



هيئة أبوظبي للزراعة والسلامة الغذائية
ABU DHABI AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
SAFETY AUTHORITY

Regulation No. (5) / 2010

FOOD SAMPLING FOR OFFICIAL CONTROL

Regulation No. (5) for the year 2010 Food Sampling for Official Control

The Chairman of Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority

- Having perused Law no. (2) for the year 2005 pertaining to the Establishment of Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority and its amendments.
- And Law no. (2) for the year 2008 pertaining to Food in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi

And Based on what the Director General has proposed and the approval of the Board of Directors

We decided the issuance of this Regulation pertaining to Food Sampling for official Control for the Emirate of Abu Dhabi:

Article (1)

In this Regulation the terms and expressions of Law No. (02) for the year 2008 shall apply, in addition to the following unless the context indicates otherwise:

Batch	A specific quantity of food that is known, or assumed, to be produced under uniform conditions.
Lot	A definite quantity of some commodity manufactured or produced under conditions, which are presumed uniform.
Inspection	The examination of food or systems for control of food, raw materials, processing and distribution, including in-process and finished product testing, in order to verify that they conform to the legal requirements.
Sample	Any number of food sample units which are used for inspection. The sample comprises all of the containers or sample units drawn for examination or testing purposes from a particular lot.
Representative sample	Set composed of one or several items selected by different means and in which the characteristics of the lot from which it is drawn are maintained.

Incremental sample	A quantity of material taken from a single place in the food lot. Some food commodities are transported in convenient increments such as boxes, cartons, sacks etc, and samples are taken from these increments. For static bulks the increment will be the place in the bulk where the sample is taken or for moving bulks e.g. grain being discharge from a ship's hold or from a silo, the increment will be the time at which a sample is taken from the flow of commodity.
Bulk sample	The quantity of food obtained by combining and mixing the incremental samples taken from a specific food lot.
Laboratory sample	The sample as received at the laboratory (not including the packaging).
Sample Reference Number	That is released to the sample for the purposes of identification and traceability.
Sampling	Procedure used to draw or constitute a sample.
Sampling plan	Planned procedure which enables one to choose, or draw separate samples from a lot, in order to get the information needed, such as a decision on compliance status of the lot. More precisely, a sampling plan is a scheme defining the number of items to collect and the number of non-conforming items required in a sample to evaluate the compliance status of a lot.
Objective sampling	Sampling of a food lot on a routine basis, for random surveillance, collection of data for a specific purpose, or monitoring to determine whether the food is unsatisfactory for any reason.
Selective sample	Samples collected either to demonstrate or document unsatisfactory conditions observed by the inspector, or to provide a unit of food suspected to be unsatisfactory for laboratory analysis.
Sample size	The number of containers, or sample units comprising the total sample drawn from the lot.

Container	Any form of container in which the product is packaged for sale as a single item. It includes cans, wraps and packages.
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Article (2)

This Regulation shall apply to all stages of the food chain including the production, processing, catering, distribution, marketing, importation and exportation of food.

Article (3)

Samples intended for official control of the safety and quality of foods shall be taken in accordance with the methods set out in this Regulation. Samples thus obtained shall be considered as representative of the lots of food, except in the case of selective sampling.

Article (4)

Sampling shall be undertaken for a single food item, regardless of the size, where it has been produced under the same conditions, (of the same batch no. or production date), where applicable.

Article (5)

Sampling shall be performed by authorized persons who are trained to a standard commensurate with their work activities.

Article (6)

Precautions shall be taken during sampling to avoid contaminating samples from any source and avoiding exposure of the product to adverse weather conditions or excessive moisture. and to avoid any changes which would affect the integrity of the sample or that may adversely affect the quality or safety that would result in the bulk sample being unrepresentative.

Article (7)

Each sample taken for chemical analyses shall be placed in a clean, inert, food grade container offering adequate protection from contamination and adsorption of material to internal walls of the container. The container shall be such as to prevent damage to the sample during transport and storage.

Article (8)

Equipment used for sampling food for chemical analyses shall be clean and dry and made from food grade, inert material. And for microbiological analyses shall be sterilized and made from food grade, inert material.

Article (9)

The type of equipment used for the sampling of food shall be consistent with sample size tables published by the Authority.

Article (10)

Samples shall be maintained at such temperatures during transport and storage so as to avoid changes that would result in the sample being unrepresentative.

Article (11)

A record shall be kept of each sampling, permitting each lot to be identified clearly, giving the date and place of sampling together with any additional information likely to be of assistance to the laboratory.

Article (12)

Each sample taken for official use shall be sealed at the place of sampling and identified with the following information:

- ◆ Sample reference number
- ◆ Product name
- ◆ Place of sampling
- ◆ Vessel/container details
- ◆ Date of sampling
- ◆ Purpose of sampling

Article (13)

The size of the sample shall allow for repeat analysis if required and shall conform to the sample size tables published by the Authority. The time between taking a sample and laboratory testing of that sample shall be kept to a minimum in accordance with established procedures in the authority.

Article (14)

Two different categories of samples shall be taken depending on circumstances and desired outcomes:

- a) Objective sampling
- b) Selective sampling

Article (15)

Where a sample of a food is taken pursuant to this Regulation for the purpose of official sampling, and where the division of the sample is reasonably practicable, the sample shall, in the presence of the food business operator, be divided into two approximately equal parts, each of which shall be labeled in such a way as to identify it as a part of the sample taken. One part of the sample shall be sent for laboratory analysis while the other part shall be formally sealed and stored under the custody of the Food Business Operator.

Article (16)

Where division of food contained in unopened packages is deemed to be not reasonably practicable or such division of food might affect the composition or impede the proper analysis of the sample, the food packages shall be divided into two lots and each lot shall be considered a separate sample.

Article (17)

In the case of the official sample being non-compliant, the food business operator has the right to request the Director General of the Authority to have second part sample for analysis by the Authority at the expense of food business operator. If the analytical result is compliant with the legislation, the consignment shall be considered compliant. In case where sample is withdrawn on the basis of production date and failed the laboratory testing, the food business operator may appeal for retesting where, if approved by the Authority, samples shall be withdrawn on the basis of the batch no.

Article (18)

Detailed tables of the sampling plans including sampling sizes of various foods and the methods of sampling shall be issued by a decision from the Director General.

Article (19)

This Regulation shall come into force one month following its promulgation in the Official Gazette.

Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan
The Chairman of Abu Dhabi Food Control Authority

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