

Testing for melamine adulteration

Ensuring rapid and reliable results

Food products tainted by melamine contamination has been recognised since 2007 and in September 2008, several companies were implicated in a scandal involving milk and infant formula which had been adulterated with melamine, leading to kidney stones and other renal failure, especially in young children. By December 2008, nearly 300,000 people had become ill, with more than 50,000 infants hospitalized and six infant fatalities.

The health concerns were further extended to chocolate products where significant levels of melamine were detected. However, many of the published methods proved to be unreliable with very high fat content matrices such as chocolate, or required a long clean up process that has resulted in delays in reporting results.

In July the World Health Organisation confirmed tolerances for melamine at 2.5 parts per million (ppm) in foods and at 1ppm for infant formulas.

For those importing chocolate products, a sensitive rapid method for melamine is essential.

New method development

With the aim of improving on the current methods, Eurofins has looked at the existing methodologies and developed a completely new approach that has mitigated the analytical problems that has commonly troubled previous methods.

This has partially been achieved by investment in the latest chromatographic LC-MS/MS instrumentation, combined with new separation techniques.



This method is applicable to wide variety of matrices including high fat content sample types e.g. milk and milk derived products such as chocolate, butter, cheese and soya derived products.

Fast Reliable Results

Advantages over existing melamine testing methods:

- Quicker results from fewer steps
- Excellent sensitivity with latest instrumentation
- Flexible as applicable to a wide range of matrices
- Quicker to market as results delivered same day or next day
- Designed to handle high fat content foods

Service Support

Eurofins has an unrivalled track record in the consistent delivery of accurate results to an agreed timescale.

To meet the demands for rapid results needed for the positive release of products, we can offer same day, next day and 3 day services.

Eurofins UK

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Melamine test

Eurofins offers melamine adulteration test on a same day, next day or 3 day turnaround.

Test Description	Eurofins Package or Test Code
Melamine Test	UDP8P

Comprehensive Service

Eurofins provides a comprehensive range of state-of-the-art analytical techniques to support our customers' in establishing the safety, composition, authenticity, origin, traceability and purity of food and animal feed. Our laboratories in the UK provide microbiological testing, nutritional information, pesticide residues, contaminants, mycotoxins and heavy metals analysis. We are supported by an international network of Eurofins Competence Centres providing vitamin, authenticity and other specialist analyses. Please contact us for further information.

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