**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

**Purpose**

The well-functioning single market is one of the priorities of the European Union and free movement of products is one of its important components. The harmonisation rules on textile fibre names and related labelling and marking of textile products have been put in place by **Regulation (EC) No 1007/2011**. Market surveillance is an activity which is carried out by public authorities to ensure that products comply with the requirements set out in the harmonisation legislation. The market surveillance effort must be uniform across the Union and therefore close cooperation and coordination of market surveillance activities in the EU and EEA EFTA countries is essential.

According to Article 18 of Regulation (EC) No 1007/2011, market surveillance authorities have to carry out checks on the conformity of the fibre composition of the products with the supplied information on labels or markings.

Experience shows that the analysis of several categories of textile products by various laboratories, carrying out tests for market surveillance, delivers different results, despite the fact that they use the same analytical methods. Possible causes might be related to test conditions, assumptions, sample preparation and equipment calibration procedures, as well as to the understanding of Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011 and its Annexes, etc.

The European Commission indicated in its report to the European Parliament and to the Council (COM(2014)633 final of 29.10.2014) that it envisaged to issue "technical guidance on practical and compliance related issues". For this purpose, the European Commission Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs published the [Call for Tenders - Technical Guidelines for EU Textile Laboratories](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/technical-guidelines-eu-textile-laboratories-0_nl).

 (<http://ec.europa.eu/growth/content/technical-guidelines-eu-textile-laboratories-0_nl>).

The current call for expression of interest is a result of a contract awarded to Aitex following the above call for tenders. The contract will run until 4th May 2019. The selected laboratories will be involved in an interlaboratory exercise and preparation of the technical guidelines under Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011.

The laboratories will be paid with a lump sum of 4.000 Euros plus 1.500 Euros for travel expenses.

# Call for expression of Interest / Process and Info

The call for expressions of interest consists of the following documents:

1. Open Call: an online text with the basic info for the call.
2. Expression of Interest form.
3. Explanatory note - Guide for applicants.
4. Declaration of Honour.

# The selection process consists of two phases:

***Phase 1: Eligibility check***

The first phase consists of the eligibility criteria of applicants.

Applicants will be checked for their compliance with the eligibility criteria to confirm that the minimum requirements are met. These criteria examine whether the applicant fulfils the minimum requirements. Eligibility criteria can be answered with a “Yes” or “No”.

**Applications that do not meet eligibility criteria are rejected.**

**Eligibility Criteria**

1. Not in process of receiving or bankruptcy.
2. Accredited by National Market Authority in EU/EEA EFTA Member State in line with Regulation (EC) Nº 765/2008.
3. Any Experience in performing services related to Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011 on behalf of Market Surveillance Authority in EU/EEA EFTA Member States.
4. Any participation in round-robin exercises during the last five years.
5. Laboratory accredited in any management system (e.g. EN ISO/IEC 17025) for the methods in Annex VIII of Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011 (e.g. ISO 1833 series) regarding quantitative analysis of textile products.

***Phase 2: Selection check***

The second phase consists of the selection criteria of applicants. Please note that when reference is made to Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011, you are welcome to consider Directives that were repealed by that Regulation.

**Selection Criteria**

*Experience*

1. Laboratory accredited in any management system (e.g. EN ISO/IEC 17025) for the methods in Annex VIII of Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011 (e.g. ISO 1833 series) regarding quantitative analysis of textile fibres.
2. Previous experience in performing analyses under Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011 on behalf of Market Surveillance Authorities.
3. Demonstrated experience in participation in round-robin tests.
4. Professional experience of the person/team responsible of the contract regarding Regulation (EU) No 1007/2011.

*Capabilities*

1. Degree of specialization of the laboratory in textiles services, mainly related with fibres composition.
2. Capabilities of the laboratory in terms of instrumentation and equipment needed for the technical analysis of textile fibres and products.

*Others*

1. Subcontract of external laboratories in order to perform test.
2. Laboratory status (independent laboratory or laboratory part of any entrepreneur/company).

# How to Apply

Interested laboratories should go through the following steps:

**First step:** Check your eligibility

**Second step:** Submit the following documents “Expression of Interest form” and “Declaration of Honour” via email to Dr. Jose Manuel Ramos (jramos@aitex.es).

***Documentation must be submitted before the established deadline: 21/12/2017***

***Additional documents can be requested to the applicants, if needed.***