

GIPSA Releases Revised Test Performance Specifications For Quantitative Aflatoxin Test Kits

Washington, Jan. 28, 2004 -- The USDA, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) today announced they are revising the evaluation standards on commercial test kits for quantitative determination of aflatoxin in grains and commodities using a revised protocol.

Aflatoxin is a toxin produced by a mold and can be present in corn, sorghum, wheat, and other grains. GIPSA is announcing that the criteria have been modified to reduce potential biases between test kits by requiring the use of naturally contaminated grain in the evaluation procedure. GIPSA is very interested in technology that improves accuracy, precision, reduces analysis time or costs, and/or simplifies the analytical procedure used in the Official Inspection System.

Successful evaluations receive a Certificate of Conformance and are required before a test kit can be used in the Official Inspection System. Test kits are very important to the Official Inspection System for providing quick and accurate analyses for mycotoxins.

Copies of the document may be obtained by contacting Tim Norden, GIPSA Technical Services Divisions, 816-891-0470, or by e-mail at Tim.D.Norden@usda.gov.

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