

INFORMATION ABOUT SAMPLING AND SAMPLE SHIPMENT

In pesticide residue analysis, there are often questions about the amount of sample required. As this is formally regulated and dependent upon various factors, we would like to give you a brief overview here.

METHODS OF SAMPLING

Before having a sample analyzed, you should first define the objective of the study: Do you want to ensure marketability, do you have a suspect sample, or is it risk-based sampling? The objective depends on whether the sample is taken as a representative, targeted or random sample to obtain a meaningful analysis result.

For representative samples, [Directive 2002/63/EC](#) lays down the requirements at European level. It is based on the recommendations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission ([document CAC/GL 33-1999](#)) and is implemented at national level in ASU L 00.00-7.

SIZE OF THE LABORATORY SAMPLE

The minimum size of the laboratory sample depends on how large the sample unit is and to which department it belongs. Details can be found in Table 4 of the above [Directive 2002/63/EC](#). You can also send us smaller laboratory samples if there is little sample material available or if you are looking for high-quality products. Please keep in mind however, that inhomogeneities of the product may not be detected with small sample quantities. As a rule, we require at least 100 g per analytical method. For smaller quantities or if you need help with sampling by an external sampler, feel free to [contact us!](#)

In principle, it makes more sense to examine raw materials or, in the case of compound foods, the individual ingredients. When detecting pesticide residues in processed products or mixed samples, we are no longer able to trace these to a single ingredient or a batch.

PACKAGING AND SHIPPING

To pack the laboratory sample, a clean container should be used to avoid contamination. Please send us your samples well labeled and protected from damage. It is also important that you send us fresh samples as quickly and as chilled as possible, and that frozen samples remain in this condition. Deterioration of the sample can have a significant influence on the residue content.

You must clearly state the sample name and food matrix on your examination order. Otherwise we are unable to assess the analysis results. Further details on sample shipment (address, contact person) can be found on the customer information sheet which you will receive along with your offer.

CONTACT

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