

Instructions for Handling Test Materials and Recording Results

Chemical Test Materials

Receipt and Storage

- All samples should be stored at 20-30°C in a dry, insect free, volatile free storage area from the time of arrival at your laboratory.

Test material details

- Test material details are available in the AFPS application form and scheme description.

Test Material analysis

- All samples should be equilibrated at room temperature 20(±5)°C before any analyses are performed.
- Samples should be analysed by the normal method(s) used by your laboratory.
- No pre-treatment (i.e. dilutions, etc) of any of the chemistry samples is required prior to analysis.
- Information regarding reporting units and format are available on the AFPS Scheme Description.
- Results should be reported on an '**as received**' basis, no corrections for moisture content are required.
- Protein should be calculated as Nitrogen content x 6.25 for **all** sample types
- For **PPD (Pepsin Protein Digestibility)** in Sample 1, participants should report their results as soluble protein as a percentage of the total protein. An example of an applicable method for the measurement of Pepsin Protein Digestibility would be ISO 6655.

Results should be corrected for recovery and blank, if appropriate, and if this is the normal practice in the laboratory. **If the sample is diluted as part of the analytical process, such dilutions should be corrected for.**

Microbiological Test Materials

Receipt and Storage

- On receipt of the test material, store refrigerated at 2-8°C until ready to test.

Test material details

- The test material is provided as a simulated animal feed sample, which may or may not contain the target organism(s) at a range of inoculum levels.
- The test material is pre-weighed to 10g or 25g dependant upon sample type.
- Occasionally test materials contain high numbers of the target organisms, therefore it may be necessary to perform dilutions.
- Further guidance is available in the AFPS Scheme Description.

Test material analysis

- Test the entire sample; do not sub-divide prior to dilution.
- For **presence/absence** tests, dilute the 25g sample with your chosen diluent or enrichment broth, according to your usual laboratory procedure.

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- For **enumeration** tests, dilute the 10g sample initially by 1 in 10 using your chosen diluent e.g. adding 90ml of diluent to 10g sample. Further dilutions may be required, remember to take all dilutions into account when calculating the levels in the original 10g sample.
- Mix the test material thoroughly under aseptic conditions.
- Leave the test material to resuscitate at room temperature for a minimum of 60 minutes, but no longer than 90 minutes.
- Immediately before testing, mix the resuscitated sample thoroughly and then test for the target organism(s) using your routine laboratory methods.

General Information

- All AFPS test materials should be treated like routine laboratory samples and all normal quality control procedures should be adopted.

Recording Results

- All results should be submitted using PORTAL
- Please go to <https://www.lgcpt.com/portal>
- Login using your Lab ID, username and password.
- A PORTAL user guide can be downloaded from the help section.

Precautions

- Microbiological test materials contain viable microorganisms and must therefore be handled and disposed of in accordance with local and national regulations
- All test materials are supplied on the understanding that the purchaser has suitably competent and qualified personnel to handle them safely.
- Test materials must only be opened in a laboratory by qualified personnel.
- Refer to the Safety Data Sheet for information on the safe handling and disposal of the test materials.

If you need any help at all please do not hesitate to contact our support team using the details below or your local LGC representative.

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