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Improved detection of genetically modified organisms (GMO) Eurofins Scientific launches GMO PLATINUM ASSAY©

Higher sensitivity and specificity of GMO analyse

EUROFINS SCIENTIFIC offers in all countries a significantly improved assay to detect "Biotechnology Food" and "Biotechnology Feed". The new validated system, called GMO PLATINUM ASSAY©, has passed rigorous tests during the past months. It allows a more reliable conclusion as to whether food products and raw materials (maize, soya, starch, lecithin, rapeseed, etc.) contain genetically altered material. The new test program is based on the development of improved primer/probe systems with a new chemistry to detect genetically modified DNA. The new systems are more specific and more sensitive than any previously developed system. The advantage of this assay is that samples with very low GMO DNA content can be detected, because the assay is sensitive enough to find single DNA copy numbers. In addition, the new method reduces occurrence of false-positive results due to the improved specificity. "I anticipate that our GMO PLATINUM ASSAY© will set new standards in the industry. Trade and food producers will receive the best and most reliable results with this method." comments Dr. Gilles G. Martin, CEO of the EUROFINS SCIENTIFIC Group.

Lower risk of false positive results

The DNA analysis of genetically modified organisms is currently conducted in only a few specialized labs. Since some conventional plants contain genetic sequences similar to those of modified sequences, false-positive results occur occasionally with traditional assays (i.e. the result wrongly implies that the sample has been genetically modified). This causes delays and additional costs (e.g. increased costs for importers as a result of longer storage times or rejection by customers). The application of the new technology will significantly reduce the risk of false-positives and offers economic advantages through improved reliability and specificity.

"The whole food and feed industry will benefit from our new service, because we obtain excellent results even in samples, with partially destroyed DNA which are difficult to analyse." says Dr. Gilles Martin, "GMO PLATINUM ASSAY© will enable our clients to comply with existing and future GMO labelling regulations in the best possible way."

EUROFINS SCIENTIFIC maintains an internal proficiency testing programme between its three GMO testing sites in Des Moines (USA), Hamburg (Germany) and Nantes (France) to ensure highest quality standards and comparability of results between all EUROFINS SCIENTIFIC laboratories.

In an environment where inaccurate analysis can lead to the rejection of a product and substantial financial losses, it is important to provide cutting edge analysis and constantly improve methods. And the GMO PLATINUM ASSAY© is just another step to do this ●

Dr Bert Popping
Contact : BertPopping@eurofins.com

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