

Commodities Scientific Support Division
Eastern Commodities Support Laboratory
Aflatoxin Laboratory
Physical Science Aid
GS-1311-02

I. INTRODUCTION

The Eastern Commodities Support Laboratory is responsible for performing chemical, microbiological, and physical analyses of poultry and poultry products, egg products, dairy products, processed meat and meat products, peanuts, processed fruits and vegetables and other food products; cotton fibers; and tobacco. These tests are conducted in support of grading, certification, acceptance, and regulatory programs.

The aflatoxin laboratories perform aflatoxin analyses on peanuts, peanut products, other nuts, corn and similar grains, and may also perform other laboratory tests.

II. MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- * Receives and numbers samples for daily operation.
- * Grinds samples and obtains a representative sub-sample.
- * Receives incoming chemicals and stores them.
- * Mixes chemical reagents and prepares stock solutions.
- * Arranges samples for analysis.
- * Disposes of waste chemicals, using proper safety precautions.
- * Operates and cleans laboratory equipment such as grinders, mixers, choppers, etc.

III. JOB CONTROLS

The employee works under the direction of the lab supervisor. Incumbent receives oral instructions, but must select the proper procedure for the test being performed. Work is subject to spot checks for accuracy while in progress and upon completion. Incumbent applies skill, knowledge and judgment in arranging work sequences, adjusting and operating equipment and in recognizing significant deviations in results. Incumbent performs routine procedural tasks where work methods are well established. The employee has contact with other lab workers in order to receive instruction and exchange information. There is exposure to potentially dangerous toxic chemicals.