

## NiMS – Nickel migration proficiency scheme

The release of nickel from certain products, most commonly earrings and other jewellery for body piercings is the most widespread cause of allergic contact dermatitis - an itchy rash that appears when skin touches a usually harmless substance - affecting people of all ages. Many ordinary items such as buttons, coins, spectacle frames, watchstraps, zips etc may also contain nickel and as such is hard for sufferers to avoid.

The NiMS scheme is designed to assess the performance of laboratories undertaking the determination of nickel release from articles intended to come into direct and prolonged contact with the skin according to the European Regulation (EC) 1907/2006.

The method for the determination of nickel release from such products is defined in European standard EN 1811 (2011). The article to be tested is suspended in an artificial sweat solution for a period of a week, after which time the concentration of dissolved nickel in the solution is determined by ICP-MS or a similarly accurate and precise technique.



## Scheme operation

The NiMS scheme year operates from January to December and test materials are despatched two times per annum. Round despatch dates and reporting deadlines are available on the current NiMS application form, and further information can be found in the NiMS scheme description. These documents can be downloaded from our website [www.lgcstandards.com](http://www.lgcstandards.com)

Test material	Analytes
Alloy disks, jewellery or other appropriate articles.	Nickel release and surface area measurement.

For further information contact LGC Standards:



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