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If a whole or part of a paragraph has been amended, the date of the amending regulation appears in square brackets at the end of the paragraph. If a whole paragraph or sub-paragraph has been deleted, the date of the deletion appears in square brackets beside the deleted paragraph or sub-paragraph.

Republic of Latvia

Cabinet

Regulation No. 669

Adopted 28 October 2014

**Procedures for the Control Sampling of Fertilisers and Growing Media, and for Sample Preparation**

*Issued pursuant to*

*Section 4, Paragraph one, Clause 2 of the Law on Circulation of Fertilisers*

**I. General Provisions**

1. This Regulation prescribes the requirements for control sampling of fertilisers and growing media (hereinafter – the substrate), as well as the procedures by which the State Plant Protection Service (hereinafter – the Service) takes and prepares control samples of fertilisers and substrates for the quality conformity inspection thereof.

2. The following terms are used in this Regulation:

2.1. sample lot – the total amount of fertiliser or substrate as homogeneous as possible from which control samples are taken;

2.2. initial sample – the amount of fertiliser or substrate which is taken at one place. Initial samples shall be randomly taken from the entire sample lot, and they shall be approximately of one size;

2.3. composite sample (aggregate sample) – combination of initial samples of the sample lot;

2.4. final sample – a representative part of the composite sample (aggregate sample). The final sample is obtained by carefully stirring a composite sample (aggregate sample) and, where necessary, by reducing the initial mass of the composite sample.

3. [8 November 2022]

**II. Sampling Devices**

4. A sampling device shall be manufactured of the material which does not affect the qualitative properties of the sample taken for testing and which can be sterilised for taking such samples for which microbiological testing is necessary.

5. The following devices shall be used for sampling liming materials, solid fertilisers and substrates:

5.1. for manual sampling – a flat bottom shovel with steep sides or sampling probe with a long cut or compartments. Probe and cut size shall comply with the granulometric composition and packaging size of the fertiliser and substrate to be inspected;

5.2. for mechanical sampling from the flow of fertilisers and substrates mechanical devices shall be used;

5.3. for the division of a sample in equal parts and preparation of a final sample a special sample dividing device shall be used.

6. The following devices shall be used for sampling liquid fertilisers:

6.1. for manual sampling – a pipette, cup, bottle, measuring cup or other device;

6.2. for mechanical sampling from the flow of liquid fertilisers mechanical devices shall be used.

**III. Quantity Requirements of a Sample**

7. The minimum number of initial samples shall be determined by taking into account the type of the fertiliser and substrate, the size of the sample lot and mass of packaging (Annex 1).

8. A composite sample (aggregate sample) shall be created from initial samples by taking into account the minimum mass of the composite sample (Annex 2).

9. A final sample shall be created from the composite sample (aggregate sample) by taking into account the minimum mass of the composite sample (Annex 3) and, where necessary, by reducing the composite sample.

**IV. Sampling and Sample Preparation**

10. A sample shall be taken and prepared as quickly as possible by complying with the necessary precaution in order to ensure conformity of the sample with the composition of the fertiliser and substrate. The likelihood of pollution of fertiliser and substrate shall be prevented during sampling.

11. Sampling devices, surfaces and containers intended for samples shall be clean and dry.

12. A liquid fertiliser shall be stirred in the entire volume before sampling. If it is not possible, a sample shall be taken during loading or unloading of a sample lot.

13. Sampling devices with which samples are taken for microbiological analyses shall be sterile (for example, treated with 70–80 per cent alcoholic solution if they are made of plastics, glass or metal, or treated with flame or boiling, if they are made of metal).

14. When taking the initial sample from unpacked fertilisers and substrates or packed fertilisers and substrates the packaging of which is larger than 100 kilograms, a sample lot shall be visually divided in approximately equal parts the number of which complies with the initial number of samples (Annex 1), and at least one initial sample shall be randomly taken from each such part. If during sampling it is not possible to take samples from all parts of the sample lot, a sample shall be taken during loading or unloading of the sample lot. In such case samples shall be randomly taken from the selected parts which have been previously determined while the sample is in movement.

15. If it is necessary to reduce a composite sample (aggregate sample), its mass shall be reduced by a mechanical divider or according to quartering (diagonal) method up to the mass laid down in Annex 3 to this Regulation. Three final samples shall be prepared from the composite sample (aggregate sample).

16. A final sample shall be placed in a clean, dry, watertight hermetically closeable packaging in which a sample can be stored in its initial condition. Final samples which are intended:

16.1. for the inspection of the detonation resistance test of ammonium nitrate shall be kept in a temperature of 0–25 °C;

16.2. for microbiological analyses shall be kept in a temperature of 5 °C (± 3 °C).

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17. Final samples shall be weighed, marked and stamped (sealed) so as they could not be opened without damaging a stamp (seal).

18. The Service shall draw up a sampling record regarding sampling each fertiliser or substrate (Annex 4).

19. [8 November 2022]

20. The record referred to in Paragraph 18 of this Regulation shall be drawn up in two copies. One copy shall remain with the Service, the other shall be issued to a person from which the control sample of fertiliser or substrate has been taken.

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**V. Actions to be Carried out with Final Samples**

21. The Service shall handle the final samples as follows:

21.1. for the performance of analyses of undesirable impurities of fertilisers, organic and organo-mineral fertilisers, liming materials, plant growth promoters, and substrates, and also microbiological preparations:

21.1.1. one final sample shall be sent to an accredited laboratory for testing (analyses) within three days after sampling;

21.1.2. the second final sample shall be stored until receipt of testing (analyses) results;

21.1.3. the third final sample together with a sampling record shall be given to a person from which a control sample of fertiliser or substrate has been taken;

21.2. for the determination of the number of viable micro-organisms of microbiological preparations:

21.2.1. within three days after sampling one final sample shall be sent to a scientific institution which in conformity with the Law on Scientific Activity is registered with the Register of Scientific Institutions, or other officially registered scientific institution of other European Union Member State (hereinafter – the scientific institution), or to an accredited laboratory;

21.2.2. the second final sample shall be stored until receipt of testing (analyses) results;

21.2.3. the third final sample together with a sampling record shall be given to a person from which a control sample of microbiological preparation has been taken.

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22. If testing results attest to the conformity of the quality of a fertiliser or substrate with identification requirements and permissible deviations from the declared quality, and the maximum permissible concentration of undesirable impurities is not exceeded in the final sample in accordance with laws and regulations regarding identification and quality conformity assessment requirements of fertilisers and substrates, and also if the quality of the EU fertiliser bearing the CE marking conforms to the requirements referred to in Annex I and Parts II and III of Annex III to Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 laying down rules on the making available on the market of EU fertilising products and amending Regulations (EC) No 1069/2009 and (EC) No 1107/2009 and repealing Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003, the Service shall write off the second final sample.

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23. If during testing (analysing) non-conformity with the identification and quality conformity assessment requirements of the quality of the fertiliser or substrate is detected, the Service shall send the second final sample to an accredited laboratory or – for the detection of viable micro-organisms of the microbiological preparation samples – to a scientific institution or accredited laboratory in order to perform a repeated testing.

**VI. Closing Provision**

24. The requirements of this Regulation shall be applied in respect of substrates from 1 July 2015.

Acting for the Prime Minister, the Minister for Transport Anrijs Matīss

Minister for Agriculture Jānis Dūklavs

**Annex 1**

Cabinet Regulation No. 669

28 October 2014

[*8 November 2022*]

**Minimum Number of Initial Samples**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No. | The size of the sample lot | The number of initial samples |
| 1. | Unpacked (or in packaging which is larger than 100 kg) mineral fertilisers, liming materials, and plant growth promoters |
| 1.1. | less than 2.5 tons | 7 |
| 1.2. | from 2.5 to 80 tons | the next whole number which is larger than a square root of the lot mass in tons which is multiplied by 20 |
| 1.3. | more than 80 tons | 40 |
| 2. | Packed mineral fertilisers, liming materials, and plant growth promoters the packaging of which does not exceed 100 kg |
| 2.1. | packagings that are larger than 1 kg: |
| 2.1.1. | less than 5 packagings | of all packagings |
| 2.1.2. | from 5 to 16 packagings | 4 |
| 2.1.3. | from 17 to 400 packagings | the next whole number which is larger than a square root of the number of packagings |
| 2.1.4. | more than 400 packagings | 20 |
| 2.2. | 1 kg or smaller packagings | 4\* |
| 3. | Unpacked organic fertilisers and organo-mineral fertilisers and substrates |
| 3.1. | not more than 500 m3 | 12 |
| 3.2. | more than 500 m3 | the next whole number which is larger than a square root of the lot amount in cubic metres which is divided by two |
| 4. | Packed organic fertilisers and organo-mineral fertilisers and substrates |
| 4.1. | packagings that are larger than 5 litres: |
| 4.1.1. | less than 5 packagings | of all packagings |
| 4.1.2. | from 5 to 16 packagings | 4 |
| 4.1.3. | from 17 to 400 packagings | the next whole number which is larger than a square root of the number of lot packagings |
| 4.1.4. | more than 400 packagings | 20 |
| 4.2. | 5 litres or smaller packagings |  |
| 4.2.1. | only for chemical analyses | 4\* |
| 4.2.2. | for chemical and microbiological analyses | 8\* |
| 5. | Microbiological preparations in a packaging |
| 5.1. | which is less than 0.2 kg | 6\* |
| 5.2. | from 0.2 to 0.5 kg | 4\* |
| 5.3. | from 0.51 to 1 kg | 2\* |
| 5.4. | which is larger than 1 kg | 1\* |

Note. \* The number of original packagings.

**Annex 2**

Cabinet Regulation No. 669

28 October 2014

[*8 November 2022*]

**Minimum Mass of a Composite Sample**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Fertiliser | Mass/volume |
| 1. | Unpacked (or in packaging which is larger than 100 kg) mineral fertilisers, liming materials, and plant growth promoters | 4 kg |
| 2. | Packed mineral fertilisers, liming materials, and plant growth promoters the packaging of which does not exceed 100 kg: |
| 2.1. | packagings that are larger than 1 kg | 4 kg |
| 2.2. | 1 kg or smaller packagings | mass of 4 original packagings |
| 3. | Unpacked organic fertilisers and organo-mineral fertilisers and substrates: |
| 3.1. | only for chemical and physical analyses | 6 l |
| 3.2. | for chemical, physical, and microbiological analyses | 12 l |
| 4. | Packed organic fertilisers and organo-mineral fertilisers and substrates: |
| 4.1. | packagings that are larger than 5 litres |
| 4.1.1. | only for chemical and physical analyses | 6 l |
| 4.1.2. | for chemical, physical and microbiological analyses | 12 l |
| 4.2. | 5 litres or smaller packagings |
| 4.2.1. | only for chemical and physical analyses | mass of 4 original packagings\* |
| 4.2.2. | for chemical, physical, and microbiological analyses | mass of 8 original packagings\* |
| 5. | For the inspection of detonation resistance test of ammonium nitrate: |
| 5.1. | for detection of porosity (oil absorbing), burning ingredients, pH, granulometric composition, chlorine, copper | 3 kg |
| 5.2. | detonation resistance test | 75 kg |
| 6. | Microbiological preparations in a packaging: |
| 6.1. | which is less than 0.2 kg | mass of 6 original packagings |
| 6.2. | from 0.2 to 0.5 kg | mass of 4 original packagings |
| 6.3. | from 0.51 to 1 kg | mass of 2 original packagings |
| 6.4. | which is larger than 1 kg | 2 kg |

Note. \* When creating a composite sample, take the minimum mass of a final sample.

**Annex 3**

Cabinet Regulation No. 669

28 October 2014

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**Minimum Mass of a Final Sample**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Fertiliser | Mass/volume |
| 1. | Mineral fertilisers | 0.5 kg |
| 2. | Liming materials | 1 kg |
| 3. | Organic and organo-mineral fertilisers and substrates for chemical and physical analyses | 2 l |
| 4. | Organic and organo-mineral fertilisers and substrates for chemical, physical, and microbiological analyses: |
| 4.1. | for chemical and physico-chemical analyses | 2 l |
| 4.2. | for microbiological analyses | 2 l |
| 5. | For inspection of detonation resistance of fertilisers containing ammonium nitrate (ammonium nitrate nitrogen – at least 28 %): |
| 5.1. | for detection of porosity (oil absorbing), burning ingredients, pH, granulometric composition, chlorine, copper | 1 kg |
| 5.2. | detonation resistance test | 25 kg |
| 6. | Microbiological preparations (in 2 copies): |
| 6.1. | for detection of viable micro-organisms | 0.2 kg |
| 6.2. | for detection of undesirable impurities | 0.2 kg |
| 7. | Plant growth promoters for detection of biologically active compounds | 0.5 kg |

**Annex 4**

Cabinet Regulation No. 669

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**Information to be Indicated in a Sampling Record of a Fertiliser and Substrate**

1. The given name, surname, position of a sample taker and the institution represented.

2. The firm name and legal address of a merchant, or personal data and address of a natural person.

3. The date and time of sample taking, the address of the place of sample taking or the registration number of the vehicle where the sample is taken.

4. General information on a fertiliser or substrate – an official name and trade name (if any), the number of the registration certificate or permit of a fertiliser or substrate, or indication “EU Fertiliser” bearing the CE marking, the producer and importer of a fertiliser or substrate, as well as the packer thereof.

5. Declared quality indicators of a fertiliser or substrate.

6. A lot number and date of production or delivery of a fertiliser or substrate (if any available).

7. Total amount of a fertiliser or substrate in mass or volume units at the site of sampling (if the product is packed, the number of packagings shall be indicated).

8. The packaging type of a fertiliser or substrate and closing technique thereof.

9. Significant observations during sample taking including physical properties of a fertiliser or substrate, technical condition of the packaging, foreign objects (if any detected) or other similar observations.

10. The number of initial samples taken.

11. Mass of a composite sample.

12. Mass of a final sample.

13. Identification numbers which have been granted to the samples by the Service.

14. The description of the closing techniques of a final sample and stamps or seals.

15. Information on the indicators to be tested.

16. Safety information (if any) regarding transportation and storage temperature of a sample or other similar observations.

17. Signature of a person taking the sample and the given name, surname, and signature of the person who has provided the information indicated in a sampling record.