

By Email

19 September 2006

Reference: NFU 639

**UNAUTHORISED GENETICALLY MODIFIED RICE FROM THE US:
LLRICE601**

REQUEST TO OBTAIN SAMPLES FROM MILLS

Dear Sir / Madam

The Food Standards Agency is aware that there is a rice mill in your area that imports long grain rice, or broken rice from America.

Following our announcement on 1 September 2006¹ the Agency has commissioned an urgent survey to verify the absence of genetically modified rice LLRICE601 in US long grain rice held at UK rice mills. This survey is being carried out in line with Article 3 of Commission Decision 2006/601/EC, which requires all EU Member States to carry out sampling and analysis of products that entered the EU before the introduction of the requirement for imports of US long grain rice to be tested and certified free of LLRICE601.

I would am therefore writing to ask you to visit your local mill, obtain samples and forward these to the Agency without delay. The attached protocol includes a list of mills, sample identification forms and labels. The address to which the samples should be sent is included in the protocol.

The Agency will pay towards the cost of the sampling. This cost will be £20 per sample, and a single payment of £50 to cover courier costs. In line with the recent agreement for payment of sample collection for surveys you should invoice LACORS, who will pay you directly.

I must stress that these samples need to be taken and dispatched without delay. I would appreciate if the sampling could be completed by **22 September**.

¹ <http://www.food.gov.uk/news/newsarchive/2006/sep/gmricetest>

Yours faithfully

Dr Chris Jones

Novel Foods, Additives and Supplements Division

www.food.gov.uk



Survey on LLRICE601 contamination in US long grain rice

SAMPLING PROTOCOL

All samples should be addressed to:

*** Chris Jones, David Jefferies, Annie-Laure Robin**

NFAS Division
Room 515B
Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London

tel: **0207 276 8572/73/
74**

fax: **0207 276 8564**

WC2B 6NH

* Agency contacts if there are any problems regarding this protocol

This survey is to randomly sample a number of batches of long grain rice originating from the United States to determine the extent of LLRICE601 contamination in rice stocks held at UK mills.

The survey must be carried out by 22 September, and all samples should be forwarded to the Food Standards Agency by 25 September.

Important points to remember

- Please read this sampling protocol before collecting samples
- Information and samples are being collected on an **informal** basis (see 2.1 –2.2).
- Use the sticker template provided to label the samples.
- You should fill in a **separate** form for each sample. (You will need to have made sufficient copies of these in advance).
- A notification letter must be sent to each mill, whether information or an actual sample has been taken.
- Please forward all required information to the Agency at the above address.

General information

1. Organisation of the survey

- 1.1 The sampling protocol for the survey has been compiled by the Novel Foods Supplements and Additives Division of the Food Standards Agency (the Agency). Collection of information or samples may be

undertaken by Enforcement Officers from Local Authority Trading Standards or Environmental Health Departments from a variety of rice mills in the UK. Collection Officers should forward the samples with completed information sheets to the Agency.

- 1.2 Thirteen Local Authorities will take part in the survey. A list of participating LAs and mills that must be visited is given at Annex A.
- 1.3 Collection of samples is expected to be completed by **22 September 2006**. Samples should be received by the Food Standards Agency by **25 September 2006**.

2. Collection of information and samples

- 2.1 The Agency is aware that a number of the mills have already carried out testing of the US long grain rice they hold on their premises. The Agency survey is a separate exercise and samples should be obtained irrespective of whether batches have previously been sampled and tested by the mills.
- 2.2 The testing already carried out by mills is to enable them to operate a positive release system, with only batches that have tested, and been shown to be demonstrably free from LLRICE601 being sent to distributors and retailers. In view of this we do not envisage a need to collect formal samples, however if any mills are not operating a positive release system, then collecting officers may wish to consider taking formal samples.
- 2.3 **Number of samples** Please take **duplicate samples of all batches of US long grain rice** held at each mill. If individual mills hold significantly more than 10 separate batches please contact the Agency for additional guidance.
- 2.4 For the purposes of this survey *each* batch should have a unique batch code or number within the mill, and if there are multiple units with the same batch number then Collecting Officers should view this as a single batch, and sample as described in 2.6.
- 2.5 It is important that each batch sampled should be Long Grain Rice of **US** origin. We anticipate that it should be possible to identify each batch by one of the following Combined Nomenclature (CN) codes, based on the imported material, with an additional indication of any processing that the rice has undergone in the mill.

CN 1006 20 98	Husked (brown) rice Long Grain
CN 1006 30 27	Semi-milled Parboiled Long Grain
CN 1006 30 48	Semi-milled Long Grain
CN 1006 30 98	Wholly milled Long Grain
CN 1006 40 00	Broken rice

2.6 **Size of sample** Each sample should weigh approximately 1kg. Officers are requested to ensure, as far as possible, that samples contain rice from a number of different areas of the batch (e.g. a number of small samples, randomly obtained from throughout the batch should be pooled to make each individual sample). The Agency recognises that obtaining representative samples from large batches held in silos could be problematic and Collecting Officers should contact the Agency if they require additional guidance.

2.7 Each sample should be labelled as set out in Part 7 (below) and Collecting Officers should send all samples to the Agency.

3. **Recording of sample information (See also Part 7)**

3.1 Collecting officers should complete, *in full*, a separate form for each rice sample taken. Each completed form should be forwarded to the FSA with the samples and one copy should be forwarded to the mill (see 4.2-4.3 below), and a second kept by the LA (see 5.2).

4. **Notification of sample collection to retailers / manufacturers**

4.1 Collecting officers should notify the mill by means of the Notification Covering Letter (attached at Annex B). The letter should be completed with the name and address of the mill and the date that samples were collected. Copies of completed sample forms should accompany the letter. The letter and accompanying documents may be given to the mill at the time of sampling. If this is not possible, the documents should be sent by first class post on the same day as sample collection or the following working day at the latest.

4.2 The purpose of the notification letters is to provide rice mills with details of the survey, and to provide the FSA contact address should they have any queries. Collecting officers should avoid giving their own contact details when notifying, to ensure that they are not burdened with subsequent enquiries relating to the samples or the survey.

5. **Forwarding Sample Information to FSA**

- 5.1 Collecting officers should package the samples and forward them with the sample forms to the Agency. The address is given at the beginning of this document.
- 5.2 Collecting officers should also retain copies of the forms until instructed by FSA to dispose of them.

6. Expenses

- 6.1 The Agency will pay £40 per duplicate sample (2x1kg) plus £50 courier costs. The £50 fee will be payable once to cover all samples collected at the mill. If the fee is insufficient to cover the courier costs, (eg see 2.3 above) please contact the Agency.
- 6.2 **Invoices** to cover the sampling costs incurred should be sent to LACORS. The invoices should contain the following information:

Title of Survey - 'Survey of presence of the unauthorised rice LLRICE601 in unmilled American Long Grain Rice'.

- **Project code** G03023
- **Cost Centre** 302
- **Expense Code** 4130
- **The agreed cost per sample** £40 per duplicate sample
- **The code numbers of samples taken (e.g. WL001-007)**
- **The total number of samples collected**

The contact name and address to send the invoices to is:

Sharon Vincent Finance Officer
LACORS
Local Government House
Smith Square
London
SW1P 3HZ

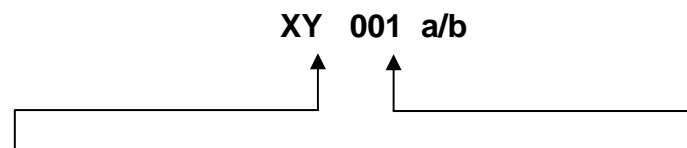
- 6.3 The LACORS contact number if you have any questions is 020 7665 3850

Please submit invoices by 31 October to ensure prompt payment.

RECORDING INFORMATION AND LABELLING SAMPLES

7. Recording of product information

- 7.1 The form attached at Annex C should be completed for each sample. It is imperative that the code that is used to label the samples is also present on the top right corner of the form. For ease, Collecting Officers are recommended to use the labelling sticker templates provided.
- 7.2 Samples should be taken as detailed above. The sample, in bags, should be labelled using the attached labels. The labels should be completed as follows:
- 7.3 Collecting officers must assign a unique Sample Code to each sample. One sticker should be attached to the top right hand corner of the Sample Form and a duplicate sticker fixed securely on the sample itself.



Two letter code – indicates which LA has collected the sample (See Annex A)

Unique number - to denote that this is the nth sample the LA has collected.

a/b designated duplicate sample from the same batch

8. Sample handling, packaging and despatch to Agency

- 8.1 Samples should be sent to the address above to arrive not later than 25 September 2006. Samples should be sent by Courier, or delivered to the Agency in person.
- 8.2 Collecting officers should liaise with the Agency contacts to inform them of when the samples should be expected to arrive

Novel Foods Additives and Supplements Division

September 2006



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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Tel: 020 7276 8572

E-mail: chris.jones@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk



Annex A

List of Mills and Participating Local Authorities

	Company	Address	Authority	Code
1.	Veetee Rice Ltd	Neptune Close, Medway City Estate, Rochester	Medway Council	MD
2.	SPL Ltd	Drury Lane, Chadderton, Oldham	Oldham MBC	OH
3.	SB Herba (Vogan & Co Ltd)	(1) Wilbraham Rd, Fulbourn, Cambridge	South Cambridge DC	CB
4.	SB Herba (Vogan & Co Ltd)	(2) Orpington, Kent	LB Bromley	BM
5.	Tilda Rice Ltd	Rainham, Essex	LB Havering	HA
6.	Bestway Milling Ltd	Abbey Rd, Park Royal, London	LB Brent	BT
7.	Indo European Foods	Felixstowe	Suffolk CC	SF
8.	AKA Westmill Foods	The Quay, Selby	N. Yorkshire / Hull & Goole Port Health Authority	NY
9.	Surya Rice or Flying Trade Ltd	4 Europa Way, Harwich	Tendring DC	TD
10.	East End Foods Plc	Kenrick Way, West Bromwich	Sandwell Metropolitan BC	SW
11.	Euro Foods UK Ltd	Reevesland Park Ind Estate, Newport	Newport CC	NP
12.	Freman & Co Ltd	95 Rushdene crescent, Northolt,	LB Ealing	EL
13.	Sadaf Foods (UK) Ltd	Docc Estate, London	LB Haringey	HG

Note:

these companies were identified as having imported significant quantities of long grain rice during 2006, not necessarily from the US. Local authorities were asked to visit and take samples of any batches of American long grain rice held by these companies.

www.food.gov.uk



INSERT ADDRESS HERE

XX September 2006

Reference: NFU 639

UNAUTHORISED GENETICALLY MODIFIED RICE FROM THE US: LLRICE601

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Food Standards Agency is currently undertaking a survey to investigate the presence of the unauthorised GM Rice line LLRICE601 in American Long Grain Rice currently held in UK rice mills.

We are aware that you have recently imported unmilled long grain rice, before the entry into force of Commission Decision 2006/578. This Decision was adopted on 23 August 2006 and requires that all US long grain rice is certified free from LLRICE601 before it enters the EU.

According to Commission Decision 2006/578/EC, the UK is required to carry out sampling and analysis in order to verify the absence of genetically modified rice LL RICE 601 in US long grain rice already imported into the EU.

The Collecting Officer will take duplicate samples. One sample will be sent to the analyst for sampling, and the second will be held by the Agency, in case there is a requirement to carry out a confirmatory analysis.

In line with standard procedures for Agency surveys, a list of all the information and samples collected, as well as the results of the analysis, will be published in due course by the Agency. The list will include details and location of the samples. The results of your samples will be sent to you prior to publication. In case of a sample testing positive for LLRICE601, the operator concerned will have the opportunity to provide a statement for publication with the results,

Should you have any enquiries relating to the survey, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you would like some general information on Food Standards Agency Surveys, full guidance can be found on our website at:
<http://www.food.gov.uk/science/surveillance/>.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Chris Jones

Novel Foods Additives and Supplements Division

EXAMPLE

ME 001 a

(See Section 7.3 of Protocol for
info)

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(See Section 7.3 of Protocol for
info)

EXAMPLE

ME 001 a

(See Section 7.3 of Protocol for
info)

Survey on LLRICE601 contamination in US Long Grain Rice

Please complete a separate form for each sample

Sample ID Code:

Put sticker here

Name of Mill Date of Collection
 Address of Mill

Imported Rice Type
(Long Grain)

husked (brown) rice Parboiled Long Grain CN 1006 20 17	A
husked (brown) rice Long Grain; CN 1006 20 98	B
semi-milled parboiled Long Grain; CN 1006 30 27	C
semi-milled Long Grain CN 1006 30 48	D
wholly milled Long Grain; CN 1006 30 98	E
broken rice CN 1006 40 00	F

Lot or Batch code <input style="width: 150px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	Date imported / arrived at mill <i>[delete as applicable]</i> <input style="width: 150px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>
Any other Identification Code <input style="width: 150px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	Rice type A-E - see list >> (prior to processing at mill) <input style="width: 150px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>
Sample Weight (normally 1kg) <input style="width: 150px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>	Processing in the UK? (eg milled) <input style="width: 150px; height: 30px;" type="text"/>

Notification letter and copy of this form sent to Mill

Please fill in the name and contact phone number of the collecting officer
