Public Health Institute of Chile

The Public Health Institute of Chile (PHI) is the National Referente Laboratory in the areas of Microbiology, Immunology, Bromatology, Pharmacology including Biopharmacy, Radiology, Radiotherapy, Blood Banks, Clinical Laboratories, Environmental Pollution and Occupational Health. As a public institution, we also perform functions of control, supervision, inspection, training and research and consulting.

The PHI’s department of Environmental Health is responsible for carrying out functions of reference, as a normalizer and supervisor of the public health laboratories, in matters concerning environment and food and over both public and private recognized laboratories. It participates in the actions related to the recognition of bromatology and environment laboratories. It performs the corresponding studies and programs in sanitary matters that are of national interest and in the areas of its competence. It supervises the fulfilment of the Quality Policy thorough the following activities:

a) Training and transferring the necessary technology to the networks of public health laboratories in the country.

b) Determines and informs the methods of the assays and sampling procedures required for the testing of food, water and environment matrixes established in the actual regulations.

c) Contributes to the ongoing improvement in the quality service the web of public health laboratories gives in the areas of food and environment.

d) Handle and informs complains made about results issued by the web of public health laboratories its, within matters of its competence.

e) Supervises the fulfilment of the public health testing laboratory’s in the areas of bromatology and environmental pollution.
f) Quality assessment of public health laboratories in the areas of food and environment according to standards established by the health authority.

g) Performs supporting actions in the epidemiological watch and the ministerial programs necessary in the field of its competence.

h) Resolves when disagreement with test results issued by public and private laboratories, in matters of food and environment and requested by competent authorities, after specifications made by the technical departments of the institution.

i) Through its laboratory animal center, supervises and maintains the technical management of the public production of laboratory animals

j) Does research applied to methods related to matters of its competence.

k) Participates in the analysis of sanitary hazards and the development of network.

l) Participates in the processes of the regulations in the area of environmental health and food.

m) Participates in programs directed to the community that promote prevention, education and protection of the environmental health and food.