

Minimum requirements for meaningful comparative lab evaluation

- NDA in place before test campaign is initiated
 - Coordinator
 - All participating labs
 - OEM(s)
- Technical know-how to prevent inadvertent mistakes
 - DUT and associated system(s)
 - Test method experience
 - Detailed test method description
- Test objects (DUT)
 - Identical DUT in all labs
 - DUT fresh off production line – no prior usage or testing history
- Pre-defined test set-up and instrumentation – NO “electives”
 - Initiation cell
 - Triggering device
 - Adhesive/fastener used to connect trigger device to initiation cell
 - Test equipment and instruments tolerances specified
 - Pre-defined placements and installation details for sensors, cables, recording devices, etc
- Pre-defined data collection – NO “electives”
 - Parameters
 - Sampling frequency
- Result reporting
 - Focus on lab capabilities and variabilities, no DUT performance data included in report
 - Pre-information to involved OEM(s) before disclosure of report
 - No brand disclosure
 - No photographs or films

The planned “Round Robin test” coordinated by EU/JRC does not satisfy the minimum requirements. No meaningful lab performance evaluation is possible due to the large number of uncontrolled test conditions and parameters.