



ICC Task Force on Mycotoxins and Sampling

Mycotoxins

There is a need worldwide for standard and validated methods for the detection of mycotoxins in cereals. There is also a need for protocols for screening methods, sampling and sample preparations. Currently individual countries are developing such methods on an *ad hoc* basis. A co-ordinated approach to the issues would be beneficial to all countries so that harmonised methods might be developed which would enable standards to be set globally and be approved by each country's approval bodies.

A number of steps are envisaged in order to achieve the goals:

1. Investigation of the *status quo* – what methods currently exist or are under development. Collect all the methods that are currently used and readily applied by manufacturers.
2. Identify any gaps – where methods are still needed, requirements which are unique to particular countries.
3. Validation criteria – gather data on these.
4. Publication of the information gathered in Trade Journals and Scientific Press – it is hoped that this would bring the initiative to the attention of all possible interested parties.

A proposed time schedule for this first phase was mid 2006 (June-Sept)

Once the information had been gathered then relevant, efficient, cost effective and widely acknowledged methods could be developed.

Sampling

In parallel with the development of Methods, a protocol for Sampling would be investigated. This should be representative of and relevant to the materials being tested and practical to the industry. It was envisaged that the Test Providers would play an important role.

Goals would be similar to those proposed for Methods above, with identification of gaps and publication of information.

A proposed time schedule for this would be by September 2006 to coincide with the proposed ICC Symposium on 'Sampling and its applications' at the AACC Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

Task Force Deliverables

It was suggested that deliverables for the Task Force would be:

1. "New Standards" or rather a "Global Agreement" of existing standards
2. Guidelines
3. Network of interested parties
4. Validation Studies