

**UNITED STATES**  
**CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING THE**  
**ADEQUACY OF THE RESIDUE CONTROL PROGRAM**  
for Meat, Poultry and Egg Products

**Definitions**

**Residue program:** A combination of educational, research and regulatory enforcement activities designed to provide: (1) a structured process for identifying and evaluating drugs, pesticides and other chemical compounds of concern by slaughter class and/or egg product; (2) capability to analyze compounds of concern reliably; (3) appropriate regulatory follow-up of reports of violative tissue residues in meat, poultry and egg products; and (4) collection, analysis, and reporting of the results of these activities.

**Residue plan:** The anticipated testing regimen to analyze compounds of concern reliably for specific slaughter classes and/or egg products for a specified time period.

**I. Background**

*The purpose of this section is to obtain general information about animal husbandry, availability of drug usage, agricultural chemicals and incidence of environmental contaminants and pesticides. This information will be used to determine equivalency with the United States' residue control program.*

- A. Provide total population figures of food animal by each species.
- B. Do animals slaughtered for export to the U.S. originate in another country other than the native country? Are egg products exported to the U.S. produced from eggs originating in other countries?
- C. Describe the husbandry practices commonly used for each species of animals slaughtered for export to the U.S. Information should describe such factors as:
  1. Type of housing used for rearing animals; for example, confinement versus pasture (free-range), individual stalls or cages, group pens, etc.
  2. Unique weather conditions which may require special housing
  3. Type of feed given to animals (commercial source or farmers mix/grow their own)
  4. Typical age of animals when slaughtered
  5. Treatment for internal and/or external parasites (identify animal diseases or conditions commonly requiring treatment)
  6. Marketing practices
    - a. average number of animals in slaughter lot
    - b. slaughter lots comprised of animals from one farm or from several farms/growers
- D. What measures are taken to prevent exposure of food animals to pesticides?

- E. What measures are taken to prevent exposure of food animals to environmental or industrial contaminants?

## II. **Organization and legal authority**

*The purpose of this section is to describe the specifications of the legal basis and the organization of the government's activities to prevent contamination of food products with chemical residues.*

- A. Are the preventative measures taken to satisfy the U.S. requirements handled through a central (National), regional (local) or special export residue program?
- B. Identify and summarize the laws and regulations concerning:
1. Approval and use of food animal drugs and agricultural chemicals
    - a. Provide lists of the following types of substances, specified by chemical names, permitted for use in your country:
      - (1) drugs permitted for therapeutic and preventative use in each species of food animals
      - (2) prohibited substances
      - (3) pesticides permitted for use in or on each species of food animals, permitted for crops used in feed processing and storage facilities, or permitted for use in meat processing facilities.
      - (4) environmental or industrial chemicals that are potential contaminants to food producing animals
    - b. For each drug and chemical listed in your residue plan, identify:
      - (1) the species;
      - (2) the target tissue used as analytical control;
      - (3) a list of the Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) [tolerance or action limits]
  2. Specify the procedures used to approve the use of each substance listed in II.B.1.a. (For example, available by veterinary prescription only, limited availability to authorized distributors, detailed directions for use, penalties for misuse, withdrawal times, extra and/or off label use, etc.)
- C. Briefly summarize the procedures employed for enforcing the above laws and regulations.
- D. Provide a simple organizational chart and relationship to the meat inspection system for:
1. compound approval
  2. residue program design
  3. sample collection
  4. laboratory support
  5. enforcement

### **III. Residue Plan Design**

*The purpose of this section is to obtain information to understand the basis for your annual residue plan and the process used to design the residue plan.*

- A. Submit a copy of your annual residue plan, which clearly identifies all sampling plans (monitoring, surveillance or any other special testing programs in place) and identifies the target tissue to be analyzed, by species, for each specific residue compound. Identify whether this is implemented on a calendar year or fiscal year.
- B. Describe the design of the sampling plan for animals to be tested for residues. Indicate whether the sampling plan is based on random sampling and the statistical significance expected of the residue conclusions or whether the sampling plan is based on non-statistical design principles. In both cases, indicate the objectives of the sampling program.
- C. What criteria are used to determine whether a compound is included or deleted from your testing program?
- D. What is the process for reassessing the residue plan? How are data reviewed and analyzed to evaluate the progress?

### **IV. Residue Plan Operations**

*The purpose of this section is to obtain information on the basis and actual operation of your residue plan.*

- A. Describe the implementation of your plan, providing any supplemental information that will help describe what you want to accomplish with the residue plan.
- B. Provide a summary of the instructions that are provided to the field personnel that describe sampling procedures, including but not limited to sample selection, collection, identification and security.
- C. What is the average time it takes from sample collection until final results are available to the inspector (or person responsible for action)?
- D. Describe the control procedures for separating product destined to the U.S. in the case when domestic tolerances are higher.
- E. How are individual animals selected for sampling? How do you select the days on which samples are taken?

- F. Do inspection personnel use in-plant-screening methods? If so, what are these tests and how are they used (monitoring/surveillance, animal selection, etc.)? Describe the validation of these tests for the intended purpose.

**V. Compliance and enforcement**

*The purpose of this section is to obtain information about actions taken to deal with residue findings as they occur.*

- A. What actions are taken when positive or violative results are determined for:
- (1) drugs permitted for therapeutic and preventative use in each species of food animals
  - (2) prohibited substances
  - (3) pesticides permitted for use in or on each species of food animals, permitted for crops used in feed processing and storage facilities, or permitted for use in meat processing facilities
  - (4) environmental or industrial chemicals that are potential contaminants to food producing animals
- B. What documentation of enforcement actions is maintained?

**VI. Laboratories**

*The purpose of this section is to obtain information on the general capabilities of analytical laboratories and their ability to assure the validity and reliability of test data.*

- A. Organization and characteristics of your laboratory facilities. Provide:
- (1) An organization chart of the laboratory facilities.
  - (2) Information on personnel qualifications.
  - (3) Information on facilities and equipment.
- B. Laboratory procedures
1. Identify the analytical method used for each compound. Include:
    - (a) Target analyte(s)
    - (b) Target tissue/species
    - (c) Performance standards
  2. Explain the process to insure that samples and their associated documentation are not interchanged.
  3. Explain how records are maintained.
  4. How are test results reported (include content and format.)
  5. Are corrective actions conducted for noted deficiencies?
  6. Does the laboratory participate in proficiency testing? If yes,

- (a) List the proficiency testing programs
  - (b) Provide the most recent proficiency test report(s), including whether it passed or failed.
7. Is the laboratory accredited? If yes, please provide:
- (a) The name of the accrediting body
  - (b) When was the laboratory last accredited?
  - (c) What compound (class of compound) was the laboratory accredited for?