



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,  
Packers and Stockyards  
Administration

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

July 30, 2013

**Reference # 257**

**TO:** FGIS POLICY BULLETIN BOARD

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

**SUBJECT:** VICAM AflaTest Supplemental Analysis

**ORIGINATING OFFICE:** Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch

**1. PURPOSE**

This memorandum implements a plan to allow direct reporting of aflatoxin results up to 1000 ppb for the VICAM AflaTest test kit (Product # 12022) without supplemental analysis.

**2. BACKGROUND**

GIPSA aflatoxin procedures require supplemental analysis when a result is beyond the test kit's upper test limit. Normally, GIPSA sets the upper limit of the test kit to the highest level that is required to meet GIPSA performance criteria for accuracy and precision, or 100 ppb for aflatoxin. Supplemental analysis is a dilution procedure where the original extract is diluted so that the result falls within the testing range for the test kit, or 5 – 100 ppb aflatoxin. After dilution or supplemental analysis, sample results greater than 100 ppb are expected to be as accurate and precise as levels within the conformance range.

Manufacturers of approved test kits provide instructions for the test in order to generate results that are in conformance with GIPSA performance criteria. VICAM has provided data that demonstrates that the test kit is accurate without supplemental analysis (dilution) by taking a direct reading of the result for levels up to 1000 ppb. GIPSA's Technology and Science Division has verified that this test kit can accurately determine the level of aflatoxins up to 1000 ppb without supplemental analysis.

**3. POLICY CHANGE**

All official locations using the VICAM AflaTest test method (Product # 12022), at levels between 101 – 1000 ppb will report the results as stated below. The following change is effective on 7-30-2013.

1. For results between 100 to 1000 ppb, read the result directly and do not use the supplemental analysis procedure.
2. The maximum reporting/certification limit when using this test kit is **1000 ppb**. Aflatoxin results above the 1000 ppb limit are reported as “Aflatoxin exceeds 1000 ppb”.

This notice pertains to the VICAM AflaTest test method only. Refer and follow supplemental analysis procedures for other approved test methods to report test results above test kit conformance/limits per TSD test kit approval.

See the Aflatoxin Handbook, Chapter 4 Certification section for more detailed clarification of approved certification statements.

#### **4. FILING INSTRUCTIONS**

Retain a copy of this policy bulletin memo with the Aflatoxin Handbook until further notice.

Please forward a copy of this memo to the official agencies operating within your circuit.

#### **5. QUESTIONS**

Direct any questions concerning this policy to Carl Jackson, Policies, Procedures, and Market Analysis Branch (PPMAB) at (202) 720-8286, or email at [carl.jackson@usda.gov](mailto:carl.jackson@usda.gov) or Patrick McCluskey, PPMAB, at (816) 659-8403, or email at [patrick.j.mccluskey@usda.gov](mailto:patrick.j.mccluskey@usda.gov).