In Finland there are two laboratories responsible for detection and identification of LMOs – the Finnish Customs Laboratory and the Food Safety Authority.

**Finnish Customs Laboratory**

Finnish Customs Laboratory is nominated as a national reference laboratory assisting the Community Reference Laboratory in testing and validation of methods for detection of GMOs (882/2004). Finnish Customs Laboratory is part of the European Network for GMO Laboratories (ENGL), whose member represent the state-of-art in GMO detection, including expertise in method development, performance and validation, sampling and management of biological and analytical uncertainties. GMO methods in use in Finnish Customs Laboratory have been accredited according to ISO 17025, showing that laboratory has suitably qualified staff with adequate training in analytical methods used for the detection and identification of GMOs and GM food, feed and seeds, possessing the equipment needed to carry out the required analysis, have an adequate administrative infrastructure, have sufficient data-processing capacity to produce technical reports and is enable for rapid communication with the other laboratories participating in the testing and validation of detection methods.

GMO samples that are analyzed in Finnish Customs Laboratory are official control samples taken in Customs border control (food). Methods include identification and detection of GM plants that have been authorized in EU or have pending or expired authorization (maize, soy, rape, flax, rice). In addition to that laboratory has number of methods to detect non-authorized GM events for plants (e.g. GM papaya).

**Finnish Food Safety Authority**

Elintarviketurvallisuusvirasto Evira (Finnish Food Safety Authority Evira) is nominated as a national reference laboratory assisting the Community Reference Laboratory in testing and validation of methods for detection of GMOs (Regulation (EU) 120/2014, amending Regulation (EC) 1981/2006). Evira is part of the European Network for GMO Laboratories (ENGL), whose member represent the state-of-art in GMO detection, including expertise in method development, performance and validation, sampling and management of biological and analytical uncertainties. GMO methods in use in Evira have been accredited according to ISO 17025, showing that laboratory has suitably qualified staff with adequate training in analytical methods used for the detection and identification of GMOs and GM food and feed, possessing the equipment needed to carry out the required analysis, have an adequate administrative infrastructure, have sufficient data-processing capacity to produce technical reports and is enable for rapid communication with the other laboratories participating in the testing and validation of detection methods.

GMO samples that are analyzed in Evira’s laboratory are official control samples taken by Competent Authorities (food, feed and plants). Methods include identification and detection of GM plants that have been authorized in EU or have pending or expired authorization (maize, soy, rape, flax, rice). In addition to that laboratory has number of methods to detect non-authorized GM events for plants (e.g. GM petunia).

In case you would like to get more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

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