



FDA Suspends Testing for Glyphosate Residues in Food

US FDA, CHEMICALS OF INTEREST

By LANA BECKETT, December 30, 2016

Huffington Post¹⁾ reported that the Food and Drug Administration testing for residues of glyphosate has been put on hold.

The FDA launched what it calls a "special assignment" earlier this year to analyze certain foods for residues of glyphosate after the agency **was criticized**²⁾ by the U.S. Government Accountability Office for failing to include glyphosate in annual testing programs that look for many less-used pesticides.

The FDA's residue testing for glyphosate was combined with a broader herbicides analysis program the FDA set in motion in February of this year. But the glyphosate testing has been particularly challenging for the FDA amid difficulties with establishing a standard methodology to use across the agency's multiple U.S. laboratories, according to FDA sources. Equipment issues have also been a problem, with some labs citing a need for more sensitive instruments, sources within FDA said.

FDA spokeswoman Megan McSeveney confirmed the testing suspension and said the agency is not sure when it will resume.

"As testing for glyphosate will expand to several locations, we are currently working to ensure that the methods are validated for use in these labs. As soon as the validation is completed, testing for glyphosate will resume," she said. "We cannot speculate on timing at this point."

Resources for this article

1. Huffington Post

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/carey-gillam/fda-suspends-glyphosate-r_b_12913458.html

2. was criticized

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-38>