

Extraction and handling of blood samples for DNA

Sample extraction must be done by qualified technical personnel by following these instructions:

1. The puncture area must be cleaned. In bovine, blood is obtained from jugular, mammary (subcutaneous abdominal) and median sacral veins and from carotid, median sacral and brachial arteries.

2. Blood must be collected in sterile conditions preferably with anticoagulant: EDTA (lilac top), sodium citrate (light blue top) or heparin (green top). The tube must be flipped repeatedly to facilitate the mixing of blood and anticoagulant. Serum (red top) may be also sent (except for freemartinism analysis).

3. The proper samples conservation is cooling (2-8 °C) 24-36 hours. For longer time, freezing (-20°C) is advised except for glass tubes.

4. Samples must be forwarded always perfectly packaged and identified with indelible marker writing. The tubes must be placed in racks and sorted according to analysis application.

5. A duly completed analysis application must be attached to samples.

6. In shipments with many samples, an Excel file (provided by the laboratory) with the sample data, must be e-mailed.

