

General Guidelines

Required Quantities of Food and Environmental Samples for Testing in Dubai Central Laboratory within the Emirate of Dubai

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Within the Initiative of Rational Testing of Food Samples

All information and documents referred to in these Guidelines are applicable at the date of issuance.

It is the full responsibility of the user to refer to latest amendments, if any.

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General Notes and Abbreviations

For the exclusive use of this guideline, the following notes and abbreviations, shall apply in addition to those given in the terms and conditions of food and environmental testing service.

- Food sampling shall be done according to the standards and regulations.
- All samples shall be submitted to the laboratory in its original container and in sealed condition.
- The reported results represent the condition of the sample as received.
- The number of samples and sample weight applies to regulatory samples and routine tests only, for additional tests, more samples may be required. If the sample size is smaller than required, it may still be accepted by the laboratory on a case-by-case basis.
- One kg of additional sample is required if radioactivity measurement is requested.
- The laboratory will request for repeat samples in case of borderline results, the samples shall be provided within two working days following the request date, otherwise the results of first sample will be reported.
- Five units of the sample are required to repeat the microbiological test according to (Microbiological Criteria for Foodstuffs UAE.S 1016:2017).
- Some required samples quantities for Pesticides Residues tests in Food Items are according to (CAC/GAL 33-1999).
- No reference sample will be stored in Dubai Central Laboratory.
- The Applicant or client may pay the applicable fees related to the service in order to proceed with testing and receive the test report, in accordance with the price list (DM-DCLD-RD-CML-001).
- The requests applied by the inspectors of Dubai Municipality are not subjected to the fee of the services.
- All requests are subjected to the terms and conditions.(DM-DCLD-RD-CML-002)
- Abbreviations: (C) = Chemical Test, (M) = Microbiological Test.

Section 1

Introduction and Scope

Introduction

The food sample testing service enables the applicant to assess the quality and safety of food products, ensuring they are free from pathogenic bacteria and harmful chemicals and comply with approved local and international specifications.

The environmental sample testing service allows the applicant to evaluate the quality and safety of environmental items to ensure compliance with relevant specifications and international standards, contributing to enhanced environmental control in Dubai.

This document outlines the general guidelines for the required quantities of food and environmental samples for testing at Dubai Central Laboratory, considering applicable references and standard specifications.

Scope

This guideline applies to individuals, business groups, governmental organizations, and inspection bodies when requesting food and environmental sample testing at Dubai Central Laboratory.

It covers food samples such as, food items, food detergents, food supplements, animal feed and food contact materials.

It also applies to environmental samples such as, groundwater, sea marina water, lake water, water channels, open beach, swimming pool, irrigation water, industrial effluent water, hotel and dental clinic water, sediment samples, soil, nature reserves, hazardous waste and bottled and un-bottled drinking water samples.

This guideline specifies the minimum required sample weight of food and environmental testing.

The information contained in this guideline is proprietary to Dubai Municipality and shall not be used in any misleading context or for purposes other than compliance with the relevant requirements in the Emirate of Dubai.

Section 2

Required Quantities for Food Sample Testing

Food Sample	Type of Test	No. of Sample	Minimum Sample Weight	Test Duration (working days)
1. General Food Sample				
Milk (pasteurized, sterilised)	C	1	250 ml	5
	M	1	100 ml	5
Flavoured milk (pasteurised, sterilised)	C	1	250 ml	5
	M	1	100 ml	5
Condensed /evaporated milk	C	1	250 ml	5
	M	1	100 ml	3
Fermented milk products (yoghurt, Laban, labneh, etc.)	C	1	100 ml	5
	M	1	100 ml / g	5
Cream (fresh / pasteurised)	C	1	100 ml / g	5
	M	1	100 ml / g	5
UHT cream and sterilised	C	1	100 ml / g	5
	M	1	100 ml / g	3
Butter	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Margarine	C	1	250 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Ice cream and edible ices	C	1	250 g	5
	M	1	100 g	4
Cheese (all types)	C	1	250 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Milk powder, butter milk powder, whey and Caseinate	C	1	250 g	5
	M	1	100 g	4
Milk products (miscellaneous)	C	1	250 ml / g	5
	M	1	100 ml / g	4
Infant foods	C	1	250 ml / g	5
	M	1	100 ml / g	5
Soft drinks (all types)	C	2	250 ml	5
	M	1	100 ml	5
Infant foods (ready to eat or drink)	C	2	250 g /ml	5
	M	1	100 g / ml	5
Concentrates, squashes and syrups	C	2	500 ml	5
	M	1	100 ml	4
Canned foods (fruit/vegetable)	C	3	Sealed Can	5
	M	1	Sealed Can	3
Canned foods (meat, fish and products)	C	3	Sealed Can	5
	M	2	Sealed Can	3
Meat products (raw meat)	C	1	200 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5

Food Sample	Type of Test	No. of Sample	Minimum Sample Weight	Test Duration (working days)
Meat products (miscellaneous processed meat)	C	1	200 g	5
	M	2	100 g	5
Poultry (frozen and chilled)	C	1	200 g	5
	M	5	250 g	5
Poultry products	C	1	200 g	5
	M	2	200 g	5
Fish (fresh, frozen and chilled)	C	1	200 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Seafood's (lobsters, prawns, etc.)	C	1	200 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Fish products and fish paste	C	1	200 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Caviar	C	1	50 g	5
	M	1	50 g	5
Eggs	C	1	6 eggs	5
	M	1	6 eggs	5
Egg products (liquid, frozen and dried)	C	1	200 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Food grains (whole)	C	1	250 g	5
	M	1	250 g	5
Powdered cereals (wheat flour, starch, etc.)	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Bakery products	C	1	250 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Food additives (colours, flavours, etc.)	C	2	250 g	5
Oil seeds (sesame, etc.)	C	1	100 g	5
Spices and herbs (whole)	C	2	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Spices and herbs (powdered)	C	2	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Peanuts and pistachios (loose)	C	1	2000 g	5
Peanuts and pistachios (processed)	C	1	2000 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Other nuts (loose)	C	1	2000 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Other nuts (processed)	C	1	2000 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Peanut butter	C	1	2000 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5

Food Sample	Type of Test	No. of Sample	Minimum Sample Weight	Test Duration (working days)
Products containing peanuts and pistachios	C	2	2000 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Macaroni and pasta products	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Saffron	C	1	30 g	5
	M	1	30 g	5
Fruit Juices and Drinks	C	2	100 ml	5
	M	1	100 ml	5
Snack foods (Chips, Crisps, Cheese Balls, etc.)	C	1	250 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Snack foods (Miscellaneous)	C	1	250 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Bread (All Types)	C	2	250 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Bakery products (Biscuits, Rusks, Cakes and Pastries)	C	2	250 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Hardboiled Confections, Candies and Lollypops	C	1	200 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Chocolates and Toffees	C	2	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	4
Chocolates with nuts (Excepted peanuts and pistachio)	C	2	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	4
Chocolates with peanuts and Pistachio (Not for Aflatoxins test)	C	2	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	4
Chocolates with peanuts and Pistachio (if contain more than 30% of peanuts and Pistachio for Aflatoxins test)	C	2	1000 g	5
	M	1	100 g	4
Jelly and products with Gelatin	C	2	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	4
Confections, chewing/bubble gum	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Sweets (miscellaneous)	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	4
Oils and fats. (Microbiological Laboratory tests only Ghee Fat products)	C	1	100 ml	5
	M	1	100 ml	5
Mayonnaise	C	1	250 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Ready to eat foods	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	4
Frozen Fruits and Vegetables	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5

Food Sample	Type of Test	No. of Sample	Minimum Sample Weight	Test Duration (working days)
Fruits and vegetable products (miscellaneous)	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Fresh/ Chilled Fruits and Vegetables (Small and Medium)	M	1	100 g	4
Dry Figs and Apricots (Loose)	C	1	1000 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Dry Figs and Apricots (Packed)	C	1	1000 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Other processed fruits (Raisins, Sultanas, Fruits in Syrup, etc.)	C	1	200 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Jam, Jelly and Marmalade	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Pickle and Chutney	C	2	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	3
Ketchup	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Sauce and Salad dressing.	C	2	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Honey	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Sugar	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Glucose	C	1	100 g	5
Edible salt	C	1	100 g	5
Tea and Coffee	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Liquid glucose and high fructose syrup	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Tahina and Halawa Tahina	C	2	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Vinegar (brewed and synthetic)	C	2	250 ml	5
	M	1	100 ml	3
Custard powder	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Cream caramel, dessert mixes	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Yeast (dry and wet)	C	1	100 g	5
Miscellaneous foods	C	1	200 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5

Food Sample	Type of Test	No. of Sample	Minimum Sample Weight	Test Duration (working days)
2. Multi Mycotoxin Analysis in Food Sample				
Cereal and flour samples	C	1	100 g	5
Oats	C	1	100 g	5
Alfalfa	C	1	1000 g	5
Animal feed	C	1	1000 g	5
3. Pesticides Residues in Food Sample				
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Small and Medium)	C	10 pieces	1 Kg	5
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (Large sized)	C	5 pieces	2 Kg	5
Liquid products (fruit juices and carbonated drinks)	C	1	500 ml/g	5
Cereal Grains	C	1	1 Kg	5
Spice and spice products	C	1	500 g	5
Milks liquid milks, Milk powders, Evaporated milks and Creams, Creams, Dairy Ice Creams, Yoghurts	C	1	500 ml/g	5
Fish (Fresh and Frozen)	C	1	500 g	5
Mammalian & Poultry Meat (Raw)	C	1	500 g	5
Honey and Date syrup	C	1	500 ml/g	5
4. Food Supplements				
Herbal teas with weight loss claims	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Capsules	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Powders	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Liquids	C	1	100 g/ml	5
	M	1	100 g/ml	5
PDE-5 inhibitors (Sildenafil and analogues)	C	1	100 g	5
5. Veterinary Drug Residues in Food				
Mammalian and Poultry Meat (Raw)	C	1	200 g	5
Eggs	C	1	1 box	5
Fresh Fish and Shrimp	C	1	200 g	5
Honey and Royall Jelly	C	1	100 g	5
Porcine test: capsules	C	1	100 g	5
Powder	C	1	100 g	5

Food Sample	Type of Test	No. of Sample	Minimum Sample Weight	Test Duration (working days)
6. Bulk Sample ≥ 10 Kg				
Bread Improver	C	1	100 g	5
Butter	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Cheese	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Cacao powder	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Cacao Butter	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Coconut powder	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Concentrates (Juices, Flavors, etc.)	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Carcass (Meat)	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	4
Dressing Salad	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Flour	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Jam	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Milk Powder and Whey Powder	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	4
Margarine	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Mayonnaise	C	1	250 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5
Olives and Pickles	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	3
Oils and Fats	C	1	100 g	5
Tahina and Halawa Tahina	C	1	100 g	5
	M	1	100 g	5

Food Sample	Type of Test	No. of Sample	Minimum Sample Weight	Test Duration (working days)
7. Food Contact Materials (non-food items)				
Plastic bags and Sheets for overall migration	C	3	Any size	14
Infant bottles for Bisphenol A	C	3	Any size	12
Plastic plates and spoons	C	3	Any size	14
Any other Food Contact Material	C	3	Any size	14
Melamine Kitchenware for specific migration	C	3	Any size	14
Stainless steel and thermal insulation containers for specific migration of metals	C	3	Any size	14
8. Drinking Water Sample				
Unbottled drinking water (for human consumption)	C	1	500 ml	5
	M	1	500 ml	5
Bottle drinking water	C	1	500 ml	5
	M	1	500 ml	5
Bottled natural mineral water	C	1	500 ml	5
	M	1	500 ml	5
Ice Cube	C	1	500 ml	5
	M	1	500 ml	5

Section 3

Required Quantities for Environmental Sample Testing

Environmental Sample	Type of Test	No. of Sample	Minimum Sample Weight	Test Duration (working days)
1. Environmental Sample				
Ground Water	C	1	4000 ml	7
	M	1	500 ml	5
Irrigation water	C	1	2000 ml	7
	M	1	500 ml	5
Marine Water	C	1	3000 ml	7
	M	1	500 ml	5
Discharge to marine	C	1	4000 ml	7
	M	1	500 ml	5
Lake water	C	1	2000 ml	7
	M	1	500 ml	5
Artificial Lagoon Water	C	1	2000 ml	7
	M	1	500 ml	5
Surface Water	C	1	3000 ml	7
	M	1	500 ml	5
Sanctuary Water	C	1	3000 ml	7
	M	1	500 ml	5
Waste Water	C	1	3000 ml	7
	M	1	500 ml	5
Industrial Waste Water	C	1	3000 ml	7
	M	1	500 ml	5
Effluents	C	1	3000 ml	7
	M	1	500 ml	5
Tank Water	M	1	1000 ml	14
Tap Water	M	1	1000 ml	14
Holding Tank	M	1	1000 ml	14
Miscellaneous Water	C	1	3000 ml	7
	M	1	1000 ml	14
Hazardous Waste Water	C	1	3000 ml	7
Dental Clinic Water (for legionella test)	M	1	1000 ml	14
Hotel Water (for legionella test)	M	1	1000 ml	14
Swimming Pools Water	M	1	500 ml	5
Soils	C	1	500 g	10
Sludges	C	1	500 g	10
Sediments	C	1	500 g	10
Marine Sediments	C	1	500 g	10
Solids Hazardous Waste	C	1	500 g	10
Organic Fertilizers	C	1	500 g	10
Fish	C	1	200 g	10
Biological Sample (BIOTA)	C	1	200 g	10

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