# Recovery Correction and its impact on measurement uncertainty: Data from QuEChERS Verifications

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## Introduction

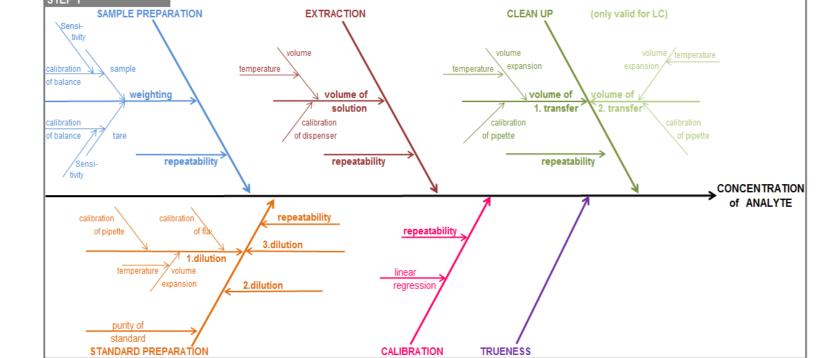
In pesticide residue analysis, most laboratories use the pragmatic approach for measurement uncertainty (MU) estimation given in the SANCO document 10684/2009<sup>1a</sup>: based on the experiences from EUPTs <sup>2</sup>, "*a default expanded uncertainty figure of 50% (corresponding to a 95% confidence level and a coverage factor of 2), in general covers the inter-laboratory variability between the European laboratories and is recommended to be used by regulatory authorities in cases of enforcement decisions (MRL-exceedences).*" As prerequisite to be allowed to use this default expanded MU, laboratories have to prove that their own (within laboratory) expanded MU is smaller than 50% <sup>1a</sup>. This is done using data obtained from method validation, quality controls, and/or PT results, i.e. data sources with a limited number of representative analytes.

Since the Turkish Accreditation Body, TÜRKAK, does not accept the use of representative analytes for method validation, two within-laboratory verifications of the QuEChERS method for a total of 546 pesticides analyzed by LC-MS/MS and GC-MS were carried out using the approach of the IUPAC/AOAC/ISO "Harmonized Guidelines for Single-Laboratory Validation of Methods of Analysis" <sup>3</sup> with ANOVA calculation of the results. With this multitude of data, individual MU estimations were calculated for all analytes considering the effects of a possible recovery correction.

#### Sources of uncertainty in QuEChERS

Based on the work flow of the QuEChERS method, an Ishikawa diagram was drawn to find the contributing standard uncertainties (Figure 1 step 1). Since balances, volumetric measuring devices and environmental conditions were under regular control, and the verification studies were carried out over a longer period of time with variations in analysts, laboratory tools, and calibrations, it can be assumed, that the influences of the variability of most sources on the measurement uncertainty are covered by the within-laboratory precision. The only source exempted from this assumption is the purity of the standard materials, which were used for the preparation of the calibration standard solutions as well as for spiking the samples in the precision and trueness studies. While their average content was compensated during initial weighting, the uncertainty in content must be considered twice, as possible errors might occur in both, standard solutions and spiked samples. Taking these assumptions into consideration, the Ishikawa diagram could be simplified as shown in step 2. During the evaluation of the individual results, it could be seen, that the effect of standard purity was negligible for all analytes. Thus, the Ishikawa diagram could be further simplified by reducing the important sources of measurement uncertainty to precision and trueness, i.e. intermediate (or withinlaboratory) reproducibility and recovery (step 3).

Calculating uncertainty from recovery and combined uncertainty





No Analyte 529 Triazamat	RSD <sub>IP</sub> Q uncorr. corrected	No Analyte 86 Chloroxon	results         expanded model           RSD <sub>iP</sub> Q         uncorr.         corrected           0,109         0,930         22,9         21,8		results         expanded index           RSD <sub>IP</sub> Q         uncorr.         corrected           0,120         0,856         28,1         24,0
71 Dinotefuran	0,047         1,000         9,5         9,5           0,063         0,970         13,0         12,6           0,067         1,000         13,6         13,6	391 Oxadiazon	0,103         0,930         22,9         21,8           0,107         0,919         23,0         21,4           0,112         0,956         23,0         22,5	238 Fipronil-Sulfid	0,120         0,850         28,1         24,0           0,129         0,891         28,1         25,9           0,112         0,832         28,1         22,3
176 Silthiofam 229 Fenthion-oxon 92 Chlorthal-dimethyl	0,067         1,000         13,6         13,6           0,046         0,895         14,1         9,3           0,075         0,999         15,0         15,0	484     Sulfentrazon       23     Azinphos-ethyl       404     Pentachloranilin	0,112         0,956         23,0         22,5           0,091         0,863         23,0         18,3           0,095         0,874         23,0         19,1	368 Metsulfuron-Methyl	0,112         0,832         28,1         22,3           0,126         0,876         28,2         25,3           0,101         0,805         28,3         20,1
277 Fuberidazol 256 Methiocarb-Sulfoxide	0,073         0,393         13,0         13,0           0,074         1,025         15,2         15,0           0,073         1,040         15,2         14,7	161     Dimepiperat       30     Benfuracarb	0,000         0,000         23,0         13,1           0,110         0,934         23,0         22,0           0,112         0,954         23,0         22,6	462 Pyriproxifen	0,139 0,947 28,4 27,9 0,094 0,791 28,4 18,9
247 Fluazifop-p-butyl 38 Bifenthrin	0,0520,89015,310,50,0510,88715,310,2	314Isofenphos-Methyl139Demeton-S-methyl sulfone	0,1110,93723,122,20,1000,88723,120,1	425 Prochloraz 116 <i>Cyfluthrin beta</i>	0,1150,83428,523,00,0990,79928,519,8
48 Bromopropylate 280 Halfenprox	0,056         0,894         15,5         11,2           0,078         1,008         15,8         15,7           0,078         1,005         15,0         15,7	309 Isazophos 491 Tebutam	0,094         0,867         23,1         18,8           0,102         0,894         23,2         20,6           0,112         0,854         23,2         20,6	272 Foramsulfuron	0,134         0,906         28,5         26,9           0,108         0,816         28,5         21,7           0,128         0,806         20,05         20,5
62 Carbofuran-3-hydroxid 421 Pirimicarb-desmethyl	0,078         1,025         15,9         15,7           0,079         0,987         16,0         15,9           0,052         0,884         16,0         10,5	125 Cyproconazole TOTAL 395 Paclobutrazol	0,113         0,954         23,2         22,7           0,110         0,930         23,2         22,1           0,112         0,930         23,4         23,5	406 Pentachlorbenzol	0,132         0,896         28,6         26,5           0,126         0,867         28,6         25,2           0,134         0,004         28,6         26,0
337 Mefenpyr diethyl 236 Fipronil 26 Beflukutemid	0,052         0,881         16,0         10,5           0,071         0,925         16,1         14,1           0,078         0,973         16,2         16,0	344 Metalaxyl 250 Flubendiamid 203 Etayazol	0,112         0,939         23,4         22,5           0,116         1,020         23,4         23,3           0,113         0,942         23,4         22,6	222 Fenpropathrin	0,134         0,904         28,6         26,9           0,140         0,943         28,6         28,0           0,105         0,809         28,6         21,1
26 Beflubutamid 359 Methoxychlor 95 Chromafenozid	0,079         0,973         16,2         16,0           0,066         0,904         16,3         13,1           0,077         0,947         16,4         15,5	203 Etoxazol 179 Disulfoton-Sulfon 127 Cyromazin	0,113         0,942         23,4         22,6           0,111         1,074         23,5         22,2           0,108         0,909         23,5         21,6		0,105         0,809         28,6         21,1           0,139         0,938         28,6         27,9           0,121         0,849         28,7         24,3
95 Chromafenozid 180 Disulfoton-sulfoxide 384 Nitrothal isopropyl	0,077         0,947         16,4         15,5           0,081         1,027         16,4         16,2           0,083         1,004         16,7         16,7	127 Cyromazin 108 Cyanazin 202 Ethoxyquin	0,108         0,909         23,5         21,6           0,108         0,912         23,5         21,8           0,115         0,955         23,5         23,1	497 Terbufos	0,121         0,849         28,7         24,3           0,135         0,906         28,7         27,1           0,095         0,787         28,7         18,9
21 Azaconazole 209 Fenamiphos	0,083         1,004         16,7         16,7           0,081         0,965         16,7         16,3           0,082         0,972         16,7         16,5	358 Methopropthryn 527 Triamiphos	0,113         0,955         23,5         23,1           0,117         1,001         23,5         23,5           0,116         1,027         23,5         23,4		0,123         0,853         28,8         24,6           0,123         0,852         28,8         24,6
177 Dipropetryn 422 Pirimicarb-desmethyl formamid	0,077 0,934 16,8 15,4	82 <i>Chlormephos</i> 16 Aminocarb	0,114         0,946         23,5         22,9           0,108         0,909         23,6         21,7	189 Epoxiconazole	0,142 0,949 28,9 28,4 0,101 0,796 28,9 20,3
363 Metolcarb 514 Thiofanox-Sulfoxide	0,083         0,997         16,8         16,8           0,082         0,963         16,9         16,5	114 Cyflufenamid 298 Imazaquin	0,1060,89823,621,20,1160,96923,623,4	541 Triforine	0,138 0,917 29,0 27,7 0,113 0,823 29,0 22,7
147 <i>Dichlofenthion</i> 278 Furalaxyl	0,0840,99116,916,90,0730,91416,914,6	472 S421 157 Diethofencarb	0,115         0,951         23,6         23,1           0,114         0,940         23,6         22,9		0,104 0,800 29,0 20,8 0,139 0,921 29,0 27,9
543         Uniconazole           63         Carbophenothion	0,079         0,939         17,0         15,8           0,085         1,015         17,1         17,0	405         Pentachloranisol           394         Oxyfluorfen	0,107         0,900         23,7         21,4           0,084         0,835         23,7         16,8		0,137         0,910         29,0         27,6           0,116         0,824         29,2         23,2
57 Cadusafos 361 Metobromuron	0,080         0,942         17,1         16,1           0,085         1,021         17,1         17,0           0,085         0,980         17,2         12,0	140 Demeton-S-methyl sulfoxide 351 Methacrifos	0,117 0,977 23,7 23,6	516 Thionazin	0,146 1,001 29,3 29,3 0,146 1,016 29,3 29,2
135 DDT, p-p 365 Metoxuron 513 Thiofanox-Sulfone	0,069         0,899         17,2         13,8           0,083         0,950         17,3         16,6           0,086         1,014         17,4         17,4	452 Pyrafluofen-ethyl 385 N-naphtylacetamide 67 Carfentrazon-ethyl	0,112         0,926         23,7         22,5           0,116         0,956         23,8         23,3           0,118         1,005         23,8         23,8		0,122 0,840 29,3 24,5 0,114 0,818 29,3 22,8 0,109 0,807 29,3 21,9
237 Fipronil-desulfinyl 197 Ethion	0,050 0,857 17,6 10,0 0,084 1,050 17,6 16,8	343 Metaflumizon 426 Procymidone	0,117         0,955         23,9         23,4           0,071         0,810         23,9         14,1	204 Etridiazol	0,137 0,899 29,4 27,6 0,144 0,947 29,4 28,9
402 Pencycuron 291 Heptenophos	0,081 0,933 17,6 16,3 0,088 0,991 17,6 17,6	319 Isoxaben 7 Aclonifen	0,1180,96923,923,70,1190,99824,024,0	254 Fludioxonil	0,144 0,940 29,5 28,8 0,089 0,769 29,5 17,9
506 Thiabendazole 423 Pirimiphos-methyl	0,0840,94617,716,80,0710,89717,714,3	40         Bitertanol TOTAL           252         Fluchloralin	0,0710,80924,014,20,1190,97624,023,9	441 Propiconazole	0,120         0,831         29,6         24,1           0,142         0,920         29,6         28,5
313   Isofenphos     232   Fenthion-Sulfoxide	0,086         0,957         17,9         17,4           0,089         1,005         17,9         17,9	332   Malaoxon     410   Phenmedipham	0,1110,91224,022,30,1200,98824,124,0	503 Tetradifon	0,112 0,809 29,6 22,4 0,090 0,767 29,7 18,0
504 Tetramethrin TOTAL 532 Trichloronat	0,087         0,959         18,0         17,6           0,089         0,965         18,3         18,0           0,088         0,952         18,4         17,7	24 Azinphos-methyl 101 Clomazon	0,118         0,958         24,1         23,7           0,116         0,940         24,1         23,3           0,120         0,987         24,1         24,1	251 Flubenzimin	0,147         0,955         29,7         29,4           0,130         0,857         29,8         26,0           0,097         0,777         29,8         19,3
312     Isodrin       98     Climbazol       498     Terbumeton	0,088         0,952         18,4         17,7           0,090         0,967         18,4         18,1           0,091         0,999         18,4         18,4	107 Crimidin 467 Quizalofop free acid 341 Mesosulfuron-Methyl	0,120         0,987         24,1         24,1           0,107         0,892         24,1         21,5           0,120         0,980         24,1         24,0	305 loxynil	0,097         0,777         29,8         19,3           0,143         0,922         29,8         28,8           0,132         0,862         29,9         26,5
498         Ferbumeton           234         Fenuron           392         Oxadixyl	0,091         0,999         18,4         18,4           0,087         1,059         18,4         17,4           0,080         0,911         18,4         16,1	419 Piperonyl-butoxid 388 Nuarimol	0,120         0,980         24,1         24,0           0,114         0,924         24,2         22,9           0,112         0,910         24,2         22,4		0,132         0,862         29,9         26,5           0,140         0,897         30,0         28,1           0,147         0,953         30,0         29,6
483 Spiroxamine 167 Dimetilan	0,080         0,911         18,4         16,1           0,083         0,923         18,4         16,7           0,092         0,990         18,5         18,5	255 Flufenacet 435 Propanil	0,112         0,910         24,2         22,4           0,117         0,947         24,2         23,6           0,116         0,936         24,3         23,4	159 Diflubenzuron	0,127         0,842         30,0         25,4           0,136         0,878         30,0         27,3
453 Pyrazophos 428 Profluralin	0,0730,88718,514,60,0910,97218,618,4	223 <i>Fenpropidin</i> 124 Cyphenothrin	0,1120,91024,322,50,1160,93324,323,3	128 D, 2,4- 199 Ethofenprox	0,133 0,863 30,0 26,7 0,133 0,861 30,1 26,6
489 Tebufenozid 224 Fenpropimorph	0,0830,91618,616,60,0840,92118,716,8	485 Sulfotep 304 Iodosulfuron-Methyl	0,1171,06424,423,50,1090,89324,522,0	51 Buprofezin 376 Myclobutanil	0,150 1,002 30,1 30,1 0,149 0,961 30,1 29,9
473 Secbumeton 79 Chlorfenvinphos	0,093         0,997         18,7         18,7           0,066         0,869         18,8         13,3           0,093         0,998         18,8         18,7	528 Triasulfuron 479 Spinosad A 268 Elutolanii	0,116         0,928         24,5         23,4           0,112         0,904         24,5         22,5           0,118         0,939         24,5         23,7		0,150         0,981         30,2         30,1           0,150         0,975         30,2         30,0           0,114         0,805         30,2         32,8
276 Fosthiazat 274 Formethanat 377 Napropamide	0,093         0,988         18,8         18,7           0,093         0,982         18,8         18,7           0,093         0,982         18,8         18,7           0,092         0,961         18,8         18,4	268 Flutolanil 105 Coumaphos 136 Deet	0,118         0,939         24,5         23,7           0,104         0,871         24,5         20,8           0,111         0,896         24,6         22,2	288 Heptachlor	0,114         0,805         30,2         22,8           0,107         0,790         30,2         21,4           0,109         0,793         30,3         21,8
71 Chlorbenzilate 386 Norflurazon	0,092         0,961         18,8         18,4           0,059         0,854         18,9         11,8           0,088         1,066         19,0         17,7	136 Deet 540 Triflusulfuron-methyl 499 Terbutryn	0,111         0,896         24,6         22,2           0,108         0,885         24,6         21,7           0,119         1,059         24,6         23,9	166 Dimethomorph TOTAL	
400 Pebulat 501 <i>Tetrachlorvinphos</i>	0,033         1,060         13,0         17,7           0,091         0,949         19,0         18,3           0,090         0,936         19,1         18,0	77         Chlorfenapyr           345         Metalaxyl-M	0,110         0,948         24,7         24,1           0,108         0,882         24,7         21,6	33 Bensulfuron-methyl	0,130         0,500         30,4         30,1           0,129         0,840         30,4         25,8           0,140         0,883         30,4         28,1
355     Methiocarb-Sulfone       46     Bromophos-ethyl	0,0940,96419,118,80,0650,86019,313,0	461Pyrimidifen415Phosphamidone TOTAL	0,105         0,873         24,7         21,2           0,104         0,868         24,8         20,9	244Fluazifop free acid12Aldicarb sulfoxide	0,152         0,987         30,5         30,5           0,113         0,798         30,6         22,7
160 Diflufenican 192 Etaconazole TOTAL	0,0880,92319,317,70,0930,95019,318,6	346 Metalochlor 459 Pyrifenox	0,0820,81724,816,50,1170,91624,923,4	170 Dinocap 183 Dodine	0,139         0,877         30,6         28,0           0,151         0,951         30,7         30,2
398   Parathion-ethyl     212   Fenbuconazole	0,078         0,886         19,4         15,5           0,095         0,964         19,4         19,0	397   Paraoxon-Methyl     269   Flutriafol	0,110         0,886         24,9         22,1           0,120         0,933         24,9         24,0	434 Propachlor	0,107 0,783 30,7 21,6 0,153 1,021 30,8 30,7
172 Dioxacarb 155 Dicrotophos	0,095         1,040         19,5         19,1           0,093         0,941         19,6         18,7           0,097         0,973         19,6         19,4	211 Fenazaquin 317 Isoprothiolane	0,104         0,865         24,9         20,9           0,119         0,925         25,0         23,9           0,120         0,920         25,1         24,4	60 Carbendazim	0,121         0,813         30,8         24,3           0,117         0,803         30,8         23,4           0,120         0,827         20,0         26,4
486 Sulprofos 243 Florasulam 396 Paraoxon-Ethyl	0,097         0,973         19,6         19,4           0,086         0,907         19,7         17,3           0,098         0,980         19,7         19,6	315     Isofenphos-oxon       432     Prometryn       131     DDD, p-p	0,120         0,930         25,1         24,1           0,121         1,063         25,2         24,4           0,077         0,803         25,2         15,4	91 Chlorsulfuron	0,130         0,837         30,9         26,1           0,121         0,808         31,0         24,2           0,110         0,785         31,0         22,0
32 Benoxacor 195 Ethiofencarb-Sulfone	0,097         1,030         19,8         19,6           0,097         0,963         19,9         19,5	178 Disulfoton 134 DDT, o-p	0,125         0,986         25,2         13,4           0,125         0,986         25,2         25,2           0,094         0,834         25,2         18,8	508 Thiamethoxam	0,127         0,822         31,1         25,4           0,142         0,874         31,1         28,4
357 Methomyl 510 Thiobencarb	0,099 1,005 19,9 19,9 0,095 0,942 19,9 19,0	20 Atrazine 99 Clodinafop-propargyl	0,114         0,892         25,3         22,8           0,126         0,988         25,3         25,3	18 Amitraz TOTAL	0,093 0,752 31,2 18,6 0,087 0,745 31,2 17,5
36 Bifenazate 118 Cyhalofop-butyl	0,0970,95919,919,50,0780,87719,915,5	47Bromophos-methyl433Promopocarb	0,069         0,791         25,3         13,8           0,085         0,816         25,3         17,1	240 Flamprop-isopropyl	0,143         0,877         31,2         28,7           0,156         0,973         31,4         31,3
430 Promecarb 2 Acephat	0,099         0,981         19,9         19,8           0,080         0,882         19,9         16,0	84 Chloroneb 130 DDD, o-p	0,108         0,872         25,3         21,7           0,073         0,796         25,4         14,7	444 Propyzamide	0,123 0,807 31,4 24,6 0,149 0,901 31,5 29,8
14 Allethrin 149 Dichlofop-methyl 22 Azadiractrin	0,095         0,937         20,0         19,0           0,072         0,863         20,1         14,5           0,098         0,958         20,1         19,6	141 Desmedipham 241 Flamprop-methyl 367 Metrofenon	0,120         0,921         25,4         24,1           0,123         0,946         25,4         24,8           0,110         0.876         25,4         22,1	156 Dieldrin	0,116         0,789         31,5         23,1           0,096         0,754         31,6         19,2           0,113         0,783         31,6         22,6
22 Azadiractrin 409 <i>Perthan</i> 218 Fenobucarb	0,098         0,958         20,1         19,6           0,091         0,919         20,1         18,3           0,098         0,962         20,1         19,7	367 Metrofenon 502 Tetraconazole 19 Anthraquinone	0,110         0,876         25,4         22,1           0,122         0,937         25,4         24,6           0,120         0,917         25,4         24,0	335 MCPA	0,113         0,783         31,6         22,6           0,152         0,920         31,6         30,6           0,157         0,985         31,7         31,6
306 <i>Iprobenfos</i> 373 Monocrotophos	0,098         0,962         20,1         19,7           0,100         1,007         20,1         20,1           0,097         0,948         20,2         19,5	300 Imazosulfuron 342 Mesotrione	0,120         0,917         25,4         24,0           0,120         0,918         25,5         24,1           0,112         0,880         25,5         22,4	520 Tolyfluanid	0,157         0,985         31,7         31,6           0,112         0,780         31,7         22,5           0,146         0,877         31,8         29,3
389 Ofurace 322 Isoxathion	0,0930,92220,218,60,1000,97120,220,0	146 <i>Dichlobenil</i> 163 Dimethanamid	0,1150,89125,623,10,1150,89025,623,0	154 Dicofol 185 Endosulfan alpha	0,093 0,744 31,9 18,5 0,097 0,749 32,0 19,4
52 Butacarboxim Sulfoxide 169 Diniconazole	0,0870,89820,317,50,0980,94820,419,7	133 DDE, p-p 320 Isoxadifen-Ethyl	0,0730,79325,614,60,1270,99925,625,6	517 Thiophanate-methyl 246 Fluazifop-p	0,123 0,798 32,0 24,6 0,148 0,880 32,1 29,7
196 Terbacil 245 Fluazifop-butyl	0,097         0,941         20,4         19,5           0,093         0,917         20,5         18,7           0,098         0,945         20,5         19,7	420 Pirimicarb 187 Endosulfan sulfate	0,085         0,811         25,7         17,0           0,070         0,788         25,7         14,1           0,089         0,818         25,7         17,0	126 Cyprodinil	0,158         0,962         32,1         31,8           0,153         0,905         32,1         30,6           0,154         0,912         32,1         30,9
190 Tebufenpyrad 519 Tolfenpyrad 153 <i>Dicloran</i>	0,098         0,945         20,5         19,7           0,094         0,921         20,5         18,9           0,102         0,989         20,5         20,5	121     Cypermethrin alpha       521     Topramezon       221     Fenpiclonil	0,089         0,818         25,7         17,9           0,121         0,915         25,7         24,3           0,123         0,925         25,8         24,7	83 Chlormequat chloride	0,154         0,913         32,1         30,9           0,086         0,733         32,2         17,3           0,125         0,800         32,2         25,0
103 Cloquintocet-mexyl 231 Fenthion-Sulfone	0,102         0,303         20,5         20,3           0,097         0,933         20,5         19,4           0,102         0,975         20,6         20,5	447 Prosulfuron 535 Tridemorph	0,123         0,923         25,9         24,7           0,124         0,933         25,9         24,9           0,085         0,806         25,9         17,0	546 Zoxamid	0,122         0,800         32,2         23,0           0,152         0,897         32,2         30,5           0,158         0,944         32,2         31,7
465 Quinoxyfen 219 Fenoxaprop-p-ethyl	0,059 0,833 20,6 11,7 0,092 0,911 20,6 18,6	538 Triflumuron 227 Fensulfothion	0,127         0,957         26,0         25,6           0,128         1,030         26,0         25,8	17 Amitraz	0,128 0,806 32,3 25,6 0,136 0,830 32,3 27,3
196         Ethiofencarb-Sulfoxide           295         Hexazinone	0,0990,94420,619,80,1010,96120,720,3	265 Fluquinconazole 500 <i>Terbutylazine</i>	0,1240,92826,025,00,0920,81826,118,5		0,144 0,855 32,4 28,8 0,119 0,783 32,5 23,9
310Isocarbamid494Tefluthrin	0,1031,00020,720,70,0970,93320,719,6	412Phenylphenol, o-162Dimethaclor	0,111         0,863         26,2         22,2           0,130         0,983         26,2         26,2	382 Nitrapryn	0,152         0,885         32,6         30,5           0,161         0,948         32,7         32,2
380 Nitenpyram 481 Spirodiclofen	0,083         0,879         20,7         16,8           0,101         0,957         20,8         20,3           0,091         0,900         20,8         18,2	352 Methamidophos 239 Fipronil-Sulfon	0,097         0,826         26,2         19,4           0,122         0,906         26,3         24,5           0,123         0,911         26,3         24,7	142 Desmethryn	0,154         0,892         32,7         30,8           0,159         0,922         32,8         31,9           0,160         0,926         32,8         32,0
146 Prosulfocarb 226 Fenson 102 Clopyralid	0,091         0,900         20,8         18,2           0,102         0,959         20,8         20,4           0,099         0,935         20,8         19,8	25 Azoxystrobin 89 Chlorpyriphos 260 Fluorochloridone	0,123         0,911         26,3         24,7           0,084         0,801         26,3         16,8           0,078         0,792         26,3         15,7		0,160         0,926         32,8         32,0           0,153         0,885         32,9         30,7           0,150         0,867         32,9         30,0
102 Clopyralid 42 Bromacil 416 <i>Picolinafen</i>	0,099         0,935         20,8         19,8           0,100         0,946         20,9         20,1           0,089         0,892         20,9         17,8	260 Fluorochloridone 271 Fonofos 64 Carbophenthion-methyl	0,078         0,792         26,3         15,7           0,123         0,910         26,3         24,7           0,131         0,973         26,4         26,3	477 Simazine	0,150         0,867         32,9         30,0           0,138         0,823         32,9         27,6           0,144         0,842         33,0         28,8
350         Methabenzthiazuron           88         Chlorpropylat	0,009         0,932         20,9         17,8           0,100         0,942         21,0         20,2           0,099         0,931         21,0         19,8	8 Acrinathrin 301 Imibenconazole	0,131         0,973         28,4         28,3           0,107         0,848         26,4         21,4           0,127         0,932         26,5         25,5	413 Phosalone	0,144         0,042         33,0         28,8           0,150         0,865         33,0         30,1           0,097         0,735         33,2         19,5
242 Flonicamid 308 Iprovalicarb	0,0950,91221,119,10,1000,93821,120,1	249 Fluazuron 505 Tetrasul	0,1300,96026,526,20,0950,81726,519,0	285 HCH beta 120 Cymoxanil	0,1040,74633,220,80,1280,79233,225,6
168 Dimoxystrobin 104 Clothianidin	0,105         0,998         21,1         21,1           0,101         0,944         21,1         20,4           0,102         0,955         0,214         0,005	431 Prometon 267 Fluthiacet-methyl	0,114         0,868         26,5         23,0           0,130         0,954         26,5         26,1           0,120         0,954         26,5         26,1	207 Famoxadone	0,155 0,881 33,4 31,1 0,166 0,963 33,4 33,2
35 Benthiavalicarb-isopropyl 407 Pentachlorphenol	0,103         0,953         21,1         20,6           0,096         0,913         21,2         19,3           0,102         0,946         21,2         20,5	362 Metolachlor 96 Cinosulfuron	0,123         0,905         26,5         24,7           0,110         0,855         26,6         22,2           0,115         0,869         26,6         23,1	193 Ethalfluralin	0,118         0,765         33,5         23,6           0,126         0,781         33,6         25,1           0,158         0,891         33,6         31,7
266 Flusilazole 53 Butafenacil 258 Fluometuron	0,102         0,946         21,2         20,5           0,100         0,930         21,2         20,0           0,100         1,066         21,3         20,2	294 Hexaflumuron 144 <i>Diazinon</i> 230 Fenthion-oxon Sulfoxide	0,115         0,869         26,6         23,1           0,105         0,839         26,6         21,0           0,066         0,771         26,6         13,2	329 Lindane (HCH gamma)	0,158         0,891         33,6         31,7           0,131         0,794         33,6         26,3           0,147         0,840         33,7         29,6
117 Picoxystrobin 151 Pyraclostrobin	0,100         1,060         21,3         20,2           0,100         0,932         21,3         20,1           0,106         0,982         21,3         21,2	90 <i>Chlorpyriphos-methyl</i> 445 Proquinazid	0,000         0,771         26,6         13,2           0,093         0,812         26,6         18,6           0,129         0,938         26,7         25,9	495 Tepraloxydim	0,147         0,840         33,7         29,6           0,143         0,825         33,7         28,7           0,162         0,911         33,8         32,5
15 Ametryn 330 Linuron	0,1021,05521,320,60,1061,00621,421,3	349 Metconazole 273 Forchlorfenuron	0,121         0,889         26,7         24,2           0,133         1,007         26,7         26,7	1 Abamectin 70 <i>Chlorbenside</i>	0,163 0,918 33,8 32,8 0,089 0,718 33,8 17,9
28 Bendiocarb 338 Mepanipyrim	0,1050,96721,421,20,1020,93721,420,5	333     Malathion       475     Silafluofen	0,108         0,845         26,8         21,6           0,121         0,888         26,8         24,3	112Cycloate73Chlorbufam	0,114 0,754 33,8 22,8 0,152 0,857 33,8 30,6
264 Fluprimidol 282 Haloxyfop-2-etoxy-ethyl 260 Methexyfopagaid	0,096         0,906         21,4         19,2           0,100         0,924         21,4         20,0           0,106         0,972         21,4         21,2	145 Dicamba 213 Fenbutatin-oxid	0,128         0,923         26,8         25,6           0,131         0,948         26,8         26,3           0,124         0,981         26,0         26,8	164 Dimethipin	0,150         0,846         33,9         30,1           0,117         0,757         34,0         23,4           0,157         0,870         24,0         21,4
<ul> <li>360 Methoxyfenozid</li> <li>439 Propetamphos</li> <li>290 Heptachlorepoxide, cis (exo)</li> </ul>	0,106         0,973         21,4         21,3           0,106         0,968         21,5         21,2           0,107         0,998         21,6         21,6	93 Chlorthiophos 509 Thifensulfuron-Methyl 66 Carboxin	0,134         0,981         26,9         26,8           0,117         0,871         27,0         23,6           0,117         0,870         27,0         23,5	328 Leptophos	0,157         0,870         34,0         31,4           0,161         0,891         34,1         32,3           0,155         0,858         34,2         31,0
290 Heptachlorepoxide, cis (exo) 375 Monuron 408 Permethrin TOTAL	0,107         0,998         21,6         21,6           0,107         0,976         21,6         21,4           0,068         0,835         21,6         13,6	5 Acetochlor 302 Imidacloprid	0,117         0,870         27,0         23,5           0,093         0,809         27,0         18,7           0,110         0,847         27,0         22,1	201 Ethopropos	0,155         0,858         34,2         31,0           0,123         0,765         34,3         24,6           0,126         0,772         34,3         25,3
334 Mandipropamid 61 Carbofuran	0,008         0,955         21,6         13,6           0,105         0,956         21,6         21,1           0,104         0,947         21,6         20,9	123 Cypermethrin gamma+delta 43 Bromfenvinphos		536 Trifloxystrobin	0,120         0,772         34,3         23,3           0,161         0,884         34,4         32,3           0,112         0,742         34,5         22,4
262 Fluoxastrobin 76 <i>Diphenylamine</i>	0,1040,94221,620,80,0990,91021,819,8	11     Aldicarb sulfone       94     Chlozolinat	0,1160,86427,023,30,1090,84127,121,8	215 Fenfluthrin 379 Nicosulfuron	0,132 0,781 34,5 26,5 0,134 0,784 34,5 26,8
52 <i>Diclobutrazol</i> 83 Haloxyfop-p-methyl	0,1030,92821,820,60,1091,01321,921,8	263 Fluoxypyr-1-methylheptyl 27 Benalaxyl	0,1290,91827,125,90,0870,79527,217,4	323 Jodfenphos 482 Spiromesifen	0,1710,95934,534,30,1670,92034,633,6
71 Rotenon 72 Monalid	0,105         0,942         21,9         21,1           0,090         0,877         21,9         18,0           0,107         0,962         24,9         24,6	374 Monolinuron 456 Pyridaben	0,109         0,841         27,2         21,8           0,121         0,878         27,3         24,3           0,122         0,026         27,2         26,6	492 Tecnazene	0,145         0,810         34,8         29,0           0,129         0,769         34,9         25,9           0,119         0,769         35,0         23,7
261 Fluotrimazol 259 Fluopicolid	0,107         0,963         21,9         21,6           0,109         0,983         22,0         21,9           0,100         0,911         23,0         20,1	281 Haloxyfop 54 Butocarboxim 455 Purethring 2	0,132         0,936         27,3         26,6           0,136         0,979         27,3         27,3           0,136         1,002         27,3         27,3	480 Spinosad D	0,118         0,746         35,0         23,7           0,155         0,838         35,1         31,0           0,139         0,700         25,1         27,9
474 Sethoxydim     45 Bromocyclen     6 Acibenzolar-S-Methyl	0,100         0,911         22,0         20,1           0,107         0,956         22,0         21,5           0,108         0,965         22,1         21,8	455 Pyrethrins 2 210 Fenarimol 174 Diphenamid	0,136         1,003         27,3         27,3           0,131         1,078         27,3         26,2           0,073         0,772         27,4         14,7	286 HCH delta	0,139         0,790         35,1         27,9           0,089         0,702         35,1         17,8           0,133         0,773         35,2         26,7
6 Acibenzolar-S-Methyl 424 Primiphos-ethyl 150 Dichlorbenzofenon-4.4'	0,108         0,965         22,1         21,8           0,110         0,979         22,1         22,0           0,097         0,896         22,1         19,5	174 Diphenamid 9 Alachlor 122 Cypermethrin beta	0,073         0,772         27,4         14,7           0,127         0,901         27,4         25,5           0,102         0,821         27,4         20,5	44 Bromoconazole	0,133         0,773         35,2         26,7           0,161         0,852         35,5         32,2           0,155         0,829         35,5         31,0
150 Dichlorbenzofenon-4,4' 464 Quinoclamine 340 Mepronil	0,097         0,896         22,1         19,5           0,107         0,945         22,1         21,5           0,097         0,895         22,2         19,5	122 Cypermethrin beta 542 Triticonazole 443 Propoxycarbazone	0,102         0,821         27,4         20,5           0,136         0,972         27,4         27,3           0,097         0,808         27,4         19,4	284 HCH alpha	0,155         0,829         35,5         31,0           0,129         0,759         35,6         25,9           0,172         0,908         35,7         34,5
117 Cyfluthrin gamma+delta 190 EPTC	0,097         0,895         22,2         19,5           0,101         0,907         22,3         20,2           0,109         0,954         22,3         21,8	443 Propoxycarbazone 454 Pyrethrins 1 414 Phosmet	0,097         0,808         27,4         19,4           0,136         0,979         27,4         27,4           0,120         0,870         27,5         24,1	58 Captan	0,172         0,908         35,7         34,5           0,126         0,748         35,9         25,2           0,112         0,724         35,9         22,5
29 Benfluralin 78 Chlorfenson	0,103         0,917         22,3         21,8           0,103         0,917         22,3         20,7           0,108         0,946         22,3         21,7	132 DDE, o-p 198 Ethirimol	0,120         0,070         27,5         24,1           0,072         0,770         27,5         14,5           0,137         1,010         27,5         27,4	458 Pyridate	0,112         0,724         35,9         22,3           0,155         0,822         35,9         31,1           0,128         0,750         36,0         25,6
72 Chlorbromuron 383 <i>Nitrofen</i>	0,0920,87722,418,60,1110,97522,422,2	248 Fluazinam 214 Fenchlorphos	0,1240,88327,524,80,0890,79427,517,9	488Tebuconazole401Penconazole	0,149 0,788 36,7 29,8 0,155 0,806 36,7 31,1
163 Quinalphos 140 Propham	0,0810,84822,416,30,1100,96722,422,2	311         Isocarbophos           448         Prothioconazole	0,1360,97227,527,40,1370,99027,527,5	97Clethodim403Pendimethalin	0,1560,80936,831,30,1580,81336,931,6
336 Mecarbam 109 <i>Cyanofenphos</i>	0,1080,93822,521,60,1111,03122,522,3	487 <i>Tau-Fluvalinate TOTAL</i> 437 Propargite	0,100         0,813         27,5         20,0           0,136         0,956         27,6         27,2	369 Mevinfos	0,104 0,697 37,1 20,8 0,124 0,727 37,2 24,8
299 Imazethapyr 256 Flufenoxuron	0,111         0,967         22,5         22,3           0,110         0,953         22,5         22,0           0,105         0,000         22,5         21,1	220 Fenoxycarb 429 Profoxydim (Clefoxydim)	0,134         0,934         27,6         26,8           0,137         1,008         27,6         27,6           0,137         0,992         27,6         25,4	225 Fenproximate	0,124         0,726         37,3         24,8           0,169         0,846         37,4         33,9           0,164         0,840         38,4         32,0
23 Transfluthrin 05 Etrimfos	0,105         0,922         22,5         21,1           0,099         0,894         22,5         19,8           0,097         0,859         22,6         17,5	468 Quizalofop-ethyl 478 Simetryn	0,127         0,893         27,6         25,4           0,131         0,913         27,7         26,3           0,100         0,842         27,7         20,1	331 Lufenuron	0,164         0,810         38,1         33,0           0,170         0,826         38,4         34,1           0,160         0,801         38,5         32,0
378 Neburon	0,087         0,858         22,6         17,5           0,102         0,906         22,6         20,5	289 Heptachlor endo epoxide 418 Pinoxaden	0,100         0,812         27,7         20,1           0,129         0,902         27,7         25,9		0,169 0,821 38,5 33,9 0,160 0,780 39,0 32,0
522 Tralkoxydim 111 Cyazofamid	0,112 0,988 22,6 22,6	194 Ethiofencarb	0,104 0,820 27,8 20,9	151 Dichlorvos	0,118 0,680 40,2 23,7

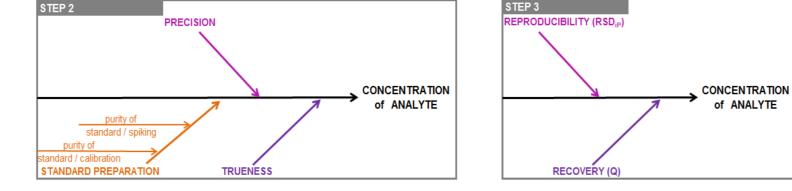
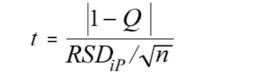


Fig. 1: Ishikawa diagrams for the QuEChERS method

Whether to correct the result of an analysis for recovery or not, and how this decision influences the MU estimation, was calculated according to the *"Protocol for uncertainty evaluation from validation data"* <sup>4</sup>. Recovery correction is not necessary, if the recovery value is not significantly different from 1 when compared to the precision for the individual analyte. This comparison is done by means of a t Test (Formula 1).

In case the recovery value is not significantly different from 1 (which was true for 59 out of 546 analytes, i.e. 10,8%) or the recovery is significantly different from 1, but is corrected using a correction factor derived from the average recovery obtained in method validation studies, the uncertainty from trueness can be estimated as the uncertainty of the average recovery value via formula 2. Thus, the combined MU for an individual analyte can be calculated from formula 3.

In case the recovery value is significantly different from 1 (shown by a negative t Test), but is not corrected, an additional term must be included to calculate the uncertainty from trueness (Formula 4). Thus, the combined MU for an individual analyte must be calculated from formula 5.



$$\frac{u(Q)'}{Q} = \frac{RSD_{iP}}{\sqrt{n} \times Q}$$

$$\frac{u(y)'}{y} = \sqrt{RSD_{iP}^{2} + \left(\frac{RSD_{iP}}{\sqrt{n} \times Q}\right)^{2}}$$

(1)

(2)

(3)

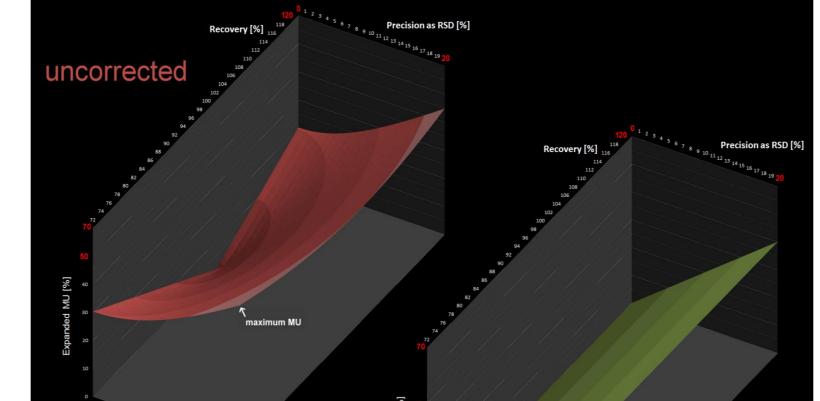
(4)

$$\frac{u(Q)''}{Q} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{RSD_{iP}}{\sqrt{n} \times Q}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1-Q}{t_{\text{crit}}}\right)^2}$$

$$\frac{u(y)''}{y} = \sqrt{RSD_{iP}^2 + \left(\frac{RSD_{iP}}{\sqrt{n} \times Q}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{1-Q}{t_{\text{crit}}}\right)^2} \quad (5)$$

## **Theoretical Approach**

With the above mentioned assumption of precision and trueness being the only important sources of uncertainty accepted, values for the MU can be calculated for each combination of reproducibility and recovery values acceptable according to the SANCO criteria <sup>1b</sup> (Figure 2 left). Using n = 100 (means a quite thoroughly method verification), the "worst case" (i.e. reproducibility = 20% and recovery = 70%) yields an expanded MU of 50,2 %, while the other extreme (reproducibility = 20% and recovery = 120%) adds up to 45,0 % for uncorrected results. Recovery correction would cease the influence of trueness nearly completely and improve expanded MU to a constant value of approx. 40% for poorest acceptable precision values (Figure 2 right).



#### **Calculations from Verification Data**

The same calculations were used for the results of each of the 546 analytes (Table 1). For uncorrected results, all expanded MUs were better than 46%, even for three analytes, which were included although they slightly failed the SANCO recovery criterion: Deltamethrin (69%), Dichlorvos (68%), and Bentazone (65%) (Figure 3 left). Again, recovery correction would yield a significant gain in the calculated uncertainty (Table 2): all expanded MUs would be better than 35% (Figure 3 right).



Fig. 2: Theoretical approach using RSD and Q values acceptable according to the SANCO criteria

#### Tab. 2: Comparison of expanded MUs

uncorrected			corrected			
	no of analytes	portion		no of analytes	portion	
MU < 25%	254	46,5%	MU < 25%	384	70,3%	
25% < MU < 40%	282	51,6%	25% < MU < 35%	162	29,7%	
40% < MU < 46%	10	1,8%				

#### Conclusion

For MRMs in pesticide analysis, the long lasting dispute on the advisability of recovery correction <sup>5,6</sup> was settled with the harmonization of Codex <sup>7</sup> and SANCO <sup>8</sup> recommendations on MU estimation. For laboratories involved in pesticide analysis, this consensus implied a remarkable facilitation: too huge efforts are required to create a sufficient data base for the recovery correction of each analyte within the scope of an up-to-date application of the MRM like QuEChERS during method validation/verification. (The values given in this poster are based on more than 86.000 measurements.) This, is hardly counterbalanced by the gain in MU. But applying the calculative principle of the "Harmonized Guidelines for Single-Laboratory Validation" on the results of ongoing quality controls using a rolling program covering all analytes <sup>1c</sup> in combination with convenient software solutions might offer an alternative approach with little extra expenses. Thus, the discussion on recovery correction in MRMs for pesticide analysis might be revived in near future.

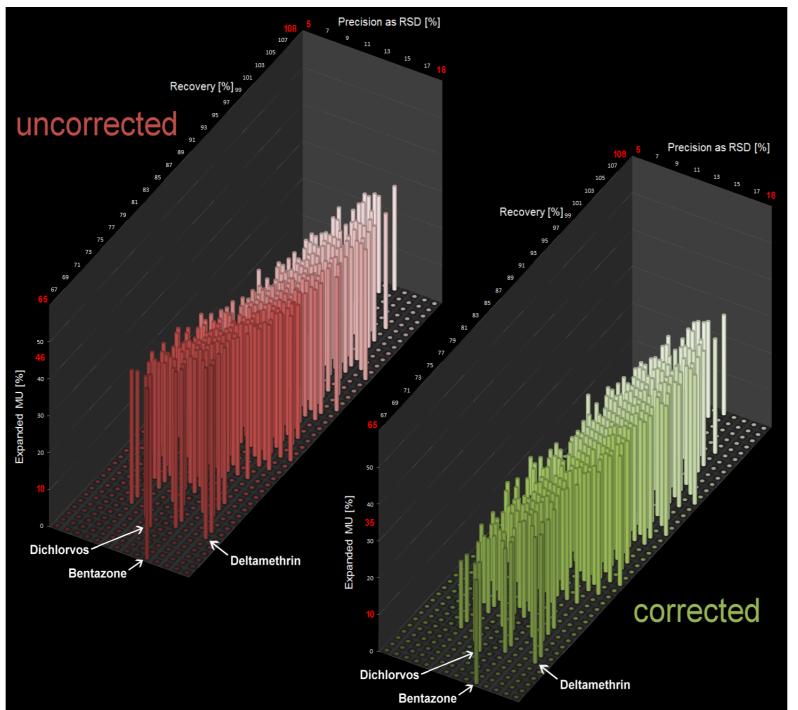


Fig. 3: Calculations using RSD and Q values obtained from method validations

#### Literature

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- 3. Thompson, M., Ellison, S.L.R., Wood, R., Harmonized Guidelines for Single-Laboratory Validation of Methods of Analysis (IUPAC/ISO/AOAC), Pure Appl. Chem. 74 (2002) 835-55.
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21.8

0.846 22.8

9 0,934 22,8

22,9

206 Famophos (Famphur)

512 Thiofanox

303 Indoxacarb

531 Trichlorfon

296 Hexythiazox

279 Furathiocarb

191 Esfenvalerate

31 Benodanil

370 Mirex

37 Bifenox

534 Tricyclazol

450 Pymetrozin

530 Triazophos

253 Flucythrinate TOTAL



41.1

44,6

45.5

30.9

31.9

32,9

287 HCH epsilon

85 Chlorothalonil

143 Diafenthiuron

539 Trifluralin

297 Imazalil

537 Triflumizole

34 Bentazone

27

27.7

21.0

25,1

27.7

27.8

27.9

28,0

28,0

27.8 27.0

27,8 27,8