



## **Bureau Veritas and Schutter Group Introduce Rapid Aflatoxin Testing Services for the Agricultural Industry**

*On-Site Strip Tests Can Quantify Total Aflatoxin Content Within 7-10 Minutes*

**SAO PAULO (JUNE 29 2017)** – [Bureau Veritas](#) and [Schutter Group](#), global leaders in agri-commodities testing and inspection, have introduced a rapid aflatoxin pre-shipment inspection and quality control process designed to protect producers, shippers, global buyers and feed processors by mitigating the risk of toxin exposure through on-site quick detection tests

Aflatoxin is a naturally occurring mycotoxin produced by two types of mold: *aspergillus flavus* and *aspergillus parasiticus*. *Aspergillus flavus* is common and widespread in nature and is most often found when certain grains are grown under stressful conditions such as drought or excessive precipitation levels. Exposure to aflatoxins can cause liver damage and cancer if not immediately identified and addressed. Animals fed contaminated food can pass aflatoxin transformation products into eggs, milk products, and meat.

For example, in 2016 Brazilian corn crops were heavily impacted by aflatoxin problems, mainly due to the drought in Mato Grosso, Mato Grosso do Sul and Minas Gerais. Brazil is about to experience one of the largest corn harvests in recent years. Therefore, close monitoring and testing of the country's 2017 corn crop is required to alleviate product contamination, food safety concerns and even global cargo rejection resulting in economic losses.

Schutter Group, a Bureau Veritas company, offers aflatoxin control services during the vessel pre-loading process through the implementation of a rapid and minimally-disruptive testing process. Grains and by-products are taken as samples during discharge of inbound delivery trucks or even directly on a shipping vessel's load conveyor belt. Product testing is then performed using quantitative strip tests that quantify total aflatoxin content within only 7-10 minutes.

"Bureau Veritas and Schutter Group are well equipped to perform aflatoxin quality control and detection for the upcoming agriculture export season," said Alan Shirley, Vice-President Marketing & Sales, Bureau Veritas Agri-Commodities. "We have invested in equipment and test kits to address on-site aflatoxin testing needs in high-demand ports and have five laboratories approved by both FOSFA and GAFTA to perform in-house analysis,"

"The service is an essential element of our grain quality control process and fundamental to our inspection service adding value for customers in the global agricultural industry," Alan continued.

### **ABOUT BUREAU VERITAS**

Bureau Veritas is a world leader in conformity assessment and certification services. Created in 1828, the Group now has 69,000 employees in some 1,400 offices and laboratories located in 140 countries and posted revenues of €4.6 billion in 2016.

As a trusted partner, Bureau Veritas offers innovative solutions that go beyond simple compliance with regulations and standards, reducing risk, improving performance and promoting sustainable development. Bureau Veritas is recognized and accredited by major national and international organizations and works across a wide range of industries worldwide.

*For further information: [www.bureauveritas.com](http://www.bureauveritas.com)*

#### **ABOUT SCHUTTER GROUP**

Schutter Group is a leading inspection company in agricultural commodities markets worldwide. Est. 1847 as an independent inspection company, ensuring integrity of purchased grains based on the values of Reliability; Independence; Dedication and Trust.

In March 2017 the Schutter Group was acquired by Bureau Veritas as part of the organization's global agri-food strategy.

*For further information: [www.schuttergroup.com](http://www.schuttergroup.com)*