
Analiza molekularnih biomarkerjev - Metoda za statistično vrednotenje rezultatov analiz, pridobljenih pri preskušanju podvzorcev skupin gensko spremenjenih semen in zrn - Splošne zahteve (ISO 22753:2021)

Molecular biomarker analysis - Method for the statistical evaluation of analytical results obtained in testing sub-sampled groups of genetically modified seeds and grains - General requirements (ISO 22753:2021)

Untersuchung auf molekulare Biomarker - Verfahren zur statistischen Auswertung von Analyseergebnissen aus der Untersuchung von Untergruppen von gentechnisch verändertem Saatgut und Getreide - Allgemeine Anforderungen (ISO 22753:2021)

Analyse moléculaire de biomarqueurs - Méthode pour l'évaluation statistique des résultats d'analyse obtenus lors des essais de sous-échantillons multiples de semences et de graines génétiquement modifiées - Exigences générales (ISO 22753:2021)

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**Molecular biomarker analysis —
Method for the statistical evaluation of
analytical results obtained in testing
sub-sampled groups of genetically
modified seeds and grains — General
requirements**

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statistique des résultats d'analyse obtenus lors des essais de sous-
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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Food products*, Subcommittee SC 16, *Horizontal methods for molecular biomarker analysis*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Seed and grain testing is used throughout the world to commercially define the purity of seed and grain lots.

Commercial requirements for labelling agricultural products with genetically modified organism (GMO) content at a specified threshold level both as a seed/grain contaminant and a food ingredient have become common to satisfy regulations and consumer demands. Conformance with these specifications is evaluated at various points of the supply chain, often starting with the harvested grain.

Quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) can be used to determine the GMO content by analysis of the ratio of GMO DNA copy numbers to plant-species specific DNA copy numbers followed by a conversion to genetically modified (GM) mass fraction.

Multiple events stacked in a crop, such as those generated by crossing two or more single events, are widely used in agricultural production. A stacked event seed or grain containing GMO DNA corresponding to two or more GM events commingled in lot cannot be differentiated by quantitative PCR alone from multiple seeds within the lot each containing a single GM event. Consequently, if the actual measured GMO arises only from GM stacked event seeds, GM content measured by quantitative real-time PCR of a single sample will lead to an overestimation of the actual number of GM seeds or grains present.

The group testing strategy described in this document provides a reliable alternative to estimate the GM content on the basis of the fact that whole seeds/grains are the sample material.

The process described in this document can provide a method to accurately estimate the percentages of GM seeds/grains in a lot irrespective of the presence of stacked event seeds/grains. GM content is determined for representative subsampled groups of seed/grain from a lot and statistically analysed.

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Molecular biomarker analysis — Method for the statistical evaluation of analytical results obtained in testing sub-sampled groups of genetically modified seeds and grains — General requirements

1 Scope

This document describes general requirements, procedures and performance criteria for evaluating the content of genetically modified (GM) seeds/grains in a lot by a group testing strategy that includes qualitative analysis of sub-sampled groups followed by statistical evaluation of the results.

This document is applicable to group testing strategy estimating the GM content on a percentage seed/grain basis for purity estimation, testing towards a given reject/accept criterion and for cases where seed/grain lots are carrying stacked events.

This document is not applicable to processed products.

NOTE Description of the use of group testing strategy are available in References [1], [7], [8], [18], [19] and [20].

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 16577, *Molecular biomarker analysis — Terms and definitions* 2022

ISO 21572, *Foodstuffs — Molecular biomarker analysis — Immunochemical methods for the detection and quantification of proteins*

ISO 24276, *Foodstuffs — Methods of analysis for the detection of genetically modified organisms and derived products — General requirements and definitions*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 16577 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

absolute PCR limit of detection

absolute polymerase chain reaction limit of detection

absolute PCR LOD

lowest nominal (average) number of target copies in the template volume distributed to individual PCRs that would allow for an acceptable probability of detecting the target

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3.2

AQL A_{QL} **acceptable quality limit**

level of impurity that is acceptable to the producer and that production practices can support

3.3

consumer risk**consumer (beta) risk**

probability of accepting a lot at the *lower quality limit* (3.10)

3.4

deviant seed/grain

considered non-conforming based on the presence or absence of a specific trait or characteristic

Note 1 to entry: For the purpose of this document, a deviant seed is considered to possess a GM characteristic that is not expected or is unintended based on the expected or known GM characteristics of the seed/grain.

3.5

false negative rate**FNR**

probability that a known positive (seed/grain group) *test sample* (3.20) has been classified as negative by the method

Note 1 to entry: The false negative rate is the number of misclassified known positives divided by the total number of positive *test samples* (3.20).

[SOURCE: ISO 16577:2016, 3.63, modified — the abbreviation has been added, “positive test sample” has been changed to “positive (seed/grain group) test sample”, and the formula has been deleted.]

3.6

false positive rate**FPR**

probability that a known negative (seed/grain group) *test sample* (3.20) has been classified as positive by the method

Note 1 to entry: The false positive rate is the number of misclassified known negatives divided by the total number of negative *test samples* (3.20).

[SOURCE: ISO 16577:2016, 3.65, modified — the abbreviation has been added, “negative test sample” has been changed to “negative (seed/grain group) test sample”, and the formula has been deleted.]

3.7

group size

number of seeds/grains comprising a group

3.8

group testing

statistical evaluation of analyte contents based on qualitative analysis results (i.e. positive or negative) from each seed/grain group in the *test sample* (3.20)

3.9

laboratory sample

sample or subsample(s) received by the laboratory

Note 1 to entry: The seed/grain sample received is expected to represent the *seed/grain lot* (3.18).

[SOURCE: ISO 16577:2016, 3.89, modified — Note 1 to entry has been added.]

3.10**LQL** L_{QL} **lower quality limit**

highest impurity that is acceptable to the consumer

Note 1 to entry: This can be equivalent to the *threshold* (3.22).

3.11**mass fraction**

ratio of GM seeds/grains relative to the total seeds/grains corresponding to mass ratio

3.12**number of deviant seed/grain groups**

number of *seed/grain groups* (3.17) including one or more *deviant seeds/grains* (3.4)

3.13**operating characteristic curve****OC curve**

graph plotting the percentage of deviant seeds/grains and the probability of acceptance respectively on the horizontal and the vertical axes and used in quality control to determine the probability of accepting *seed/grain lots* (3.18) in a *testing plan* (3.21)

3.14**producer risk****producer (alpha) risk**

probability of rejecting a lot at the *AQL* (3.2)

3.15**representative sample**

sampling units (samples or groups) that have been extracted from a lot with the process ensuring all sampling units of the lots have an equal probability of being selected and not altered in any way that would change the analytical result

Note 1 to entry: The extraction process can be a multi-stage process.

3.16**reject/accept criterion**

maximum *number of deviant seed/grain groups* (3.12) that can be detected in the *test sample* (3.20) of an acceptable *seed/grain lot* (3.18)

3.17**seed/grain group****group**

determined number of seeds/grains prepared from a *seed/grain test sample* (3.20) by representative sampling

3.18**seed/grain lot****lot**

population for which sampling is intended to estimate the measured parameter

3.19**stacked event**

accumulation of two or more transformation events as a result of traditional breeding and/or successive transformation steps)

Note 1 to entry: In the context of this document a stacked event refers to a stack in which the two or more events are not genetically linked.

[SOURCE: ISO 16577:2016, 3.197, modified — Note 1 to entry has been added.]

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3.20

test sample

sample prepared for testing or analysis, the whole quantity or part of it being used for testing or analysis at one time

Note 1 to entry: The test sample is prepared from the *laboratory sample* (3.9).

Note 2 to entry: The test sample is expected to represent the *laboratory sample* (3.9).

[SOURCE: ISO 16577:2016, 3.210, modified — Note 1 to entry and Note 2 to entry have been added.]

3.21

testing plan

plan specifying *group testing* (3.8) conditions including *group size* (3.7), the number of *seed/grain groups* (3.17) and the *number of deviant seed/grain groups* (3.12) in *test sample* (3.20) resulting in rejection of *seed/grain lot* (3.18)

3.22

threshold

maximum acceptable content of GMO presence in a lot

Note 1 to entry: This can be a prescribed value.

Note 2 to entry: Thresholds can be expressed in *mass fraction* (3.11) with the proviso that an uncertainty factor is involved in the conversion to a seed/grain percentage threshold.

4 Principle

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4.1 General

In this method, the test sample is divided into a predetermined number of groups. Each group consists of a determined number of seed/grain and is tested qualitatively for the presence or absence of a GM target. A statistical evaluation is performed on the number of GM positive groups relative to the total number of seed/grain groups to determine the GM content in mass fraction.

A statistical calculation determines the optimal testing conditions, namely, the number of seeds/grains per group (group size), the number of seed/grain groups, and the maximum number of GMO positive seed/grain groups for seed/grain lot acceptance. Alternatively, a statistical calculation provides an estimate of the percentage by number of the GM seeds/grains in a lot, according to a given testing plan.