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RESULTS OF INTERLABORATORY STUDIES ON THE DETERMINATION OF PCDD/Fs AND PCBs IN FEED AND FOOD ORGANIZED BY THE CRL FOR DIOXINS AND PCBs BETWEEN 2006 AND 2009

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The Community Reference Laboratory (CRL) for Dioxins and PCBs in Feed and Food (Freiburg, Germany) organized five interlaboratory studies and proficiency tests (PTs) on the determination of PCDD/F and PCB in different food and feed matrices between 2006 and 2009. National Reference Laboratories (NRLs) for Dioxins and PCBs from EU member states, official and private laboratories participated in these studies.

Two ring tests with the aim of harmonization of extraction methods and establishing recommendations for the pre-treatment and extraction of different mineral feed additives were performed with sepiolite (2006), fullers earth and manganese oxide (2007). Summarizing conclusions on extraction methods and solvents for mineral feeds, premixtures and compound feed were drawn from these studies.

Additionally three proficiency tests on food and food additives, guar gum, fish oil (2008) and pork sausage (2009), were organized. The proficiency test on the determination of PCDD/Fs, PCBs and PCP in guar gum was organized by the CRL for Residues of Pesticides–Single Residue Methods, Stuttgart, Germany and the CRL for Dioxins and PCBs in Feed and Food, Freiburg, Germany, in 2008. The concentration range and congener pattern in the PT samples reflected the range of contamination of guar gum originating from India in 2007. In 2008 and 2009 two proficiency tests on the determination of PCDD/Fs, dioxin-like PCBs and indicator PCBs in fish oil and pork sausage were organized. The fish oil and pork sausage sample contained WHO-PCDD/F-TEQ and WHO-PCB-TEQ concentrations in the range of maximum levels and action levels defined for these matrices in Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1881/2006 and Commission Recommendation 2006/88. For the evaluation of the data of proficiency tests a scoring system for the successful participation in these tests was developed.

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