

Final rating of methods

For final rating of methods the classification A of the indicative rating was split into A1 and A2. The classification for a “B” or “C” was not changed.

The range of limit values for some chemical agents is broad. For this reason an “A1” rating means that the method is evaluated over the complete range from the lowest limit value (LLV) to the highest limit value (HLV) and can be used in all European countries without limitations.

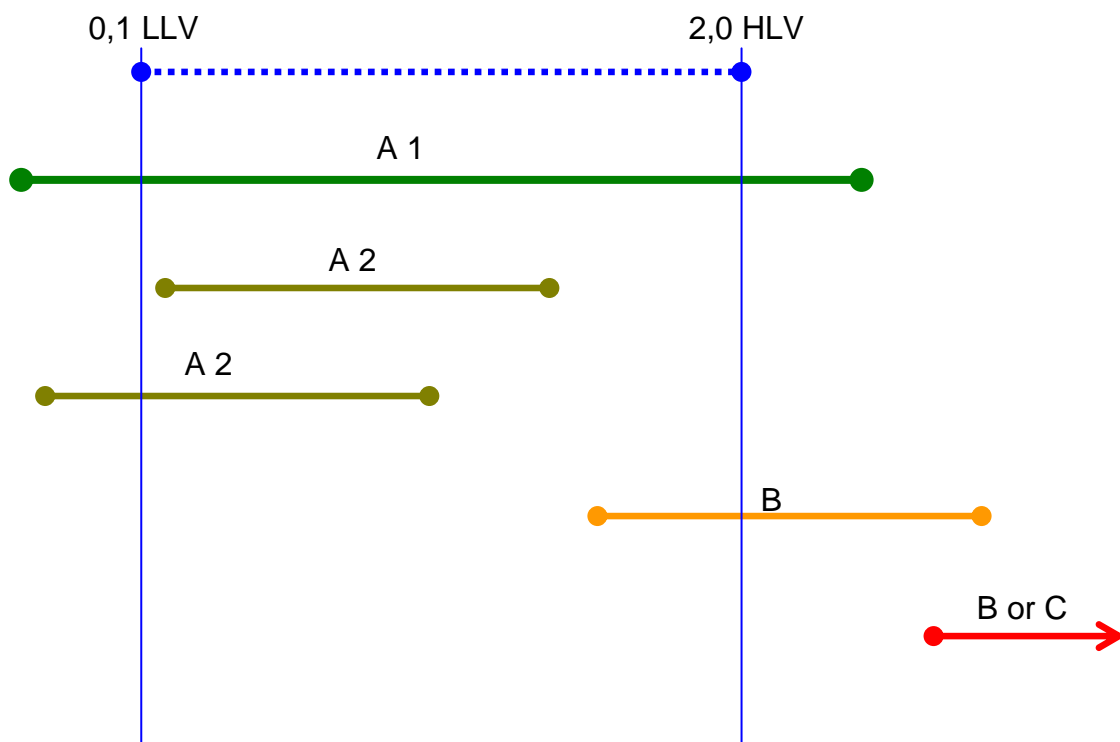
An “A2” rating means that the method was evaluated over a smaller range of concentrations. If the range studied includes the LLV or is close to the LLV (LOQ below the LLV), the method can be used in all countries. Higher concentrations can easily be measured by diluting sample solutions.

If the evaluated range does not cover the LLV and the LOQ is clearly above the LLV the method is rated as “B”. Examples for method rating are illustrated in the picture.

In the course of evaluation the definition and application of additional downgrading criteria (see table) turned out to be necessary.

Table: Additional Criteria for downgrading a method

Criteria	Action
For critical substances: No information about sample transport and storage stability	downgrade to “B”
No information about the importance of blank values in case of critical analytes with ubiquitous sources (e.g. Chlorides, Sodium, Calcium)	downgrade to “B”
No information about humidity influence of gas and vapour samples	downgrade to “B”



Picture: Examples for final method rating according to the validated working range