



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,
Packers and Stockyards
Administration

Stop 3630
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Reference #215

TO: FGIS POLICY BULLETIN BOARD

FROM: John Giler, Acting Director /s/ **John Giler**
Field Management Division

SUBJECT: Testing Rice Samples for Aflatoxin

ORIGINATING OFFICE: Policies and Procedures Branch

1. PURPOSE

This memorandum provides clarification and revised guidelines for performing aflatoxin testing on Milled, Rough, and Brown rice samples.

2. BACKGROUND

An FGIS office has asked for assistance from Policies and Procedures Branch in interpreting the guidelines set forth in the Aflatoxin Handbook for testing rice for aflatoxin.

Specifically, an applicant questioned the aflatoxin test results on a lot of Rough rice that was tested at origin and at destination. Origin and destination results differed due to testing methodologies – the origin test was based on a milled sample basis while the destination sample was tested on the un-milled rice basis.

Currently, the Aflatoxin Handbook, Chapter 8, Vicam Test Method, states “All tests for rice are performed on a milled rice basis. Consequently, Rough rice or Brown rice requires milling before analysis. Mill Rough rice or Brown rice according to the procedures in the Rice Handbook.”

These test instructions were based on the premise that rice is an edible commodity and would only be marketed for its milled quality. However, it has come to our attention that feed companies are using un-milled rice in their product mixes. Therefore, we are amending our policy to provide for testing on a milled or un-milled sample basis, as requested by the applicant for service.

3. POLICY

The applicant for service must specify the test basis, whether milled, or un-milled (e.g., Rough rice, Brown rice) with all rice aflatoxin service requests. If the basis is not specified, official personnel must analyze the rice aflatoxin according to the type of rice as indicated (e.g., Rough rice, Milled rice) on the official certificate.

When providing aflatoxin testing service on rice, official personnel should follow these guidelines:

- a. Review the applicant's request for service to determine the basis (milled or un-milled sample) for testing.
- b. Test rice samples on the specified basis according to the test procedures for the test kit in use.

Note: Test procedures for Rough Rice and Brown Rice are the same as Milled Rice for the Romer Fluoroquant, Neogen Veratox, Neogen Veratox AST, and ROSA Quantitative test kits. Vicam Aflatest test kits have slightly different procedures for Rough rice and Brown rice as opposed to Milled rice.

- c. Certify sample results according to the type of rice stated on the official certificate using the standard aflatoxin certification statements. If the requested basis (e.g., milled rice) is different than the type of rice stated on the grade line (e.g., Rough rice) of the certificate, use the following statement to certify results.

“Aflatoxin (xx) ppb. Test performed on a (insert milled or un-milled) sample basis”.

4. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

Retain a copy of this memo with the Aflatoxin Handbook until the handbook is revised to include new guidelines for testing rice. Field office managers must ensure that a copy of this memo is provided to official agencies that provide aflatoxin service for rice.

5. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions concerning this policy to Bob Lijewski, Policies and Procedures Branch, at (202) 720-0224.