

Romer Labs Check Sample Survey

Gluten in Cereal

(CSSAL017 – A23371G)

Organized by Romer Labs Division Holding GmbH

Gluten is the main group of proteins in grains and consists of prolamins (in wheat: gliadin) and glutelins (in wheat: glutenins) occurring in the same ratio. Due to its physicochemical characteristics, gluten is used in food products to contribute texture and form.

Over the past decade the demand for gluten-free food has soared and, therefore, more and more of these products can be found in the stores. The spectrum of consumers with difficulties in digesting gluten has grown to around 10 %. Gluten can trigger intolerances and allergies.

As part of its integral service approach Romer Labs offers a Check Sample Survey (CSS) for gluten. The objective of the Romer Labs CSS is to provide an interlaboratory comparison study of gluten analysis in cereal matrix.

The Romer Labs CSS aims to customers of the industrial sector, who perform gluten analysis in order to ensure quality of possibly as “gluten-free” declared products, which have to be below the legal threshold of 20 mg/kg for gluten-free labelling in Europe and the US. The current CSS is aimed for all Romer Labs customers who use lateral flow devices for gluten analysis.

The homogeneous and characterized test material is prepared by Romer Labs Division Holding GmbH in Austria. Each participant will receive two foil sachets (each containing 2 g of test material). The foil sachets have to be re-sealed properly after usage and stored at 2-8 °C.

Methods and Results:

A detailed letter of instructions is available online. The respective link is directly printed onto each CSS Set.

Participants are asked to treat the test material as if it was a sample for routine analysis. As this Romer Labs Check Sample Survey round is intended for users of lateral flow device products by Romer Labs, they may choose between AgraStrip Gluten G12 or AgraStrip Gluten assays. Participating laboratories will be asked to provide information on the employed method. This information is subsequently presented in the final report of Romer Labs Check Sample Survey.

Results must be submitted online via the website:

<https://engage.romerlabs.com/css-gluten-in-cereal-2023>

Participants should report the results after analyzing their common number of replicates. Individual replicate results shall not be reported. As no z-score can be evaluated only qualitative results will be collated and listed in the Romer Labs CSS final report.

Kindly consider that **only one result per sample and per participant** can be accepted. AgraStrip Gluten G12 users are kindly asked to choose only one cut-off level (LOD) for the testing, but the two distributed samples (A and B) can be tested at different cut-off levels.

Timeline of the survey (CSSAL017-A23371G):

- Material available for ordering: Beginning of July 2023 (*item number 10006040*)
- Submission deadline for results: October 13th, 2023
- Distribution of reports to participants: Beginning of November 2023

Confidentiality of Participant Information:

All information held by Romer Labs about participants of the Romer Labs Check Sample Survey is confidential and will not be disclosed to anyone unless explicitly agreed by the participant for a particular purpose. To preserve this confidentiality participants of the Romer Labs Check Sample Survey will receive a report with anonymized data/results. These laboratory code numbers used in the report are assigned in order of receipt of the results from the participants.

Although Romer Labs is part of DSM, all other companies that are part of DSM do not have access to Romer Labs Check Sample Survey participants' details.