

AOAC INTERNATIONAL

Fitness for Purpose Statement Guideline

A description of the minimum performance characteristics required by an analytical method to detect or measure an analytes or analytes. A Fitness for Purpose statement must clearly identify the:

- 1) analyte or class of analytes
- 2) analytical range
- 3) matrix or matrixes
- 4) types of test samples (powder, liquid, raw food, sprays, etc.)
- 5) regulatory requirements (if any)
- 6) time-to-signal (sample preparation to analytical results)
- 7) type of analysts (trained chemists or microbiologist, first responder, field hand)

A Fitness for Purpose statement may also provide additional information about the analytical requirements that materially affects the types of methods that can be used. . For example, will the method be used in a laboratory under controlled conditions or will the method be used in the field. A Fitness for Purpose statement should describe whether qualified methods will be screening or confirmatory techniques, and/or intended to be used as reference methods for dispute resolution

A Fitness for Purpose statement should be no longer than one paragraph.

Version 2

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