

# Program Notice

FGIS-PN-26-04

April 27, 2026

## **NEW SAMPLE GRINDING REQUIREMENTS FOR MYCOTOXIN TESTING**

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## 1. PURPOSE

This program notice announces updated grinding requirements for mycotoxin testing to strengthen the alignment with the Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) reference methods, test kit criteria, and the [Codex Alimentarius](#).

## 2. BACKGROUND

Grinding the sample is a critical component of mycotoxin testing as it directly affects test results. Grinding reduces particle size to promote homogenization (i.e., uniform distribution) and to enable efficient extraction of the mycotoxin from the grain. Homogenization reduces subsampling variability, and increasing extraction efficiency reduces bias.

FGIS reference methods and test kit performance criteria require samples to be ground so that at least 95% of the ground grain passes through a U.S. Standard No. 20 sieve (0.85-mm apertures) for testing aflatoxins, deoxynivalenol, fumonisins, and zearalenone. For testing ochratoxin A, at least 95% of the ground sample must pass through a U.S. Standard No. 30 sieve (0.6-mm apertures). In contrast, the FGIS [Mycotoxin Handbook](#) currently requires samples to be ground so that at least 60% of the ground grain passes through a U.S. Standard No. 20 sieve unless otherwise specified in the test kit instructions.

FGIS is aligning the procedures in the Mycotoxin Handbook and test kit instructions to the FGIS reference methods and test kit criteria for increased confidence in mycotoxin certifications and better alignment to the Codex Alimentarius standards. This program notice initiates that alignment and provides new requirements for grinding. FGIS will incorporate the new requirements and update the Mycotoxin Handbook.

## 3. POLICY

**Official service providers must comply with the following grinding requirements for official mycotoxin inspections no later than January 1, 2028.**

This effective date is intended to allow sufficient time for official service providers to meet the new requirements.

- a. Grind sample so that at least 95% passes through a U.S. Standard No. 20 sieve (0.85-mm apertures) for testing of aflatoxins, deoxynivalenol, fumonisins, and zearalenone.
- b. Grind sample so that at least 95% passes through a U.S. Standard No. 30 sieve (0.6-mm apertures) for testing ochratoxin A.
- c. Multiple passes through a grinder may be necessary to achieve required fineness depending on the mill, commodity type, and moisture content.

- d. Any mill may be used that meets the grinding requirements for the mycotoxin being officially tested. Mills listed on the FGIS-approved equipment list are provided for reference only; official service providers are not limited to using them. The Certificate of Conformance identifies the commodities for which each mill is suitable. For additional technical information regarding mills on the FGIS-approved equipment list, contact [James.M.Chapman@usda.gov](mailto:James.M.Chapman@usda.gov).
- e. Follow all other instructions in the [Mycotoxin Handbook](#) (e.g., collection of ground sample, mixing, and file sample retention).

#### **4. FILING INSTRUCTIONS**

An electronic version of this notice is available on the [AMS website](#). Maintain a printed copy of this notice with the FGIS Mycotoxin Handbook at locations where physical copies are required in accordance with FGIS Program Notice PN-25-04 Issuance Retention Policy, when applicable.

#### **5. QUESTIONS**

Direct questions about this program notice to [James.M.Chapman@usda.gov](mailto:James.M.Chapman@usda.gov).