



# Community Reference Laboratory for Dioxins and PCBs in Feed and Food



State Institute for Chemical and Veterinary Analysis of Food, Freiburg, Germany

Chemisches und Veterinäruntersuchungsamt Freiburg  
PO Box 100462 ♦ D-79123 Freiburg ♦ Germany

in cooperation with



Chemisches und Veterinäruntersuchungsamt Stuttgart, PO BOX 1206, 70702 Fellbach, Germany

## **Announcement of a proficiency test (PT) on determination of dioxins (PCDD/F), PCBs (dioxin-like PCBs and indicator PCBs) and pentachlorophenol (PCP) in guar gum samples**

**Office Building**  
Bissierstrasse 5  
79114 Freiburg

**Phone/Fax**  
Phone: +49-761-8855-0  
Fax: +49-761-8855-100

**E-Mail**  
CRL: [crl-dioxin@cvuafr.bwl.de](mailto:crl-dioxin@cvuafr.bwl.de)  
Institute: [poststelle@cvuafr.bwl.de](mailto:poststelle@cvuafr.bwl.de)

**Internet**  
[www.crl-dioxin-freiburg.eu](http://www.crl-dioxin-freiburg.eu)



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State Institute for Chemical and Veterinary Analysis of Food, Freiburg, Germany

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phone: +49 761 8855-133

fax: +49 761 8855-100

contact: Dr. Rainer Malisch

e-mail: Crl-dioxin@cvuafr.bwl.de

reference: 5477.10-15 CRL-Dioxin

Ref.: Discussions at workshop of CRL for dioxins and PCBs in feed and food  
on 5-6 November 2007

Dear colleagues,

In July 2007, a contamination by dioxins and pentachlorophenol (PCP) in guar gum originating from India was found. The contamination levels of dioxins and PCP in certain batches of guar gum were very high (about 1000 times the level of what can be considered as normal background contamination). In the interest of an uniform approach within the EU, the Commission services derived the following reference points of action for unacceptable levels of dioxins and pentachlorophenol in guar gum:

- Pentachlorophenol: Any level of pentachlorophenol in guar gum exceeding 0.01 mg/kg taking into account the measurement uncertainty is to be considered as unacceptable.
- Dioxins: Levels of dioxins (PCDD/F) in guar gum should be lower than 0.75 pg WHO-PCDD/F-TEQ /g product (or 0.75 ng WHO-PCDD/F-TEQ /kg product). Levels higher than 0.75 pg WHO-PCDD/F-TEQ /g product are to be considered as unacceptably contaminated with dioxins.

Some analytical results for determination of these contaminants in guar gum raised questions regarding reliability of the applied methods. Therefore it was concluded at the workshop of the CRL for dioxins and PCBs in food and feed (held on 5-6 November 2007 with representatives from the Commission, National Reference Laboratories [NRLs], the CRL for Single Residue Methods [CRL-SRM] Stuttgart, Germany, and invited experts) to organize a **study on determination of dioxins (PCDD/F), PCBs (dioxin-like PCBs and indicator PCBs) and pentachlorophenol (PCP) in guar gum samples.**

**Two samples of guar gum** will be sent for analysis covering very roughly the range of the above mentioned reference points (no inclusion of extremely high contaminated samples). After performance of the study, these two samples are intended to be available for



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the participants **as proficiency test-checked reference material with derived consensus values.**

In guar gum samples, the levels of PCBs (dioxin-like PCBs and indicator PCBs) are in the range of low background levels. Therefore, laboratories analyzing for PCDD/F are asked to determine in addition PCBs in one sample, only. This will allow to estimate the ranges of LOQs and ability to determine PCBs in low contaminated food or feed samples.

This study will be open for participation of:

- **NRLs and official laboratories (OFLs) for dioxins and PCBs in food and feed** applying GC/HRMS-methods and/or bioassays for dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs and any kind of method for indicator PCBs (obliged to determine only these contaminants; in other words: no need to determine PCP, as well).
- **NRLs and official laboratories (OFLs) for pesticides performing analyses of PCP** by multi or single residue methods in food [NOT: food of animal origin] or feed are requested to determine only this contaminant.
- **Other laboratories analyzing dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs, only, or dioxins, PCBs and PCP** (This means that the PT is not open for other labs which wish to analyse PCP, only, without simultaneous determination of dioxins and PCBs).

**NRLs for dioxins and PCBs are requested to participate as part of their work programme for 2008**, as discussed at the workshop on 5-6 November 2008.

**Pesticide laboratories should consider this PT as an additional offer by the CRLs to help laboratories to check their performance. A participation at this PT does not revoke the obligation of the NRLs for pesticides using single residue methods to participate at the PT-SRM03, which will also take place in 2008 and will focus on fruits and vegetables.**

**Other laboratories analyzing dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs, only, or dioxins, PCBs and PCP** are cordially invited to participate.

NRLs are kindly asked to inform the OFLs of their respective Member State, as the CRLs do not yet have a comprehensive overview on OFLs.

The participation of NRLs is free of charge, whereas other labs will have to pay the following fees:

- 350 € for determination of dioxins (in two samples) and PCBs (dioxin-like and marker PCBs in one sample),
- 150 € for determination of PCP (in two samples),
- 500 € for determination of all parameters in two samples.

After publication of the final report, detailed information on costs for the additional shipment of the prepared reference material for the participants will be provided.



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**NRLs, OFLs and other laboratories are requested to answer as soon as possible, whether they are willing to participate.**

- **Deadline for registration is January 18, 2008.**
- **Please, use the attached registration form.**
- **Registration for all kinds of analysis (determination of dioxins, PCBs and/or PCP) has to be sent by e-mail to Dr. Karin Malisch at [crl-dioxin@cvuafr.bwl.de](mailto:crl-dioxin@cvuafr.bwl.de).**

Samples will be sent in early February 2008. Participants are requested to report results by mid-May 2008 in order to allow to prepare a draft evaluation to be sent to the participants until end of June.

More details will be sent later to the participating laboratories.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Rainer Malisch

CRL for dioxins and PCBs in food and feed

Freiburg, Germany

Dr. Michelangelo Anastassiades

CRL for pesticides / Single Residue Methods

Stuttgart, Germany