

**United States Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service, Office of Public Health Science**

Definitions for Chemistry Methods		Page 1 of 1
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Intralaboratory Check Sample: A quality control sample containing target components at a pre-determined level or concentration unknown to the analyst performing the test. The intralaboratory check sample satisfies multiple uses:

- It serves as an indicator of analyst ongoing proficiency
- It serves as an internal proficiency test for the laboratory
- Its results may be used to calculate measurement uncertainty for a given method

Minimum Level of Applicability (MLA)

The MLA is the minimum level at which a method has been successfully validated for a residue in a given matrix. For quantitative methods, it is also the minimum level at which regulatory results may be reported. It also refers to the lowest level at which a laboratory analyst is expected to maintain ongoing proficiency in the method. Other regulatory laboratories may use different terms, such as “method LOD” or “method LOQ,” to state the level used in the method for regulatory enforcement.