

Testing Method Recommendations for the Detection of Filth in Instant Noodle Products

Date: 05/06/2022

**Please note, this recommendation is intended to provide supplemental general information to private laboratories on methods of analysis and test portion sizes of instant noodle products. This document does not outline all of the analytical method or worksheet requirements for packages being submitted for FDA review. **

Please refer to the current FDA Laboratory Manual, Volume III, Section 7 for comprehensive information on private laboratory package requirements and the review process:

<https://www.fda.gov/media/73540/download>

Product Information:

Instant noodle products may consist of retail package(s) containing a main component (noodles) and a topping (mixed spices packet(s)). Both main component and topping should be analyzed for filth and the analysis should be performed separately. Do not combine main component (noodles) and topping (mixed spices packet(s)) to perform analysis. Enough amount of product should be provided to analyze noodles and mixed spices packet(s) separately. If other toppings are included (for example, oil, etc.) these do not need to be analyzed for filth, unless otherwise specified.

Analytical Protocol:

Samples should consist of at least six sub-samples for official analysis.

Sample Methods:

Below is some information that serves as reference for analyzing instant noodles and spice packet(s):

- Noodles:
 - AOAC Official Method 969.41: Light Filth in Alimentary Pastes. This method uses 225 g test portions.
 - AOAC Official Method 970.70: Light Filth in White Breads and High-Fat Products. This method uses 225 g test portions.
 - AOAC Official Method 982.32: Light Filth in Rice Flours (Powders), Extruded Rice Products, and Rice Paper. Use parts A(a) and B(b) of this method, if analyzing rice noodles. This method uses 225 g test portions.
- Spice packet(s):
 - AOAC Official Method 975.48: Heavy and Light Filth in Spices and Condiments. This method uses 10 g test portions. In general, testing will

focus on light filth. However, if there is obvious sand residue or other heavy filth, then testing for both light and heavy filth may be appropriate.

Quality Assurance:

Laboratory must follow the methodology specified in the private laboratory package submission. Any method modifications or deviations to the cited method must be explained and validation must be documented.