

Summary of GOED 2024 Randomized Testing Program

GOED has completed the 2024 edition of our Randomized Testing Program, which allows GOED to obtain a snapshot of EPA/DHA omega-3 finished product quality from GOED members around the world. GOED believes this annual program is informative for showcasing member quality, identifying existing and emerging challenges, as well as enabling GOED to provide helpful feedback to product owners to improve their product quality.

For the 2024 program, 22 finished products were randomly chosen from current GOED members. They were purchased and tested for all aspects of quality as defined by the GOED Voluntary Monograph, including EPA/DHA content, oxidative quality and environmental contaminants. Eurofins (Hamburg, Germany) carried out the analysis. Products were transported and stored in their original packaging at room temperature protected from light until analysis. All products were analyzed before their stated date of expiry. The products for this round of testing were purchased from member companies' websites, from internet retailers, and/or at a physical store.

RESULTS

Product origin (point of sale):

Americas: 3	USA 3
Asia/Middle East: 8	China 3, South Korea 3, Thailand 1, Turkey 1
Australia/NZ: 0	
Europe: 11	Norway 1, Poland 1, Spain 9

Type of purchase:

- Products purchased through internet retailer: 8
- Products purchased from member company website: 11
- Products purchased from a pharmacy store: 1

Conclusions:

- All products satisfactorily met the labeled amounts of omega-3 fatty acids (range between 94,8% and 141,1% of claimed EPA+DHA content), except two containing 84,7% and 85,6% of claimed content.
- All tested products (100%) complied with maximum limits for environmental contaminants (dioxins and furans, dioxin-like PCBs, dioxins, furans and PCBs, total PCBs, lead, cadmium, mercury and inorganic arsenic).
- Of the 22 products tested, 12 products met a maximum Peroxide Value of 5 meq O₂/kg. Six products slightly exceeded this level (range 5.2 - 6.8 meq O₂/kg), and four products were found to have higher values (7.7 - 14 meq O₂/kg).
- All unflavored products met an Anisidine Value of 20.
- Three unflavored products (21,4 %) exceeded the maximum Totox number of 26.

- Overall, the quality of tested products appears similarly excellent to recent years with respect to environmental contaminants. Label claim compliance for omega-3 content is high. With respect to oxidative quality, secondary oxidation is not an issue but compared to previous years there may be relatively more products (45%) struggling with primary oxidation control.

Follow-up Actions:

All member companies tested were contacted by GOED about the test results. Specific challenges and follow-up actions for products not meeting GOED's quality requirements are being discussed with product owners.