

**GUIDANCE ON SAMPLING OF WHOLE FISHES OF DIFFERENT SIZE AND/OR WEIGHT**

**(referred to in 3<sup>rd</sup> indent of point 4.4. of Regulation (EC) 1883/2006)**

- In case no particular size or weight class/category predominates then following sample procedure is proposed:

- 1) In case the size and/or weight of the fishes present in the batch differs more than 50 % but less than 100 %: Two separate representative samples are taken from each size or weight class/category within a batch.
- 2) In case the size and/or weight of the fishes present in the batch differ more than 100%: Three separate representative samples are taken from each size or weight class/category within a batch

\* The laboratory may perform a sequential analysis on the samples of the different size/weight classes/categories of one batch, whereby the sample representing the largest fishes is analysed first.

In case the analytical of this sample is in conformity with the maximum level, the whole batch is considered to be in conformity.

In case the analytical result of this sample is exceeding the EU maximum level, then the sample taken from the next smaller size fishes is analysed and if this analytical result is compliant then no analysis is necessary of the sample taken from the smallest size fishes (in case batch is divided into three size classes).

In case the analytical result of the sample of the next smaller size fish is not compliant with the EU maximum level, in case of three separate samples, then the sample from the smallest size fishes is analysed.

\* Based on the analytical results of one or more samples, the whole or parts of the batch can be accepted or rejected.

## **EXAMPLES**

**1) In case the size and/or weight of the fishes present in the batch differs more than 50 % but less than 100 %: Two separate representative samples are taken from each size or weight class/category within a batch.**

*Example: 5 ton batch of fishes with from 2 kg to 3,5 kg.*

*One aggregate sample is taken of the smaller (batch relative) fish of about 2-2.75 kg: 10 incremental samples (fishes) are taken , the sample is constituted from the muscle meat of the middle part of the fish (slice backbone to belly) each of about 100 grams resulting in one sample of about 1 kg to be homogenised and analysed separately.*

*One aggregate sample is taken of the larger (batch relative) fish of about 2.75 -3,5 kg: 10 incremental samples (fishes) are taken , the sample is constituted from the muscle meat of the middle part of the fish (slice backbone to belly) each of about 100 grams resulting in one sample of about 1 kg to be homogenised and analysed separately*

### A) Laboratory performs a sequential analysis:

*- The sample of the larger fishes is homogenised and analysed separately. In case the analytical result is compliant, the whole batch is compliant*

*- The sample of the larger fishes is homogenised and analysed separately. In case the analytical result is non-compliant, then the sample of the smaller fishes is homogenised and analysed separately.*

*-- In case the analytical result is non-compliant whole batch is non-compliant*

*-- In case the analytical result is compliant, then the smaller fish (2-2.75 kg) has to be sorted out and this fish is compliant. The remaining larger fish (2.75-3.5 kg) is not compliant.*

### B) Laboratory analyses both samples at the same time

*In case both analytical results are compliant, the whole batch is compliant*

*In case both analytical results are non-compliant, the whole batch is non-compliant*

*In case the sample of the smaller fish (2-2.75 kg) is compliant and the sample of the larger fish (2.75-3.5 kg) not, then the smaller fish (2-2.75 kg) has to be sorted out and this fish is compliant. The remaining larger fish (2.75-3.5 kg) is not compliant.*

**2) In case the size and/or weight of the fishes present in the batch differ more than 100%: Three separate representative samples are taken from each size or weight class/category within a batch**

*Example: 10 ton batch of fishes with from 2 kg to 8 kg.*

*One aggregate sample is taken of the smaller (batch relative) fish of about 2-4 kg: 10 incremental samples (fishes) are taken, the sample is constituted from the muscle meat of the middle part of the fish (slice backbone to belly) each of about 100 grams resulting in one sample of about 1 kg to be homogenised and analysed separately.*

*One aggregate sample is taken of the fish of medium size (batch relative) of about 4-6 kg: 10 incremental samples (fishes) are taken, the sample is constituted from the muscle meat of the middle part of the fish (slice backbone to belly) each of about 100 grams resulting in one sample of about 1 kg to be homogenised and analysed separately*

*One aggregate sample is taken of the larger (batch relative) fish of about 6-8 kg: 3 incremental samples (fishes) are taken, the sample is constituted of the right side dorso-lateral muscle meat in the middle part of the fish each of about 350 grams resulting in one sample of about 1 kg to be homogenised and analysed separately.*

*A) Laboratory performs a sequential analysis:*

*- The sample of the larger fishes (6-8 kg) is homogenised and analysed separately. In case the analytical result is compliant, the whole batch is compliant*

*- The sample of the larger fishes (6-8 kg) is homogenised and analysed separately. In case the analytical result is non-compliant, then the sample of the medium sized fishes (6-8 kg) is homogenised and analysed separately.*

*-- In case the analytical result of the sample of medium-sized fishes (4-6 kg) is compliant, then the larger fish (6-8 kg) has to be sorted out and this fish (6-8 kg) is non-compliant. The remaining smaller (2-4 kg) and medium size (4-6 kg) fish is compliant.*

*-- In case the analytical result of the sample of medium-sized fishes (4-6 kg) is non-compliant, then the sample of the smaller fish (2-4 kg) is homogenised and analysed*

*-- -- In case the analytical result of the sample of smaller fishes (2-4 kg) is non-compliant, then the whole batch of fish is non-compliant*

*-- -- In case the analytical result of the sample of smaller fishes (2-4 kg) is compliant, then the smaller fish (2-4 kg) has to be sorted out and this fish (2-4 kg) is compliant. The remaining medium size (4-6 kg) and larger fish (6-8 kg) is not compliant.*

B) Laboratory analyses all three samples at the same time

- In case all three analytical results are compliant, the whole batch is compliant
  
- In case all three analytical results are non-compliant, the whole batch is non-compliant
  
- In case the sample of the smaller fish (2-4 kg) is compliant and the sample of the medium size (4-6 kg) and larger fish (6-8 kg) not, then the smaller fish (2-4 kg) has to be sorted out and this fish is compliant. The remaining medium size (4-6 kg) and larger fish (6-8 kg) is not compliant.
  
- In case the sample of the smaller (2-4 kg) and medium size fish (4-6 kg) is compliant and the sample of the larger fish (6-8 kg) not, then the larger fish (6-8 kg) has to be sorted out and this fish (6-8 kg) is non-compliant. The remaining smaller (2-4 kg) and medium size fish (4-6 kg) is compliant.