

GIPSA Releases Zearalenone Test Kit Design Criteria And Test Performance Specifications

Washington, D.C. (June 5, 2003) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration released design criteria and test performance specifications for zearalenone test kits. The Agency is soliciting commercial test kits for quantitative determination of zearalenone in grains and commodities.

Zearalenone is a toxin produced by a mold that can be present in corn, sorghum, wheat, and other grains.

Manufacturers are invited to submit data to demonstrate their test kit meets GIPSA's criteria. GIPSA will then conduct a performance evaluation. Test kits meeting the criteria set forth in the Design Criteria and Test Performance Specifications will receive a Certificate of Conformance. The Certificate is required before a test kit can be used in the official grain inspection system.

According to GIPSA administrator Donna Reifschneider, test kits are a very important tool for the official inspection system, providing quick and accurate analyses for mycotoxins at a low price.

For copies of the Design Criteria and Test Performance Specifications, contact Lynn Polston, GIPSA Technical Services Division, 816-891-0444, e-mail Lynn.A.Polston@usda.gov.

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