Testing Method Recommendations for the Detection of Filth in Chow mein Noodles on IA 99-46

Date: 6-30-2025

Please note, this recommendation is intended to provide supplemental general information to private laboratories on methods of analysis and test portion sizes of chow mein noodles. This document **does not outline all 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

Sample Collection:

Samples should consist of 6 subsamples/test portions, each with a minimum of 1 lb.
Note: If applicable, enough product should be provided to analyze noodles and spices packet(s) separately.

Analytical Protocol:

If the product contains both noodles and a spice packet, then analyze both. Perform separate analyses on each of the products. Do not combine the noodles and spice packet together and then analyze the mixture.

- Noodles
  - AOAC Official Method 969.41: Light Filth Analysis in Alimentary Paste. 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 Rice Flours (Powders), Extruded Rice Powders, 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 residue or other heavy filth, then testing for both light and heavy filth may be appropriate.
  - AOAC Official Method 975.49: Light Filth in Spices and Condiments. The size of the test portion varies.
  - AOAC Official Method 978.22: Light Filth in Capsicums (Ground). This method uses 25 g test portions.

Count all filth elements and report findings according to AOAC 970.66. Note that other extraneous materials (e.g., fibers, paint chips, etc.) need to be described and reported by type and appropriate quantitative figure.

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.

FDA does not endorse any private laboratory firms, nor requires specific methods to be used for Private Laboratory Analytical Packages (PLAPs). Information herein is provided as a courtesy, but private laboratories are not required to use them. The requirements state the method should be locally validated and should adequately identify and or quantitate the violative analyte(s). The information herein may also provide supplementary sampling, method information and/or sample preparation information to assist private laboratories who are analyzing products being held under Detention Without Physical Examination (DWPE) as part of an Import Alert to assist private laboratories with submitting scientifically sounds PLAPS as testimony pursuant to FD&C Act section 801 and 21 CFR 1.94 or FD&C Act section 422(b) and 21 CFR 1.1107.