

# Joint Research Centre

the European Commission's in-house science service

*Serving society  
Stimulating innovation  
Supporting legislation*

## Method of analysis towards feed safety

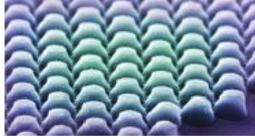
Christoph von Holst  
*European Commission  
Joint Research Centre  
Institute for Reference  
Materials and Measurements (IRMM),  
Geel, Belgium*

[www.ec.europa.eu/jrc](http://www.ec.europa.eu/jrc)

# European Commission's Joint Research Centre: Role Facts & Figures

- **In-house** science service of the European Commission
- Independent, evidence-based **scientific and technical support** for many EU policies
- **Established 1957**
- **7 institutes** in 6 locations (Italy, Belgium, The Netherlands, Germany, Spain)
- **Around 3000 staff**, including PhDs and visiting scientists
- **1370 publications** in 2014

## JRC's Support to EU policies and societal challenges - examples



- **EU's electricity grids; shale gas; biofuels**
- **Reducing experiments on animals; nanomaterials**
- **Food and feed safety & quality; GMOs; food security**
- **Responding to crises; Financial stability**
- **Nuclear safeguards; Nuclear safety and security**

# Activities of JRC in **feed** safety and quality

- Main activities started about 20 years ago
- Development and validation of methods focusing on
  - Meat and bone meal and processed animal proteins
  - Dioxins
  - Banned antibiotics and growth promoters
- Hosting various European Union Reference Laboratories
  - GMO (Ispra, Italy)
  - Mycotoxins and heavy metals (both Geel, Belgium)
  - *Feed additives (Geel, Belgium)*
- Participation in various European projects

# Content of the talk

- Feed safety strategy and analytical methods
- Examples for screening methods and link to confirmatory methods
- Analytical methods within an regulatory environment
- Basic ideas of method validation

# Purpose of feed analysis

## Feed mill:

- Control of raw materials
- Control of finished products

## Official control

- Compliance check with legal limits
- Correct labelling
- Target: Contaminants and key compounds

# Example: *Screening methods* for mycotoxins

## 2015 survey: Mycotoxin threats remain high

11 Mar 2016 3395

Mycotoxin-related threats to livestock production are severe or high in 60% of regions worldwide according to the latest Biomin Mycotoxin Survey.



The survey covered 8271 agricultural commodity samples from 75 countries worldwide in 2015. Over 31,492 analyses have been conducted to identify the presence of six mycotoxins worldwide and their potential risk to livestock animal production. This is more than the **26,200 analyses, done in 2014**. For

Source: <http://www.allaboutfeed.net/>

## Strong need for

- More samples to get analysed. But how to do it in a proper way?
- *Screening methods*: Rapid and simple methods that can be preferably applied on-site
- *Confirmatory methods*: Only suspicious samples measured by more complicated methods

## EU feed alerts: Trends in 2015

22 Mar 2016 1183

In 2015, a total of 3049 original notifications were transmitted through the RASFF. This is 3.4% less than the 3097 notifications in 2014 but a 14.6% increase in follow-up notifications.



RASFF notifications report on risks identified in food, feed or food contact materials that are placed on the market in the notifying country or detained at an EU point of entry at the border with an EU neighbouring country. In the annual report, the identified risks, the product and its traceability and the measures RASFF has taken are published.

The most notifications in 2014 were done in the hazard categories pathogenic micro-organisms (745), mycotoxins (495), pesticide residues (405) and heavy metals (219). Mycotoxins (mainly **afatoxins**) were primarily detected in nuts, nut products and seeds coming from China, Iran, Turkey, US, Netherlands, Germany,

# Types of methods: **Screening** versus **confirmatory** methods

	<b>Screening</b>	<b>Confirmatory</b>
Example	Dipstick	LC-MS
Costs	Low	High
Required experience of technician	Low	High
Output	High	Low
Specificity	Low	High

*LC-MS: Liquid chromatography coupled to mass spectrometry*

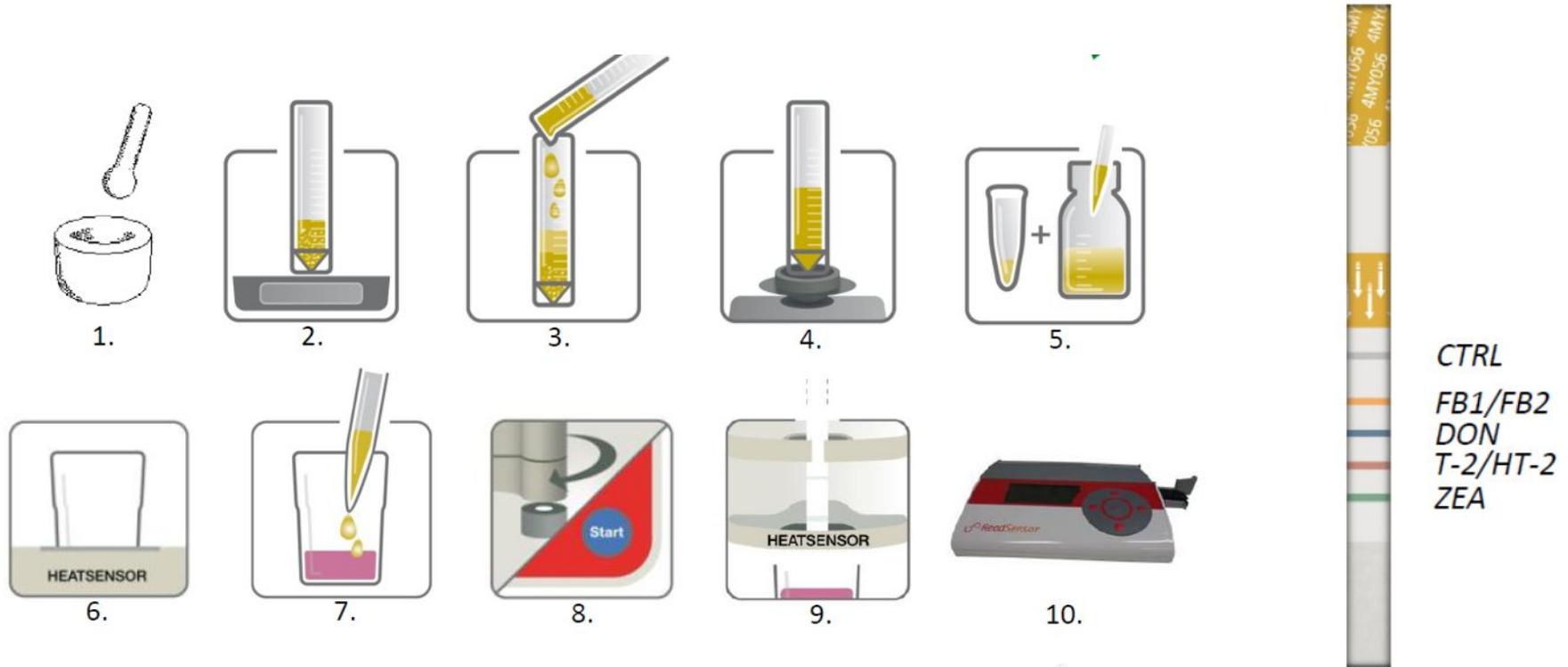
# Use of screening method: Embedded in a feed safety strategy

Principle of the strategy:

- Field of application: **Many** of the samples **are compliant**, but some of them have contaminants above the legal limit (e.g. 100 out of 1000)
- Many samples are analysed by *screening methods*, but only suspicious samples with the *confirmatory methods*
- **Negative samples** measured by the screening method are classified as such and **not** further analysed.
- The screening method is designed, assuring that majority (e.g. 95 %) of samples with the **analytes at and above the target level** need to be classified as **positive**. Rate of false negative results is **low**.
- **Positive samples** need to be re-analysed using **confirmatory methods**

# Screening methods: Example 1: Dipstick

## The 4 mycosensor test



*Developed by ©Unisensor within the European FP 7  
Project confidence*



*Lattanzio V.M. T, von Holst C., Visconti A.: Experimental design for in-house validation of a screening immunoassay kit. The case of a multiplex dipstick for Fusarium mycotoxins in cereals. Anal Bioanal Chem (2013) 405:7773–7782*

# How do we ensure that the test does what we expect? First step to validation

- The **test** of an unknown sample delivers a **response** from the reader for each sample
- The technician compares the value against a reference value (= **cut-off value**) established by **validation experiments**
- Based on this comparison the sample is considered as **negative** or **positive**
- Some statistics is required
- At the end we decide, whether the **test is fit for purpose**
- A **simple validation scheme** has been included in European Regulation, which is shown here (Regulation 519/2014/EU)

# Design of experiments

Experiments with the **samples containing the analyte at the target limit** to calculate cut-off value

- False negative results fixed at 5% prior to the experiments
- Mean response from the experiments
- Precision data
- t-statistics to set cut-off value

Experiments with samples containing the analyte below the legal limit are performed to estimate **rate of false positive results**

- Mean response from the experiments
- Precision data
- t-statistics to calculate rate of false positive results

## Target analytes matrices and concentration included in the validation study. In addition blank samples were included

	% of Target level	Spiking level ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ )			
		<b>ZEA</b>	<b>T-2+HT-2</b>	<b>DON</b>	<b>FB<sub>1</sub>+FB<sub>2</sub></b>
Wheat	25%	25	125	437	-
	50%	50	250	825	-
	100%	100	500	1750	-
Maize	25%	87	125	437	1000
	50%	175	250	825	2000
	100%	350	500	1750	4000

# How to establish the cut-off value?

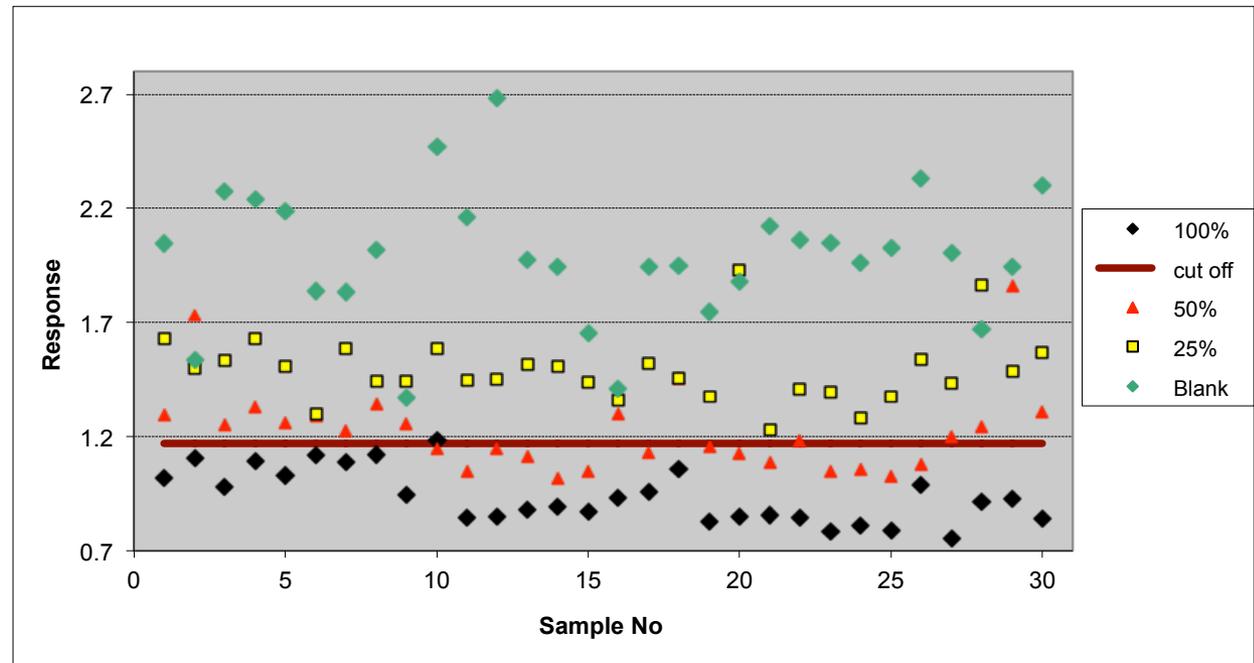
1. To replicate analyses (e.g. 20)
2. Calculate of the mean of the results from the experiments of the samples with the **analyte at target level**
3. Use **total standard deviation** from the precision experiments
4. Use **one-sided t-value** ( $\beta = 5 \%$ ) from a statistical table
5. Calculate **cut-off value** as follows:

**Cut off value = mean + t-value ( $\beta=0.05$ )\*total standard deviation**

# Example: Zearelenon in maize

Characteristic of this test:

- Low response corresponds to a high concentration
- High response corresponds to a low concentration



- Based on cut-values the rate of false positive samples is estimated (also by t-statistics)
- Rate of **false positive**:
  - Samples with 50 % of target level: **40 %**
  - Samples with 25 % of target level: **2.2 %**
  - Blank samples: **0.6 %**

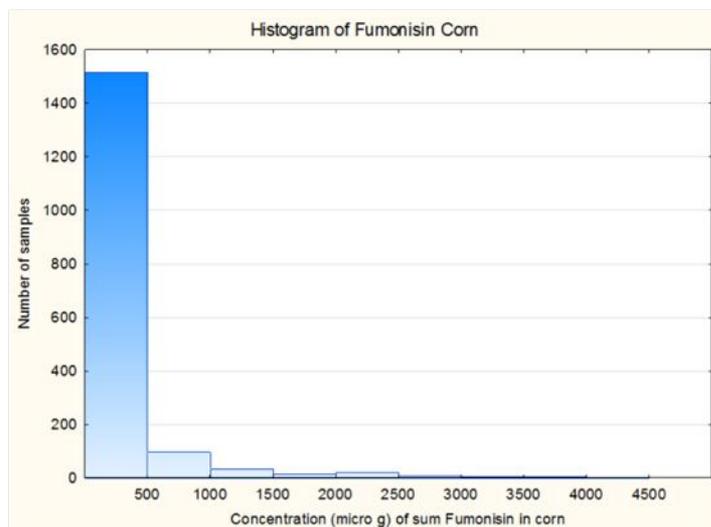
# A word in respect to rate of **false positive results**

- **False positive** results indicate the application of **confirmatory** methods of actually **compliant samples: Actually superfluous!**
- They do **not** impair safety, but increase costs!
- They may **look high**
- They **may not be critical**, even if they look high

# What do I need to know in order to establish, whether a **specific test is fit for purpose?**

- A rough idea about **frequency distribution** of the target analyte in typical samples
- The **performance profile** including the **cut-off value** of the test
- The **cost per analysis** of the screening test compared to the confirmatory method

## Mycotoxin concentrations in the target matrices – European data.



## Rate of false positive results, based on frequency distribution, *Fumonisin*s

% of MRL with validation data	Range % of target level	Range mg/kg	No of Sample	Rate of false positive	Number false
0	0-12	0-480	1486	0.058	86
25	13-37	481-1480	153	0.12	18
50	38-62	1481-2480	36	0.64	23
100	62-100	2481-4000	19	0.95	18
			Total No of samples:	Total No of false positive results	146
				Total Ratio of false positive results (%)	8.60

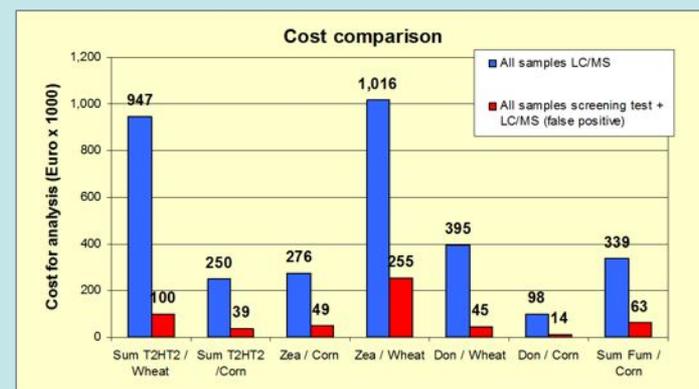
## Cost estimation I

- Estimating total analytical costs for two options:
  - Analysing all samples with LC/MS
  - Analysing all samples with the screening test and all false positive additionally with LC/MS

LC MS (Euro)		200
Screening (Euro)		20
Total cost (LC/MS)	1694*200	338800
Total (Screening + LC/MS false positive)	(1694 X 20) + (146 X 200)	63008

## Cost estimation II

- LC/MS measurement: 200 Euro/sample
- Screening test: 20 Euro/sample



# Example 2: Multianalyte method with high resolution mass spectrometry

## LC-Exactive Orbitrap MS (HRMS)

Journal of Chromatography A, 1322 (2013) 38–48



Multi-residue method for the detection of veterinary drugs in distillers grains by liquid chromatography–Orbitrap high resolution mass spectrometry

George Kaklamanos, Ursula Vincent\*, Christoph von Holst



Interesting aspect: The method has potential for screening and confirmatory purposes

### Development and single-lab validation:

- **100 Vet. Drugs in distiller grains**
- **Melamine and cyanuric acid in soya bean meal**

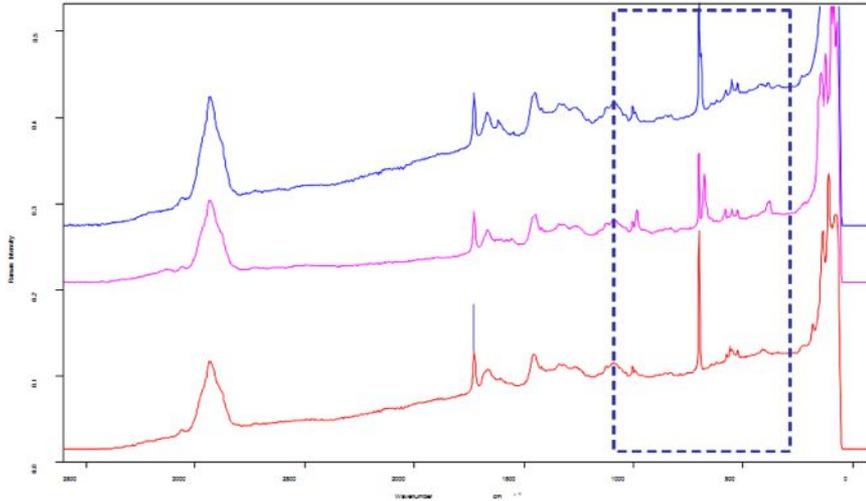
## Example 3: Spectroscopy (I)

- Near Infrared (NIR) Spectroscopy, already well established in feed industry, e.g quantification of crude protein
- NIR microscopy: At the beginning: Identification of bone particles, later contaminants, characterisation of feed additives
- Raman spectroscopy: Recent research show use for detection of melamine or transformer oil adulteration
- Major advantage: Non-destructive methods



# Example 3: Spectroscopy (II)

- Application for detection of melamine in soybean
- Possible with Raman and Near Infrared spectroscopy (NIR)



*Raman shift of soybean samples containing melamine:  
Specific peaks showing the presence of melamine*

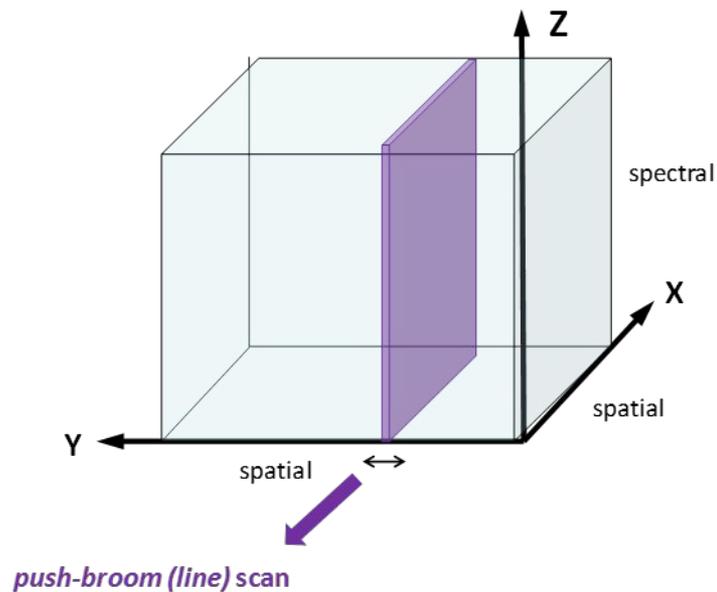


*EU FP7 competitive project "Quality and Safety of Feeds  
and Foods for Europe"*

- Also **NIR spectra** from melamine, soybean and melamine are different
- Application of NIR camera for the detection of melamine\*
- Objective identification requires the use of chemometrics
- Decision models are established on spectra of known substances and then applied to new samples

*\*Fernandez Pierna et al. Line scan hyperspectral imaging spectroscopy for the early detection of melamine and cyanuric acid in feed. J. Near Infrared Spectrosc. 22, 103–112 (2014)*

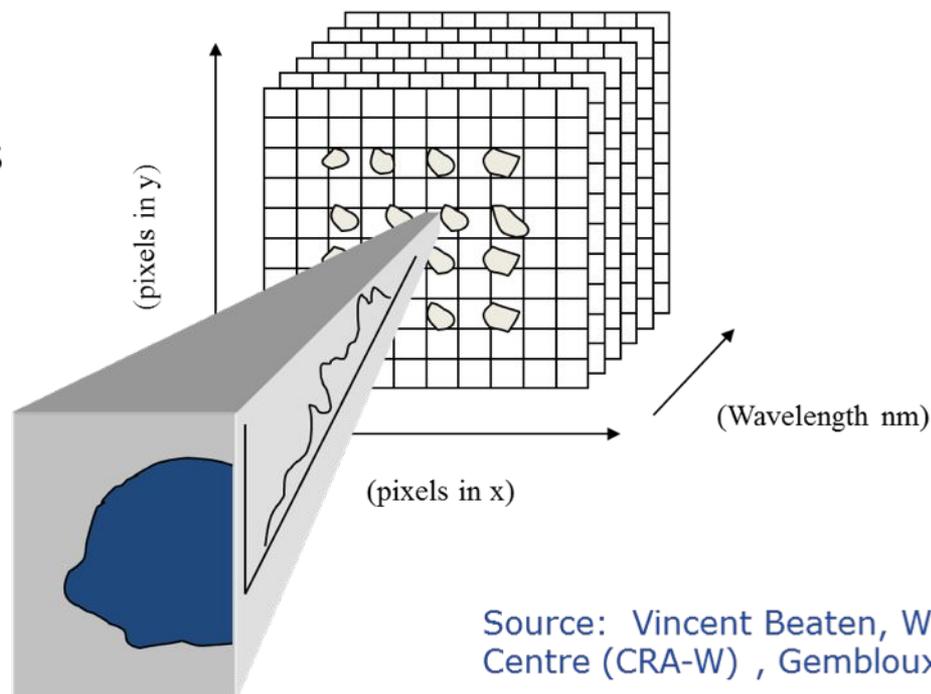
## Example 3: Spectroscopy (III), near infrared camera



Source: Vincent Beaten, Walloon Agricultural Research Centre (CRA-W), Gembloux (Belgium)

# Example 3: Spectroscopy (IV), near infrared camera

**Datacube** (or **Hypercube**) is a matrix of  $I \times J$  pixels and  $K$  wavelengths



pixel = spectrum

- Spatial resolution allows the detection of melamine present in the sample at least above 0.5%
- Automatic operation and identification of melamine particles

# Confirmatory method: complimentary to screening methods

- Target of screening methods: False negative as low as possible
- Target of confirmatory methods: False positive as possible
- Screening by various spectroscopic methods including NIR and Raman
- High specificity, e.g. via mass spectrometry

Jacob de Jong et al.: Analytical strategies for the early quality and safety assurance in the global feed chain...  
Trends in Analytical Chemistry 76 (2016) 203–215

# Example regulatory frame: Authorisation of feed additives in the European Union and the European Union Reference Laboratory (EURL)

## Feed Additives Categories

REG(EC) No 1831/2003

### 1. Technological

- Preservatives
- Antioxidants
- Emulsifiers
- Stabilisers
- Silage additives
- ...
- Mycotoxins binders

### 2. Sensory

- Colourants
- Flavouring compounds

### 3. Nutritional

- Vitamins
- Trace elements
- Amino acids
- Urea & derivatives

### 4. Zootechnical

- Digestibility enhancers
- Gut flora stabilisers
- Substances which favourably effect the environment

### 5. Coccidiostats



**EURL contribution to the authorisation:**

**Are the applicants' analytical methods suitable to be used for official control ????**

# Authorisation regulation: Example

Identification number of the additive	Name of the holder of authorisation	Additive (Trade name)	Composition, chemical formula, description, analytical method	Species or category of animal	Maximum age	Minimum content	Maximum content	Other provisions	End of period of authorisation	Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) in the relevant foodstuffs of animal origin
						mg of active substance/kg of complete feedingstuff with a moisture content of 12 %				
<b>Coccidiostats and histomonostats</b>										
5 1 771	Janssen Pharmaceutica N.V.	Diclazuril 0,5 g/100 g (Clinacox 0,5 %)	<p><i>Additive composition</i> Diclazuril: 0,50 g/100 g. Protein-poor soybean meal: 99,25 g/100 g Polyvidone K 30: 0,20 g/100 g Sodium hydroxide: 0,05 g/100 g</p> <p><i>Characterisation of the active substance</i> Diclazuril, C<sub>17</sub>H<sub>9</sub>Cl<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, (±)-4-chlorophenyl[2,6-dichloro-4-(2,3,4,5-tetrahydro-3,5-dioxo-1,2,4-triazin-2-yl)phenyl]acetonitrile, CAS number: 101831-37-2 Related impurities: Degradation compound (R064318): ≤ 0,1 % Other related impurities (T001434, R066891, R068610, R070156, R070016): ≤ 0,5 % individually Total impurities: ≤ 1,5 %</p> <p><i>Analytical method (1)</i> For determination of diclazuril in feed: reversed-phase high performance liquid chromatography (HPLC) using Ultraviolet detection at 280 nm (Regulation (EC) No 152/2009) For determination of diclazuril in poultry tissues: HPLC coupled to triple quadrupole mass spectrometer (MS/MS) using one precursor ion and two product ions</p>	Guinea fowls	—	1	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The additive shall be incorporated in compound feed in form of a premixture.</li> <li>Diclazuril shall not be mixed with other coccidiostats.</li> <li>For safety: breathing protection, glasses and gloves shall be used during handling.</li> <li>The holder of the authorisation shall carry out a post-market monitoring programme on the resistance to bacteria and <i>Eimeria</i> spp.</li> </ol>	16 March 2021	1 500 µg diclazuril/kg of wet liver 1 000 µg diclazuril/kg of wet kidney 500 µg diclazuril/kg of wet muscle 500 µg diclazuril/kg of wet skin/fat

(1) Details of the analytical methods are available at the following address of the Community Reference Laboratory: [www.irmm.jrc.be/crl-feed-additives](http://www.irmm.jrc.be/crl-feed-additives)

# Key data of the EURL regarding methods

- Legal basis: Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003
- Since 2004 the EURL evaluated several hundred dossiers
- EURL reports public domain

The screenshot displays the EURL website interface. On the left is a navigation menu with categories like 'EURL feed additives', 'EURL heavy metals', and 'EURL mycotoxins'. The main content area is titled 'EURL for feed additives' and 'Evaluation reports'. It includes a search help section and a search form with fields for 'FAD Number', 'Free text search' (containing 'xylanase'), 'from', and 'to'. Below the search form, it shows '1-20 out of 36 results' and a table of search results.

FAD Number	Product	Active Substance(s)	Date of Report
FAD-2010-0213	Feedlyve® AXC	Endo 1,4-β-xylanase	17/12/2015
FAD-2010-0367	Enzymes as silage additives	Alpha-amylase (EC 3.2.1.1), Endo-1,4-beta-glucanase (EC 3.2.1.4), Endo-1,3(4)-beta-glucanase (EC 3.2.1.6), Endo-1,4-beta-xylanase (EC 3.2.1.8)	14/12/2015

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/eurl/feed-additives/authorisation>

# Information on methods recommended by the EURL (I)

- Reference to Community methods Regulation (EC) No 152/2009, e.g. Amino acids, trace elements, some coccidiostats
- ISO/CEN methods: E.g. Coccidiostats, Phytase activity
- Pharmacopoeias and food chemical codex: Methods for the characterisation of products
- **Methods proposed by the applicants**

# Information on methods recommended by the EURL (II)

- **Examples of methods**
  - Enzyme activity determination
  - Characterisation of products, e.g. technological feed additives
  - Mycotoxin binder: Protocol for adsorption experiment to check samples against target criterion
- **Authorised feed additives**
  - Methods recommended by EURL are public domain

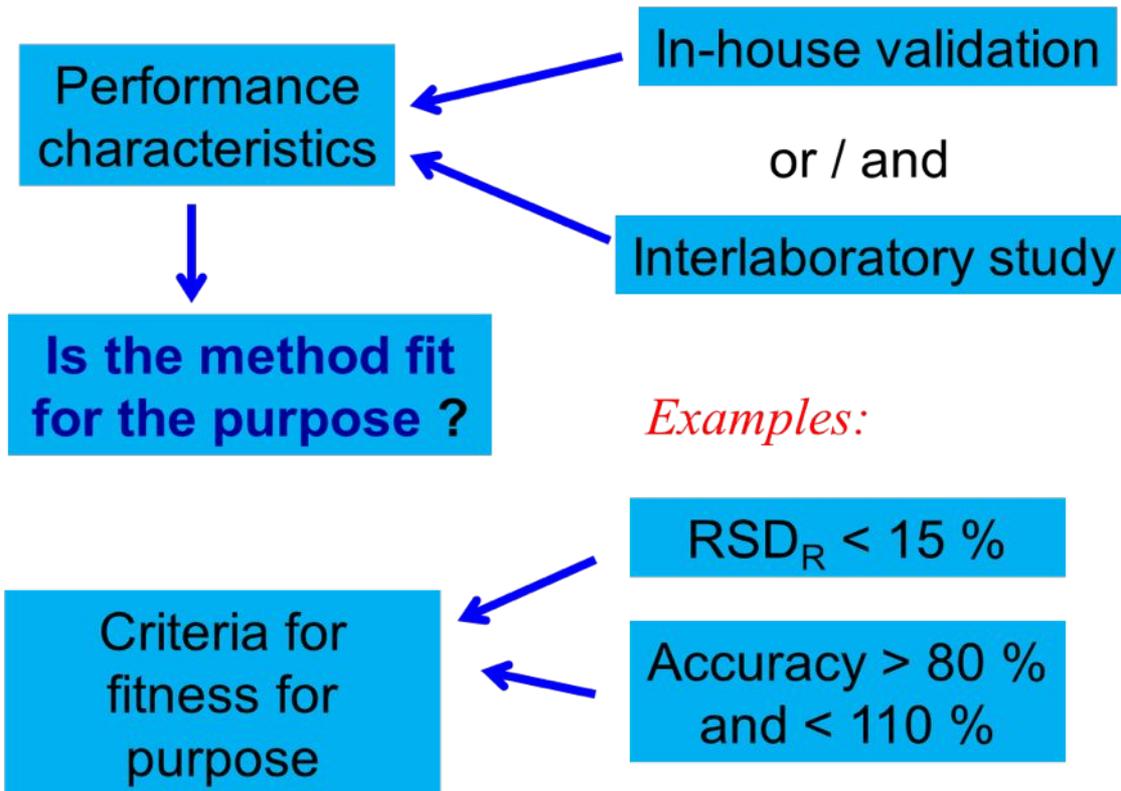
*von Holst C., Robouch P., Bellorini S., González de la Hueba M.S. & Ezerskis Z. (2016). A review of the work of the EU Reference Laboratory supporting the authorisation process of feed additives in the EU. Food Additives & Contaminants: Part A, 33:1, 66-77*

# The validation exercise (I):

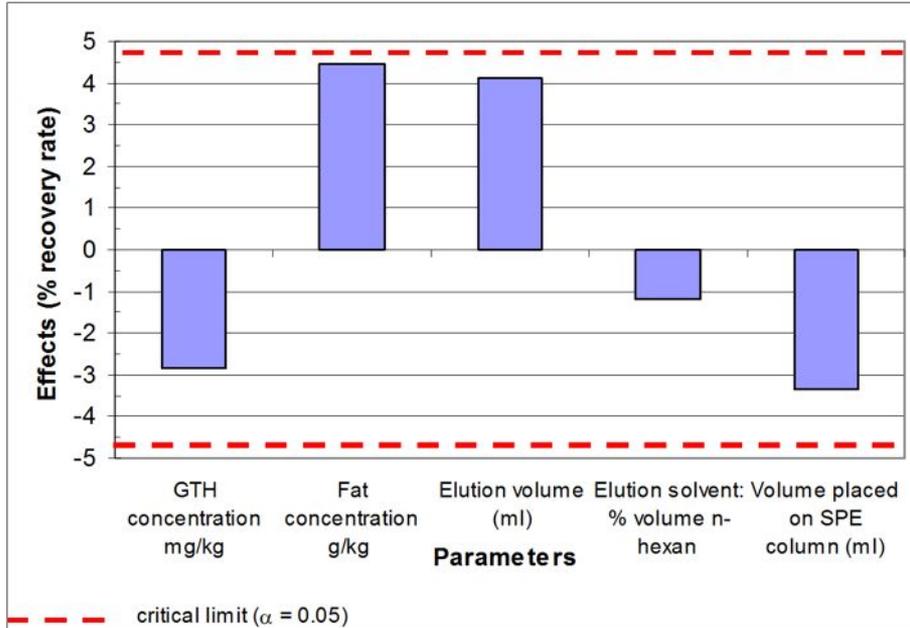
Is the method fit for purpose?

=

Check of method performance *characteristics* against performance *criteria*



# The validation exercise II:



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
 DIRECTORATE GENERAL  
 JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE  
 Directorate G: Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements  
 European Union Reference Laboratory for Food Additives

**Working document**

**EURL-FA  
 Verification form**

7. "Known" samples  
 Provide information for the one method/analyte/matrix combination. Do not report preliminary results

Method	
Analyte	
Matrix / species	
Expected content, unit	

	Date	Sample ID	Sample intake	Results (±h)
Day 1				

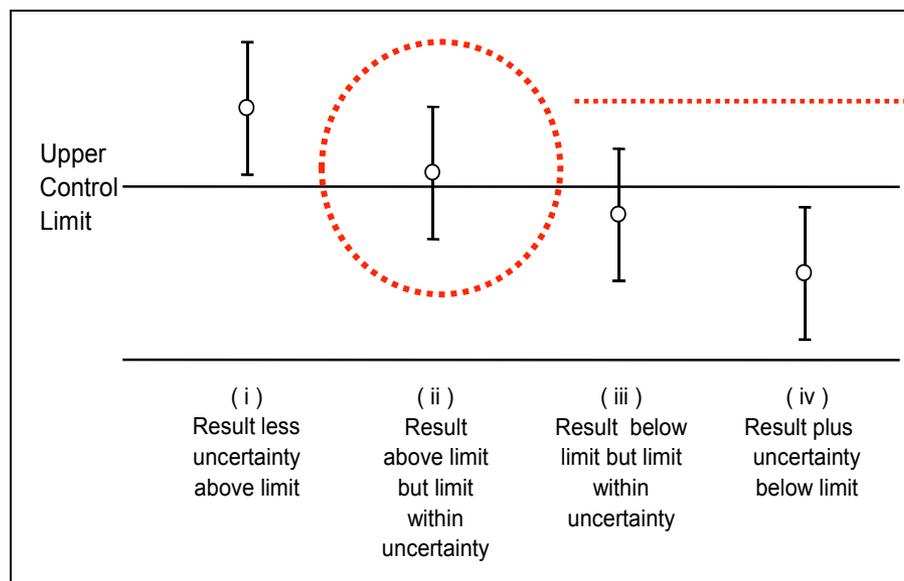
Date: 23/01/2014  
 Version: 1.1  
 Authors: Giuseppe SIMONE, Piotr ROBOUCH  
 Approved by: Christoph von HOLST

- In-house validation: Ruggedness test
- Second laboratory verification
- The gold standard: The interlaboratory study
- A method can only be validated if the purpose of its application has been established beforehand

# The validation exercise III: In-house validated methods versus standards

	<b>In-house validated</b>	<b>Standard</b>
Validation efforts	Always intermediate	<u>Very high</u> when establishing the standard, <u>but much lower</u> , when used by a lab afterwards
Information from validation	Fitness for purpose just <u>in one lab</u>	Fitness for purpose by group of laboratories
Use of new technology	Immediate	Only with significant delay
Field of application	EU: Residues and contaminants in food of animal origin	Feed analysis
Legal Reference	Commission Decision 657/2002	Regulation (EC) No 152/2009

# Legal limits and measurement uncertainty: Beyond reasonable doubt



*The analytical result is above the MRL, but the true value could be below this limit*

- To take legal actions, the analytical result need to be **beyond reasonable doubt** above the legal limit
- The **MU** is **subtracted** from the analytical result, before establishing non-compliance
- Only **case (i)** proves non-compliance **beyond reasonable doubt**
- In the EU currently applied to undesirable substances

# Summary

- The ever increasing number sample/analyte combinations required the smart combination of screening and confirmatory methods
- There is a rapid development of new technology, offering more efficient control of feed materials
- New validation guidelines are available, focusing on the proper use of screening methods
- Methods are getting public domain: for instance from the EURL

Thank you for your attention  
...and may be we see us again in our institute  
IRMM in Geel (Belgium)

Feed conference: 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016  
[www.feed2016.deu](http://www.feed2016.deu)



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5th International Feed Conference:  
Present and Future Challenges

19 - 20 October 2016 Geel Belgium

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