



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,
Packers and Stockyards
Administration

Stop 3630
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20250-3632

July 9, 2009

Reference # 221

TO: FGIS POLICY BULLETIN BOARD

FROM: Robert S. Lijewski, Acting Director /s/ *Robert S. Lijewski*
Field Management Division

SUBJECT: Mycotoxin Testing Equipment

ORIGINATING OFFICE: Policies and Procedures Branch (PPB)

1. PURPOSE

This memorandum provides clarification and revised guidelines for the type of pipettor (i.e., disposable or multichannel) to be used when performing official mycotoxin testing service.

2. BACKGROUND

PPB has fielded questions concerning the use of disposable pipettors for mycotoxin testing. FGIS mycotoxin handbook instructions stress the importance of using specific equipment (e.g., readers, chemicals), and following step-by-step testing procedures to obtain accurate test results.

However, the instructions may not be explicit in regards to the type of pipettor required to perform the analysis. Therefore, FGIS is providing information to specify the type of pipettor to use for official testing.

3. POLICY

The following policy will clarify the use of single, multi-channel, and disposable pipettors to be used in providing official mycotoxin (qualitative or quantitative) testing service.

- a. When performing mycotoxin testing licensed personnel must be properly trained to use the approved test kit equipment.

- b. **Qualitative testing** - a disposable fixed volume transfer pipettor is permitted if supplied with the test kit. Although disposable pipettors are allowed, FGIS recommends that a single or multi-channel pipettor with disposable tips be used because they provide better pipetting precision, and ease of use in performance of test procedures.
- c. **Quantitative testing** - a non-disposable single or multichannel pipettor with disposable tips must be used in testing procedures.

Note: The disposable pipettors included in the Romer Fluroquant test kits (P/N COKFA 1010, 4010, and 4020) must only be used in the preparation of developer solution, and must be properly disposed of after use.

4. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

File a copy of this memo with the Aflatoxin and DON handbooks, in addition to the Fumonisin, Zearalenone, and Ochratoxin Directives until they are revised to include this information. Field office managers must ensure that a copy of this memo is provided to all official agencies within their geographical service area

5. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions regarding this policy to Carl Jackson, Policies and Procedures Branch at (202) 720-8286 or email at carl.jackson@usda.gov or Robert Lijewski, Policies and Procedures Branch, at (202) 720-0224 or email at Robert.S.Lijewski@usda.gov