Crystal violet case study

Cristina Fernández
Stakeholder Engagement Advisor

Background

- Crystal violet (CV) is a banned dye used illegally in aquaculture
- Article 18 of Regulation 470/2009 (i.e. for official controls the Reference Point for Action for CV is the level at which action needs to be taken) – 2µg/kg

Case study

An importer carried out their own checks on a shipment of fish and the laboratory provided a certificate of analysis that reported a level of <1µg/kg for CV. The limit of detection for CV in the fish was reported as 1.0 µg/kg. The accompanying message from the lab indicated that the shipment contained crystal violet levels of between 0.3 and 0.6 µg/kg.

- The detection was probably due to post-harvest contamination or, more likely, sample contamination.
- CV is metabolised quickly to LCV (90% to 98%) by living fish.
- There are several possible routes by which CV can contaminate the goods or the sample, because CV is present in blue paper towels, in ink (pens, inkjet etc.) and used to colour fertilizer, antifreeze, detergents and leather.

It is unclear where a business stands in such a situation.

- Should they destroy?
- Should they re-test and how would that result be acted upon?
- How does this affect the legality of the goods?
- Is the business obliged to report any detection of CV?

Thanks for your attention!