

GIPSA Seeks Quantitative Ochratoxin A Test Kits

Washington, D.C. (April 18, 2007) - The USDA Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) is soliciting commercial test kits for the quantitative determination of ochratoxin A in grains and commodities. Kits found by GIPSA to conform to performance and design criteria will be eligible for use in the national inspection system.

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

Manufacturers interested in seeking a GIPSA certification must submit data to demonstrate their test kit meets GIPSA's design criteria and test performance specifications. GIPSA will evaluate the performance of each test kit, and issue a Certificate of Conformance for test kits that meet the criteria. Certified kits are eligible to be used in the national inspection system.

According to GIPSA administrator James Link, the official system relies on test kits to provide quick and accurate mycotoxin analyses at a low price.

Performance evaluation documentation and technical information is available from Lynn Polston, GIPSA Technical Services Division, 816-891-0444, or by e-mail at Lynn.A.Polston@usda.gov.

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Dana Stewart 202-720-5091