

Reference: IPA 0038/ 0141

27 October 2009

Dear Stakeholder,

Occurrence of deoxynivalenol (DON) in the 2009 UK wheat crop

You will recall that the UK wheat crops from 2007 and in particular 2008 posed a significant challenge in relation to DON occurrence, due largely to adverse weather conditions.

The Agency is aware of the work undertaken by the cereal supply and processing sectors of industry to determine the levels of DON in UK grown wheat in 2009 and has recently held discussions with these sectors, who have provided data on monitoring for occurrence of DON in wheat from the 2009 harvest.

The Agency has looked at this information along with other research data, which indicates that UK wheat grown this year entering the food chain is significantly less likely to be above the EC maximum levels permitted for first-stage processing compared to the previous crop years in 2007 and in particular, 2008.

The Agency welcomes the continued efforts of industry to work collaboratively to minimise the risk to consumers from mycotoxins in the cereals supply chain.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries or wish to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Briggs
Food Safety – Contaminants