

6.2.5. Testing conducted when Receiving Raw Materials.

Standard

Are appropriate tests conducted when receiving raw materials (grains, soft meals, liquids, packaged materials)?
Appropriate with respect to whether they meet purchase specification, this including visual inspection, sampling and testing. The testing needs to be linked to the food safety risk assessment (5.2) and defined critical control points (5.3).

Purpose

To ensure the appropriate tests are conducted for each raw material received, particularly raw materials identified as high risk in feed safety risk assessment.

Reason

Raw materials require material specific testing, and the operator is responsible for ensuring the correct test is conducted. Testing forms part of the operator's quality control activities and can detect:

- Outside specification results.
- Conformance to purchase standards.
- Poor or compromised packaging integrity.
- Contaminants of biological, chemical or heavy metals.

A proactive testing approach for incoming raw materials helps mitigate risks later in the production process.

What is Acceptable?

This Fact Sheet should be viewed in conjunction with Fact Sheet 6.2.1 & 6.2.2.

Methods of Analysis

The operator shall maintain a register with a full list of methods used for quality control testing activities. The methods may be internally validated if testing is conducted on site (Fact Sheet 7.1.3). Or, referenced from an international standard such as AOAC, if tested externally at certified laboratories (Fact Sheet 7.1.4). All methods shall be maintained in a methods of analysis register, and/or referenced in raw material specifications.

Risk Assessment

A full risk assessment shall be conducted for incoming raw materials and any high-risk material shall be tested prior to accepting. The risk assessment shall take into consideration, physical, environmental and biological risks such as:

- Delivery of material with third party vehicles.
- Lack of bulk coverage (grain, soft meals).
- Contamination.
- Seasonal variations.
- Grain requirement testing.

Purchase Specifications

Specifications may be provided by supplier for raw materials such as feed additives, enzymes and minerals. These shall be internally validated and tested. For grain specifications, refer to the correct trading standard ([GTA Trading Standards](#)).

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