky, 1999): The authors report an increase in serum concentrations of liver enzymes
 168 in the exposed group (vs. controls) with a mean tNMF concentration in urine of 9.1 mg/g cr (14.9
 169 mg/L). However, if the different work areas in the company were taken into account, an excess
 170 risk of liver damage was observed, unexpectedly, only in the area where the exposures were the
 171 lowest (with an average concentration of tNMF of 4.5 m/g cr); this discordant result was probably
 172 explainable by a higher alcohol consumption specifically in this group. In the other three zones,
 173 no effect on hepatic enzyme activity was observed for tNMF concentrations of 6.7, 11.6 and 16
 174 mg/g cr.

176 Finally, among the studies reporting dose-response relationships between urinary tNMF
 177 concentrations and the risk of elevated serum concentrations of liver enzymes, the following
 178 studies were retained as key studies:

179 - the only study conducted on a European population, among the studies retained with
 180 consideration of alcohol consumption, the recent study by Kilo *et al.*, did not report any
 181 hepatotoxic effect in workers (N=220 workers) exposed to DMF whose average urinary
 182 concentration of tNMF was 7.7 mg/L (standard deviation: 8.8 mg/L) , compared to a control group
 183 (N=175) (Kilo *et al.*, 2016).

184 - the three other studies selected were conducted in Asia:

- 185 • despite a low number of subjects, Sakai *et al.*, reported no effect on hepatic enzymes from
 186 exposure to DMF in 10 workers (followed during 2.5 years) for an average concentration
 187 of tNMF in urine of 24.7 mg/g cr (Sakai *et al.*, 1995),
- 188 • He *et al.*, in a cohort of 79 workers, did not find increase in liver enzymes in the most
 189 exposed subjects when workers were divided into 2 groups (concentrations > or < 15 mg/g
 190 cr) (He *et al.*, 2010),
- 191 • more recently, Wu *et al.* were able to measure liver enzyme activity in a cohort of 698
 192 workers exposed to DMF (vs. 188 controls). Their results showed an excess risk of liver
 193 damage only appearing in the third tertile of the distribution of urinary concentrations of
 194 tNMF (> 3.88 mg/L; median 9.59 mg/L) and the BMDL₁₀ for the risk liver damage was 14
 195 mg/L (Wu *et al.*, 2017).

196

197 Urinary AMCC

198 Urinary AMCC is a relevant BME according to the database, because, on the one hand, it makes
 199 it possible to assess the cumulative exposure of the previous days and, on the other hand, it is
 200 linked to the formation of the MIC, metabolite responsible of hepatotoxic effects.

201 Studies reporting relationships between urinary AMCC levels and liver effects are fewer in
 202 numbers than for tNMF and also show less consistent results.

203 However, studies selected as key studies for the calculation of a BLV for tNMF can be considered
 204 relevant for the derivation of a BLV for AMCC.

205 - the European study by Kilo *et al.*, carried out on a large number of subjects (220 exposed versus
 206 175 controls), did not report any effect on hepatic enzymes whereas the average urinary
 207 concentration of AMCC in the urine of exposed workers was 9.4 mg/g cr (standard deviation: 10.4
 208 mg/g cr) (Kilo *et al.*, 2016).

209 - the three studies, conducted in Asia, previously selected for tNMF indicate that:

- 210 • In the study by Sakai *et al.*, no effect on liver in 10 workers exposed to DMF during 2.5
 211 years (average urinary concentration of AMCC: was 22.0 (\pm 4.6) mg/g cr; 2.2-110 mg/g
 212 cr) (Sakai *et al.*, 1998);
- 213 • In the study by He *et al.*, a significant increase of the number of individuals with elevated
 214 liver enzyme activity was observed in the most exposed group when the subjects were
 215 divided into two groups (those with urinary concentration of AMCC greater than or less
 216 than 40 mg/g cr) (He *et al.*, 2010);
- 217 • in another study with 72 exposed and 72 non exposed workers, the authors report an
 218 increase in liver enzymes in exposed subjects (presenting an average concentration in
 219 urinary AMCC of 28.3 mg/L) compared to non exposed workers (He *et al.*, 2015);
- 220 • In the study involving the largest number of workers (698 exposed to DMF and 188
 221 controls) and which is also one of the most recent (Wu *et al.*, 2017), the results show an
 222 excess of risk of liver damage in the second and third tertiles of the distribution of urinary
 223 concentrations of AMCC, with median values of 44 mg/L (16.95-86.82 mg/L) and 148
 224 mg/L (>86.62 mg/L) respectively. The median of urinary concentrations of AMCC in the
 225 lowest exposed group (and in which no hepatotoxic effect was observed) was 2.2 mg/L
 226 (<16.95 mg/L). The authors report a BMDL₁₀ of 155 mg/L.

227
 228 **In conclusion** for the two selected BMEs, tNMF and AMCC in urine, it seems difficult to retain
 229 only one study. It is therefore more relevant to select several studies as key studies, for the
 230 derivation of BLVs. This choice is, in particular, motivated by:

231 - the ethnic variability of DMF metabolism and the different geographical origins of the available
 232 studies (involving Asian and European population);

233 - methodological differences in the studies, in particular for the definition of liver test
 234 abnormalities, which varies from one study to another (*i.e.* with the choice of the increase of one
 235 or two liver enzymes depending on the authors).

236 Thus, the following studies are selected for deriving BLVs for biomonitoring of occupational DMF
 237 exposure: Sakai *et al.*, 1995; He *et al.*, 2010; Kilo *et al.*, 2016; Wu *et al.*, 2017.

238

239 Identification of a POD and proposition of BLVs

240 The ~~Table 2~~ Table 2 reports the results with dose-effect relationships from the key studies for
 241 tNMF and AMCC in urine.

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Table 2: Summary of the PODs (median and mean) reported in key studies

Reference and subjects	NOAEL/LOAEL/ BMDL	Urinary t NMF		Urinary AMCC	
		mg.g ⁻¹ cr	mg.L ⁻¹	mg.g ⁻¹ cr	mg.L ⁻¹
Sakai <i>et al.</i> , 1998 10 workers Japan	NOAEL	Mean \pm SD = 24,7 \pm 5,4 ES	NR	Mean \pm SD = 22 \pm 4,6 ES	NS

He <i>et al.</i> , 2010 79 workers China	NOAEL	GM = 15 ES/EW	NR	NR	NS
	LOAEL	NR	NR	GM = 40 ES/EW	NS
He <i>et al.</i> , 2015 72 exposed workers et 72 non exposed China	NOAEL	NR	NR	NR	NS
	LOAEL	NR	NR		Mean±SD = 28,32±8,07 (Sampling time : NR)
Kilo <i>et al.</i> , 2016 220 workers et 175 non exposed Germany	NOAEL		Mean±SD = 7,8 ± 8,8	Mean±SD = 9,4 ± 10,4	
Wu <i>et al.</i> , 2017 698 workers et 188 non exposed China	NOAEL ³		Med (max) = 1,8 (<4)		Med (max) = 2,2 (<17)
	LOAEL ¹⁸		Med (min) = 9,6 (>4)		Med (min) = 44 (>17)
	BMD _{95L10}		14		155

243 *Med* : Median ; *SD* : Standard deviation ; *GM* : Geometric mean ; *Min* : minimal value; *Max* : maximal value;
244 *NS* : not specified

245

246 On the basis of these studies, concerning:

247 - **urinary tNMF**: the NOAELs are between 1.8 (Max<4) and 7.8 (SD± 8,8) mg.L⁻¹ and between 15
248 and 24.7 (SD ± 5,4) mg.g⁻¹ cr, with a LOAEL of 9.6 (Min>4) mg.L⁻¹ and a BMD_{95L10} of 14 mg.L⁻¹.
249 Taking into account the highest NOAEL and the lowest LOAEL (i.e 7.8 and 9.6 mg.L⁻¹
250 respectively), **the value of 10 mg.L⁻¹, as proposed in the framework of HBM4EU project**
251 **appears to be sufficiently protective of the critical effects (i.e. DMF hepatotoxicity). This**
252 **value is selected as BLV for the protection of the health of workers exposed to DMF.**

253 - **urinary AMCC**: the NOAELs are 2.2 (<16. mg.L⁻¹) and between 9.4 (SD± 10.4) and 22 (SD±
254 8.1) mg.g⁻¹ cr, while for the LOAELs the corresponding values are between 28 and 44 (Min>17)
255 mg.L⁻¹ and 40 mg.g⁻¹ cr. Taking into account the highest NOAEL and the lowest LOAEL (2.2 et 28
256 mg.L⁻¹ ou 22 et 40 mg.g⁻¹ cr), **the values of 20 mg.L⁻¹ or 25 mg.g⁻¹ cr seem to be sufficiently**
257 **protective against the critical effects (liver effects). These values are selected as BLV for**
258 **the protection of the health of workers exposed to DMF.**

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³ Calculs réalisés par le GT IBE

260 **Proposal of biological reference values (BRV)**

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262 **Urinary tNMF**

263 There is no data on urinary tNMF levels in the general population. It should also be noted that
264 total NMF is not detected in the urine of unexposed workers or in controls from field studies (Kilo
265 *et al.*, 2016).

266 **No BRV is therefore recommended for total NMF in urine.**

267

268 **Urinary AMCC**

269 There are many studies reporting measurements of urinary AMCC concentration in unexposed
270 workers and in the general population. Among these data, the NHANES study of the CDC (or
271 Centers of Disease Control (CDC, 2021) campaign (2013-2014) allows to identify values for the
272 95th percentile according to smoking status, in adults. Thus, the recommended BRVs for the
273 AMCC are:

274 - for non-smokers: 0.473 mg.L⁻¹ rounded to **0.5 mg.L⁻¹** or 0.391 mg.g⁻¹ of cr rounded to **0.4 mg.g⁻¹**
275 **of cr**

276 - for smokers: 1.580 mg.L⁻¹ rounded to **1.6 mg.L⁻¹** or 1.190 rounded to **1.2 mg.g⁻¹ cr**

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279 **Conclusions of the collective expert appraisal**

280 The biological values recommended for monitoring occupational exposure to DMF are:

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282 **Urinary total NMF at the end of the shift:**

BLV based on a health effect	10 mg.L⁻¹
BLV based on an 8h-OEL exposure	None
Biological reference value (BRV)	None

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285 **Urinary AMCC at the end of week and end of shift:**

BLV based on a health effect	20 mg.L⁻¹ ou 25 mg.g⁻¹ cr
BLV based on an 8h-OEL exposure	None
Biological reference value (BRV)	<u>Non smokers</u> : 0,5 mg.L⁻¹ or 0,4 mg.g⁻¹ cr
	<u>Smokers</u> : 1,6 mg.L⁻¹ or 1,2 mg.g⁻¹ de cr

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287 As a reminder, BRV can not be considered as protective against health effects but do allow a
 288 comparison with the concentrations of biomarkers measured in exposed workers (by
 289 comparison with the levels of impregnation of the general adult population)

290 It is important to point out that the antabuse effects induced by exposure to DMF combined with
 291 alcohol consumption could occur at lower levels than the hepatic effects. Consequently workers
 292 exposed to DMF must be informed of the risk and of the need not to consume alcoholic beverages
 293 during periods of exposure and at least for a week after stopping them.

294 In addition, in view of the interest of this BME for workers biomonitoring, it is recommended to
 295 conduct new studies at workplace on relationships between AMCC concentrations in urine and
 296 health effects, in particular the elevation of serum concentrations of liver enzymes, in order to
 297 provide data allowing the consolidation of AMCC BLV.

298

299 **Sampling methods and factors that may influence the results**

300 For the urinary measurement of tNMF, a sample at the end of shift, regardless of the day of the
 301 week, is recommended. The samples must be collected in a polypropylene tube (10 mL of urine),
 302 without preservative and stored for transport at + 4°C (7 days).

303 Regarding the AMCC, a sample at the end of the week and end of the shift will be preferred.

304

305 **Biometrology**

 306 Some analytical methods described in the literature have been listed in the table below for the
 307 selected IBE.

 308 **Table 3: Review of analytical methods for the measurement of urinary total NMF**

	URINARY TOTAL N-METHYLFORMAMIDE (NMF)		
	Method 1	Method 2	Method 3
Reference	Kawai <i>et al.</i> , 1992	He <i>et al.</i> , 2010	Will <i>et al.</i> , 2016 (DFG)
Analytical technique	GC-FTD (Flame Thermoionic detector) Temperature in the injector port at 200°C-250°C	GC-MS-EI (Temperature in the injector port at 220°C)	GC-MS-EI (Temperature in the injector port at 300°C)
Standardisation (ISO/AFNOR)	Adjustment : creatinine, specific gravity	Adjustment : creatinine Exclusion criteria >3.4 g/L ou <0.3 g/L	Adjustment : creatinine Exclusion criteria >3.4 g/L ou <0.3 g/L
Limit of detection	Not specified	0,5 mg/L	0,1 mg/L
Limit of quantification	Not specified	Not specified	0,3 mg/L
Linearity zone	Not specified	Not specified	0,1 – 200 mg/L
Possible preparation of the sample and its duration	Extraction with methanol	Liquid liquid extraction with ethyl acetate	Thermolysis for 2 hours at 120°C to transform HMMF into NMF then extraction with ethanol
Analytical interference	Not specified	Not specified	Yield : 97,4% No interference observed
Quality control Reference Standard	Not specified	Not specified	Validation parameters evaluated according to the Bundesärztekammer Guidelines (German Medical Association)

				Participation to inter-laboratory tests G-EQUAS
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Table 14: Review of analytical methods for the measurement of urinary AMCC

URINARY N-ACETYL-S-(N-METHYLCARBAMOYL)CYSTEINE (AMCC)		
	Method 1	Method 2
Reference	Imbriani <i>et al.</i> , 2002	Seitz <i>et al.</i> , 2018
Analytical technique	HPLC with UV@196nm detection	SPE-LC-MS/MS
Standardisation (ISO/AFNOR)		creatinine adjustment
Limit of detection	0,9 mg/L (calculated)	0,005 mg/L
Limit of quantification	5 mg/L (low point in range)	Not specified
Linearity zone	Until 1 g/L	Not specified
Possible preparation of the sample and its duration	SPE 95.4%+/- 1.7%	Acidification and 10 min centrifugation Online SPE
Analytical interference	Negligible (internal standard necessary)	MS/MS with 2 transitions +internal d ₃ -AMCC standard
Quality control Reference Standard	3 QC precision 2 QC accuracy	Use of an internal d ₃ -AMCC standard Participation to the German External Quality Assurance Scheme (GEQUAS)

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From an analytical point of view, based on the elements provided in this document it is recommended to use the following analytical methods for each of the BME:

- the method described in the study by Will *et al.* (Will *et al.*, 2016) (GC-MS-EI with port temperature 300°C) for urinary tNMF,
- the method used in the study by Seitz *et al.* (Seitz *et al.*, 2018) (SPE-LC-MS/MS) for urinary AMCC.

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