

## EC-Permitted Levels for Aflatoxins and Ochratoxin A

As an amendment to Commission Regulation [(EC)No. 466/2001] the EC Regulation set maximum limits for aflatoxins in certain spices and

ochratoxin A in cereals, cereal products and dried vine fruit (currants, raisins and sultanas), which came into force on 5 April.

Aflatoxins:

some spices (e.g. chilli, paprika, pepper, nutmeg, ginger and turmeric):

**Aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub>: 5 µg/kg (ppb)**

**Aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub>, B<sub>2</sub>, G<sub>1</sub>, G<sub>2</sub>: 10 µg/kg (ppb)**

Ochratoxin A:

cereals, raw cereal grains (including rice and buckwheat): **5 µg/kg (ppb)**

all products derived from cereals (including processed cereal products and cereal grains intended for direct human consumption): **3 µg/kg (ppb)**

dried vine fruit (currants, raisins and sultanas): **10 µg/kg (ppb)**

This limit will be reviewed before 31 December 2003.



Green and roasted coffee and coffee products, wine, beer, grape juice, cocoa and cocoa products and spices: **til now no limit**

This provision shall be reviewed at least before 31 December 2003.

## Mycotoxins and Consumer Protection

Mrs Poschner und Dr. Holling from the State Veterinary Department in Arnsberg published a very good general article on problems with mycotoxins under the above heading in issue no. 3/4 of the journal "Der Lebensmittelbrief".

In this article the most important mycotoxins in human and animal food, possible ways of contamination and the legal situation with regard to human

and animal food are discussed. In addition the article summarises the authors' own tests for mycotoxins in food for small children and infants, in animal food from agricultural concerns and in bread cereals, baking mixtures and muesli.

The conclusion from these investigations was a demand for routine mycotoxin tests, in order to protect consumers and to provide reliable values for a review and the a specification for maximum limits. Particular attention should be paid to food for small children and infants. For this sensitive food group the mycotoxin content should be reduced through suitable preventive measures.

The article in German is available from R-Biopharm on request.



## Spinal Cord Found in Imported Spanish Beef

Bovine spinal cord is classified as specified risk material (SRM) and is therefore among those parts of the animal most likely to contain BSE infectivity. Under European law, SRM must be removed immediately after slaughter, stained, and disposed of safely. Spinal cord has been found in two quarters of beef imported from Spain into the UK on Wednesday (3 April 2002). A third quarter also labelled as coming from Spain, had not been

fully split along its length, as required by EU regulations. The beef quarters involved have been detained under the Products of Animal Origin (Import and Export) Regulations pending possible inspection by the Spanish authorities or supplier and subsequent disposal under the supervision of the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS). The Chief Veterinary Officer of Spain and the European Commission have been notified of this breach.

FSA, 10 April 2002

## Extension of TSE Tests on Sheep and Goats

The EU Commission has increased the minimum number of random samples to be taken per member country for TSE tests (Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy). The number of TSE tests on sheep and goats has now been increased from



164,000 to 560,000 per annum. The exemption provisions for Finland and Austria with regard to monitoring of healthy beef cattle for slaughter and the obligation to remove the spinal column have been abolished. The TSE directive has been amended accordingly.



## New products

### Anti - TSE - antibodies: RIDA<sup>®</sup> mAbL42 and RIDA<sup>®</sup> mAbP4

Since march R-Biopharm AG is launching two monoclonal antibodies directed against PrP<sup>c</sup> and PrP<sup>res</sup>

RIDA<sup>®</sup> mAbL42      Art. No. R8005  
RIDA<sup>®</sup> mAbP4      Art. No. R8007

Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) are associated with the accumulation of abnormal prion protein PrP<sup>res</sup> in the central nervous system which can be detected immunohistochemically, by Western Blot or by ELISA technique. R-Biopharm has acquired exclusive rights to produce and distribute two mouse monoclonal antibodies directed against prion proteins. The antibodies mAbL42 and mAbP4 have been developed by immunization with synthetic peptides and are useful for the detection of host encoded prion protein PrP<sup>c</sup> and the pathological isoform PrP<sup>res</sup>. Monoclonal Antibody mAbL42 was produced by using a synthetic peptide from the amino acid sequence of ovine PrP (aa 145 - 163) as antigen. L42 is re-active with human, bovine, ovine, pig, cat, mink and guinea pig PrP. Monoclonal Antibody mAbP4 was produced by using a synthetic peptide from the amino acid sequence of ovine PrP (aa 89 - 104) as antigen. P4 is reactive with bovine, ovine and rabbit PrP.

The antibodies have been generated in the Federal Research Center for Virus Diseases of Animals, Tübingen / island Riems, Germany, by PD Dr. Groschup and colleagues.

The reagents have been successfully used in various test formats, like ELISA, Westen Blot, or Immunoprecipitation. The intended use of the antibodies is research on diagnosis of TSEs, as well as pathogenesis studies.

Some articles from the research part of TSE (Tübingen, PD Dr. M. Groschup and colleagues) about the use of these monoclonal antibodies have been published and are available on request by R-Biopharm.

For further information about these antibodies, please contact Dr. Walter Lübke ++49 (61 51) 81 02-58.

### Riedel-de Haën Products

Since 1st May 2002 R-Biopharm AG has taken over the reagents for food diagnostics, which were previously manufactured and marketed by Sigma-Aldrich Chemie GmbH, Germany. These products were previously marketed under the trademark of Riedel-de Haën. While most of these test parameters are already represented in the RIDASCREEN<sup>®</sup> product line, it is planned to incorporate some of the reagents in R-Biopharm products, in order to further improve already existing high quality test systems. The first test will be the RIDASCREEN<sup>®</sup> Aflatoxin M1 test, which will be further optimised with the Riedel-de Haën reagents. Products from Riedel-de Haën (ELISA test systems) will now no longer be marketed in this form. The antisera against various species specific antigens, which have previously been supplied by Riedel-de Haën, will now be marketed in unchanged form by

R-Biopharm. Customers of Riedel-de Haën have already been informed of this change. Please visit our homepage: [www.r-biopharm.de/press](http://www.r-biopharm.de/press) releases with links to our new products.

If you have any queries on these products contact your local distributor or send an e-mail to Maria da Costa: [m.dacosta@r-biopharm.de](mailto:m.dacosta@r-biopharm.de).

### RIDA® ATP Detection System

R-Biopharm AG has also signed an exclusive licence agreement for the manufacture and sales of the RIDA® ATP Detection System. Control of the state of hygiene by means of ATP measurement has become increasingly important in recent years. Compared with other currently available systems the RIDA® ATP Detec-

tion System has the advantage of very easy handling, high sensitivity and low cost. The RIDA® ATP Detection System is a product of Berthold Detection Systems in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, USA. Berthold is a leading manufacturer of luminescence detection systems. Through the takeover of this product line, R-Biopharm will further expand its already strong presence in the world-wide quality control test market for the food and animal food industry. Please visit our homepage: [www.r-biopharm.de/press](http://www.r-biopharm.de/press) releases with links to our new products.

If you have any queries on these products, which we will shortly be able to supply, please contact Mr Hübner - telephone no. ++49 (61 51) 81 02-94 or send an e-mail to: [m.huebner@r-biopharm.de](mailto:m.huebner@r-biopharm.de).

## Our products

### Supplementary sample preparations

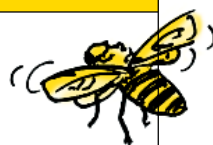
In the last years we developed a number of supplementary sample preparations for the RIDASCREEN®/RIDA® products for feed and food analyses, which can be ordered on request.



In the last month we complete our supplementary sample preparation list with some new supplements for chloramphenicol. Therefore we will give an overview of all supplements, which are not part of the leaflet:



Ochratoxin A:	- tissue (liver/kidney) - wine in combination with RIDA® Ochratoxin A columns
Zearalenone:	- semiquantitative analysis of zearalenone in cereals and feed - milk - meat
Aflatoxin Total:	- green coffee in combination with RIDA® Aflatoxin columns
Aflatoxin B1, Aflatoxin Total, Ochratoxin A, Zearalenone:	- cereals, grain
FAST Ochratoxin A:	- green coffee in combination with RIDA® Ochratoxin A columns - wine in combination with RIDA® Ochratoxin A columns - dried fruits in combination with RIDA® Ochratoxin A columns
Clenbuterol / Clenbuterol Fast:	- milk
Clenbuterol:	- feed - hair
Trenbolone:	- bovine plasma
Testosterone, 17β-Estradiol, Methyltestosteron, 19-Nortestosterone, Trenbolone:	- meat
Zeranol:	- tissue (muscle, liver kidney etc.)
DES:	- mixed feed
Chloramphenicol:	- urine (CAP-glucuronide) - fatty tissue (without acetonitrile) - shrimps and fish meal - honey - mixed feed - milk and milk powder (ethyl acetate extraction)
Sulfamethazin:	- serum
all antibiotic assays:	- milk powder
Peanut:	- swab procedure



For ordering these supplementary sample preparations contact your local distributor or send us an e-mail: [info@r-biopharm.de](mailto:info@r-biopharm.de).



## About us

### Annual Mycotoxin Workshop

This year's Mycotoxin Workshop of the Association for Mycotoxin Research (Gesellschaft für Mykotoxinforschung e.V.) took place from 03.06. to 05.06.02 in Berlin. This year Dr Sigrig Haas-Lauterbach and Marc Hübner from our company have again taken part, and we were again represented with a stand at the exhibition.

### 4th International Symposium on Hormone and Veterinary Drug Residue Analysis

This annual symposium is held this year at the Province of Antwerp House, Antwerp, Belgium from 04.06.2002 to 07.06.2002. Dr Walter Lübbe from our company will be taking part, and we are again represented with a stand at the exhibition.

## 5th ASEA-UNINET Mycotoxin Workshop

The 5th ASEA-UNINET Mycotoxin Workshop will be held at Gadjah Mada University/Yogyakarta Indonesia. Dr. E. Razzazi from the Institute of Nutrition, University of Veterinary Medicine in Vienna will give a one week lecture in mycotoxin analysis from 29.07.2002 to 04.08.2002. The course is organized by Dr. Ali Agus from the Faculty of Animal Science, Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta.

During this week, Mr. P. Altmann from R-Biopharm AG will offer a one day seminar and workshop on mycotoxin screening methods.

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