Proficiency Test Summary

1. **Composition of proficiency test panel:** The Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) panel consists of 10 culture swab samples labeled with numbers or letters.

2. **Cost of proficiency test:** See the current NVSL Catalog of Reagents

3. **Storage conditions:** Samples are stored at 4° C. Samples must be cultured upon receipt (within 48 hours of sample preparation) for CEM proficiency test to be valid in accordance with VS Memorandum 558.2.

4. **Sample preparation/selection criteria:** Samples consist of swabs spiked with cell suspensions of *Taylorella spp.* (low, moderate and high concentrations) and/or common equine contaminants. Samples are shipped in Amies Transport Media with charcoal, overnight, and on ice packs.

5. **Panel quality control:** Ten percent including at least one set from each randomization are tested blindly at NVSL following the current version of NVSL SOP-BI-0106.

6. **Timing of the proficiency test distribution and data collection:** The CEM proficiency test is administered annually or as needed following NVSL training courses.

7. **Test method:** Performance and interpretation of CEM proficiency must be conducted as described in the current version of NVSL SOP-BI-0106.

8. **Submitting test results:** Participating laboratories are required to have data submitted for scoring no more than two (2) weeks after panel distribution. Results are reported to the NVSL email to NVSL.DBLBIPT@aphis.usda.gov.

9. **Scoring of individual panel samples:** For each sample, scoring is based on correct identification of positive *Taylorella* suspect, negatives, invalid tests due to overgrowth or no growth.

10. **Laboratory pass/fail criteria:** A final score of greater than 80 percent correctly identified is considered a passing score. This is subject to change based on compiled results from participating laboratories.

11. **Reporting laboratory test scores:** Results for each laboratory are reported to the individual laboratory director and CEM proficiency test contact. Final results are compiled and reported within 90 days of the deadline for receipt of participants’ results. Results of individual laboratories are reported only to that laboratory, and summary results from all laboratories are provided as part of the final report.

October 31, 2014
12. **Remedial actions required for failing laboratories:** Laboratories that do not pass on the first attempt are given the option of obtaining a second panel for a retest. Laboratories that fail the proficiency test are encouraged to contact subject matter experts at NVSL for discussion of methods and resolution of potential areas of concern. If a failing laboratory declines to take or does not pass the retest, the laboratory is recommended for removal from the list of approved laboratories for CEM testing. Laboratories that are removed from the approved list are advised that retraining through the NVSL CEM training course is needed for reconsideration of approval.

13. **Special requirements:** Restrictions - Only those laboratory personnel who have been trained at NVSL are eligible to participate in CEM proficiency testing.