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**Cereals and cereal products —
Determination of 17 mycotoxins
by ultra-high-performance liquid
chromatography and tandem
mass spectrometry method
(UHPLC-MS/MS)**

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*Céréales et produits céréaliers — Détermination de 17 mycotoxines
par chromatographie liquide à ultra haute performance et
spectrométrie de masse en tandem (CLUHP-SM/SM)*

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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 document 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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This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 34, *Food products*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Cereals and pulses*.

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Cereals and cereal products — Determination of 17 mycotoxins by ultra-high-performance liquid chromatography and tandem mass spectrometry method (UHPLC-MS/MS)

1 Scope

This document specifies a method for the quantitative determination of 17 mycotoxins in cereals and cereal products (e.g. wheat, maize, husked rice, rice and their products) using ultra-high-performance liquid chromatography and tandem mass spectrometry method (UHPLC-MS/MS).

The 17 mycotoxins are aflatoxin B₁, aflatoxin B₂, aflatoxin G₁, aflatoxin G₂, deoxynivalenol, nivalenol, deoxynivalenol-3-glucoside, 3-acetyl-deoxynivalenol, 15-acetyl-deoxynivalenol, zearalenone, ochratoxin A, fumonisin B₁, fumonisin B₂, fumonisin B₃, T-2 toxin, HT-2 toxin and sterigmatocystin.

This document does not apply to foods for infants and young children.

This document is applicable to other products (e.g. nuts) provided that the method is validated for each individual case.

The calibration range of the method and the validated range during the interlaboratory study for each mycotoxin are listed in [Table A.1](#).

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 3696, *Water for analytical laboratory use — Specification and test methods*

3 Terms and definitions

No terms and definitions are listed in this document.

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/>

4 Principle

Mycotoxins are extracted using an acetonitrile-water-acetic acid (70:29:1, v/v/v) solution. After centrifugation, the extract is diluted with water, centrifuged in low temperature and filtered. The final solution is mixed with isotope-labelled internal standard solution and subjected to UHPLC-MS/MS analysis. Quantification is performed by the isotopic dilution approach using ¹³C isotopically labelled mycotoxins as internal standards (ISTDs).

WARNING — Mycotoxins are generally considered to be carcinogenic, neurotoxic and immunosuppressive. Observe appropriate safety precautions^[1] for handling such compounds and avoid handling in dry form as the electrostatic nature can result in dispersion and inhalation.

Glassware can be decontaminated with 4 % sodium hypochlorite solution. Attention is drawn to the statement made by the International Agency for Research on Cancer (WHO).^{[2][3]}

5 Reagents

WARNING — This document requires handling of hazardous substances. Technical, organizational and personal safety measures shall be followed.

During the analysis, unless otherwise stated, use only reagents of recognized analytical grade and only distilled water or water of grade 1 in accordance with ISO 3696. Solvents shall be of quality for LC analysis.

5.1 Acetonitrile, LC grade or equivalent.

5.2 Methanol, LC grade or equivalent.

5.3 Ammonium acetate, American Chemical Society (ACS) grade, > 99 %.

5.4 Acetic acid, ACS grade.

5.5 Formic acid, ACS grade.

5.6 Extraction solvent: Mix 70 volume parts of acetonitrile (5.1) and 29 volume parts of water and 1 volume part of acetic acid (5.4).

5.7 Solvent of calibration solutions: Mix 50 volume parts of extraction solvent (5.6) and 50 volume parts of water.

5.8 Individual stock solutions, either prepared by dissolving neat (solid) certified standards in an appropriate solvent or from individual stock solutions purchased as such.

The mycotoxins covered in this document dissolve well in acetonitrile, except for fumonisins which are soluble in a mixture of acetonitrile and water (50:50, v/v). The information and concentration of 17 mycotoxins and the isotope-labelled internal standards is shown in Table B.1.

5.9 Mixed stock solution.

Prepare a mixed stock solution containing all individual mycotoxins at the concentration given in Table 1, using the appropriate pipettes (6.1) and dilute with deionized water. This solution can be used for six months if stored in the dark at -20 °C.

This mixed stock solution may be used for the preparation of positive control samples (see 7.5).

Table 1 — Concentration of mixed stock solution for 17 mycotoxins

Compounds	Concentration µg/ml	Compounds	Concentration µg/ml
NIV	20	FB ₁	12,5
DON	15	FB ₂	7,5
DON-3G	2,5	FB ₃	9,0
3-AcDON	4	T-2	0,2
15-AcDON	2	HT-2	1
AFB ₁	0,1	ZEN	2