



Belgian  
Federal Agency  
for the Safety  
of the Food Chain

Department Laboratories

Note intended for the approved laboratories  
and for the operators

CA-Botanique –  
Food Safety Center  
Bd du Jardin Botanique 55  
B-1000 Bruxelles  
Tél. 02 211 87 27  
Fax 02 211 87 39

info@afsca.be  
www.afsca.be

Correspondent :	Geert De Poorter			
Telephone :	02 211 87 25			
E-mail :	<a href="mailto:geert.depoorter@favv.be">geert.depoorter@favv.be</a>			
Your letter of	Your references	Our references	Annexes	Date
		265289	2	12/12/2008
Subject :	Dioxins - Ireland			

Copy to : Business associations

***This note replaces note with reference 264602 (dd 10-12-2008). Changes with respect to the latter are indicated in blue.***

In relation to the contamination by dioxins, dioxin-like PCBs and PCBs of products (pork, meat products on the basis of pork **and composite food products containing pork meat and/or fat**) imported from Ireland or derivatives of products imported from Ireland that contain meat of pigs slaughtered after 31 August 2008, we wish to inform the approved laboratories and the operators of the procedure that must be applied. ~~Awaiting a European decision on the exact inclusion rates of pork in meat products, the abovementioned scope shall remain fully valid.~~

**Fresh Irish meat shall be returned to Ireland in consultation with the PCE concerned.**

**For meat products and composite food products no specific measures are imposed if the inclusion rate of pork meat and/or fat originating from Ireland in these products does not exceed 1%.**

**For meat products and composite food products containing more than 1% pork meat and/or fat originating from Ireland, the following applies:**

Operators holding these products can (1) either have them destroyed (~~as category 1 risk material~~), (2) return them, **under conditions laid down by the FASFC**, to Ireland **or the country from which the products originated** ~~where they are to be destroyed~~ or (3) have them analysed with an intention to market them following a favourable assessment based on the analysis results.

**For the first and second options, food chain operators shall contact the PCU concerned, because firstly, it has to be determined whether the products involved are category 1 risk material, and secondly because the situation in the country of destination has to be considered.**

For the third option, the products must be sampled by (a) either an independent veterinarian working for the Agency (CDM – chargé de mission) designated by the FASFC (PCU) or (b) an inspection body accredited in accordance with ISO-17020 for

taking samples in the food and agricultural business ( a list is available on the Belac website [www.belac.be](http://www.belac.be)) according to the method of sampling laid down in the Annex of Regulation (EC) N) 1883/2006 (Annex I of this note).

The samples taken in accordance with the abovementioned provisions must then be analysed in laboratories approved by the FASFC, in pursuance of the Royal decree of 15 April 2005<sup>1</sup>, for the analysis of relevant samples on dioxins (PCCDs/PCDFs) and dioxin-like PCBs and on the 7 marker PCBs.


A list of these laboratories is given in Annex 2 of this note.

**It is of note that for samples taken in the framework considered here, an unfavourable analytical result obtained with a confirmatory method (GC-HRMS) does not have to be confirmed by a second, independent analysis.**

All expenses must be paid by the operator who submits an application for sampling and analysis.



ir. Geert De Poorter  
Director general



Dr. Jean-Marie Dochy  
Director general

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<sup>1</sup> Arrêté royal du 15 avril 2005 relatif à la désignation des laboratoires officiels, fixant la procédure et les conditions d'agrément des laboratoires qui effectuent des analyses dans le cadre des missions de contrôle de l'Agence fédérale pour la Sécurité de la Chaîne alimentaire et portant exécution de la loi du 15 juillet 1985 relative à l'utilisation de substances à effet hormonal, à effet anti-hormonal, à effet bêta-adrénérique ou à effet stimulateur de production chez les animaux. (Moniteur belge 04 May 2005)