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Allergens have for some years been in the focus of affected consumer and regulators worldwide. It is estimated that about 3% of the population in developed countries is allergic to some food. To facilitate a higher quality of life through choice, European Commission and other economic regions implemented rules for allergen labelling of food products.

However, in order to allow food producing companies to assess the effectiveness of their allergen cleaning methods and to allow enforcement of the regulations, appropriate methods need to be available. To date, the main methods for analysis are ELISA and PCR, both of which have shortcomings. Recently new methods have been developed, with the potential for screening a whole range of allergens in a single analysis.

This presentation will give an introduction of the global regulatory framework, current activities including the MoniQA 6th framework project of the European Commission and the appropriateness of available methods