

FOCUS

DANUBE

JULY 2020



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2020 SEASON UNDERWAY

ACROSS THE DANUBE REGION, WHILE COVID-19 HAS BEEN A DISTRACTION TO MANY ASPECTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE, OUR TEAMS ARE BUSY INSPECTING, SAMPLING AND TESTING FOR THE 2020 SEASON.

In Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Serbia, from the coast and river ports, to inland and in-field, we have more than 500 agronomists, inspectors and scientists to ensure you have access to highest quality services, when you need them most.

We continue to invest in new accreditations, testing facilities, laboratory, field and pest control / fumigation services. Last year, across the Danube, these services delivered inspections on 25.9 MMT of commodities and more than 110,000 analyses.

Despite the continuing COVID-19 pandemic we continue to provide the full range of services for clients in the Danube region, either on site according to social distancing measures, or remotely where possible.

BUSINESS CONTINUITY

During this unprecedented time, our aim has been to continue in delivering exceptional service. With our team dispersed across the region, even with the limitations imposed due to COVID-19, we have been able to maintain our sampling, testing and analysis services so that we can deliver quick and efficient test results for our clients. In addition, to ensure service continuity during lockdowns we have introduced options for remote audits and inspections, using our own remote inspection app QiiQ and online platforms, such as Microsoft.

ADAPTING AND EVOLVING

Where needed, we have also adapted the way we do business to allow online client communications and socially distanced

site visits and laboratory operations. We have also launched new COVID-19 testing and disinfection services – to identify the presence of the virus and to clean premises and equipment to reduce the risk of transmission.

Meet our teams in this issue, and read about the latest developments, capabilities and new services available in the region.



ENSURE QUALITY AND VALUE WITH **SMART WAREHOUSE**

THE HARVEST IS IN, GRAIN IS COLLECTED AND STORED – BUT HOW TO ENSURE ITS LONG-TERM VALUE AND QUALITY?

Millions of tons of bulk products are stored in warehouses daily and they are exposed to risks which if not properly managed can cause serious damage and loss. Professional care of agricultural products is extremely important.

SGS is developing a new service to help combat these issues: Smart Warehouse.



We know that there are many critical factors, such as moisture content, inadequate ventilation and admixtures that can result in products becoming unstable. Leakage into a store from a damaged roof, or window, could quickly lead to the total loss of a stored commodity. The introduction of moisture to a store can lead to rapid deterioration of a product, the appearance of mold, fungi, insects, or even germination.

Without prompt treatment or segregation, the product – and possibly those adjacent – can be affected. The longer it takes to act the greater the degradation of quality and the higher the eventual losses.

Smart Warehouse can prevent problems becoming that serious.

CONNECTED DEVICES

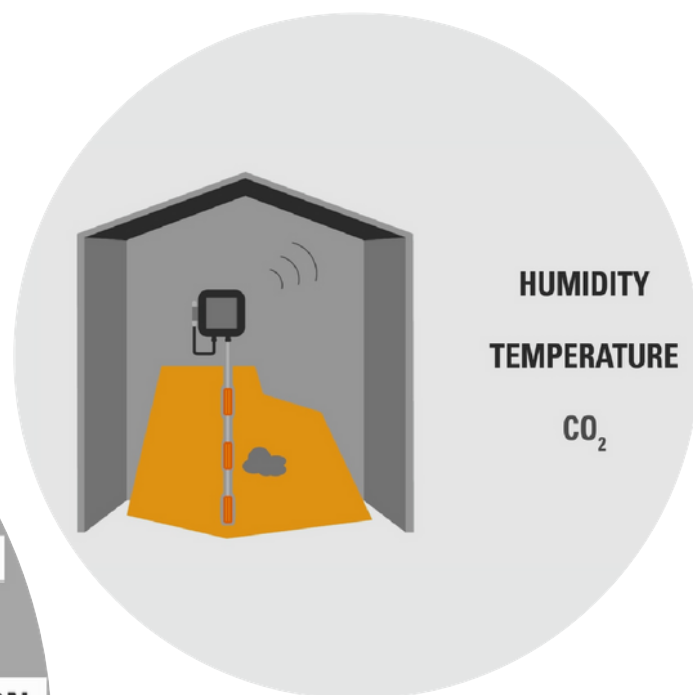
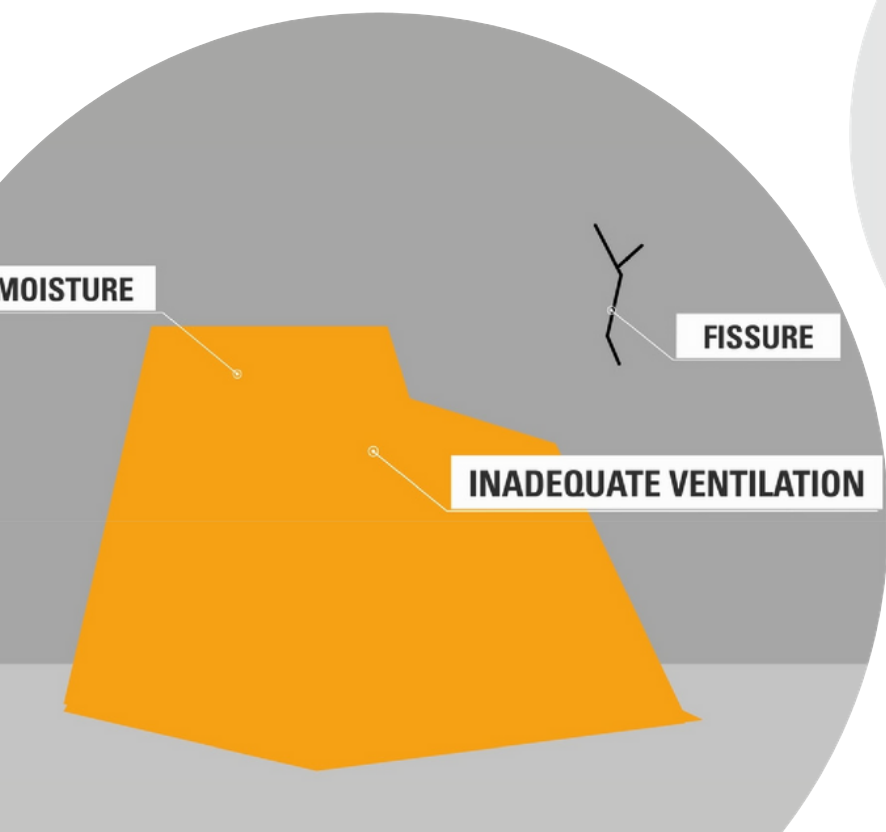
Harnessing the power of the ‘internet of things’ Smart Warehouse uses several devices strategically located in a warehouse to control the condition of products stored within, in real-time. Smart Warehouse detects fluctuations in temperature and moisture inside the warehouse and at different levels in the stockpile. It controls stowage conditions by monitoring the relative humidity, temperature and CO₂ levels. This helps you to manage the environmental conditions in your warehouse and to provide the best storage conditions for your products.

MONITORING

Our experts monitor Smart Warehouse installations remotely and in real-time. They will quickly and accurately detect any affected areas and act accordingly to eliminate the problem and minimize risk. In addition, the system can communicate with software controlling warehouse ventilation systems. This is especially useful during harvesting intake.

Smart Warehouse provides a way to minimize the risks associated with storing agricultural products while controlling the condition of your goods, ensuring their quality and long-term value.

To find out more, contact your local SGS office.



BULGARIA

UPDATING SERVICES TO HELP CLIENTS MEET COVID-19 CHALLENGES, WHILE ALSO BUILDING ON INVESTMENT IN MOBILE SAMPLING AND TESTING, OUR TEAM IN BULGARIA IS WORKING HARD TO HELP YOU MAKE THE MOST OF THIS SEASON.

COVID-19 TESTING & DISINFECTION

In response to the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, we have launched two new services to support the commodities sector:

- Detection of the virus SARS-CoV-2 (responsible for the COVID-19 coronavirus) – based on PCR techniques this test is ideal for feed, grain and surfaces
- Disinfection – an extension to our fumigation services this service disinfects any premises and equipment against COVID-19

INSPECTION SERVICES:

In Bulgaria, we have collocated sampling points and testing facilities at all Black Sea and Danube ports – Ezerovo, near Varna, Varna East, Varna West, Varna PCHVM, and the Burgas ports of BMF, KRZ and Free zone, as well as Lom, Svishtov, Ruse, and Silistra on the Danube.

Our check points at the Black Sea ports are all equipped with an automatic sampler and the necessary equipment for spot analyses of moisture, test weight, admixtures, protein, oil content. At the beginning of every season all equipment is benchmarked and verified against calibrated laboratory equipment.

Our mobile laboratory, launched in time for last season, will continue to travel to clients/suppliers at remote locations where our experts will take samples and conduct analyses to provide an express results services for quality parameters on cereals and oilseeds.

Cereals:

- Moisture
- Protein
- Test weight
- Gluten
- Foreign matter

Oilseeds:

- Moisture
- Oil content
- Admixtures

LABORATORY ACCREDITATIONS & CERTIFICATIONS

Building on our successful history we have achieved accreditation against the new ISO/IEC 17025:2018 standard. In addition, we also hold accreditations for:

- GMP+ B11 verification – full analytical scope, including dioxins, PCBs, pesticides, aflatoxins, heavy metals and fluorides
- VLOG-registered laboratory – food and feed testing support
- Non-GMO Project Standard testing – GMO testing for food and feed

Our Varna lab is a National Reference Laboratory for the official control of dioxins and GMO, by Bulgaria's competent authority.

ANELIA ANDREEVA

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OFFICE TEAM

Aneta Nikolova	
Ivayla Valerieva	Expert
Vanya Popova	
Iliana Karpatcheva	Expert in Stock Management Services
Anelia Andreeva	Business Manager
Neli Valeva	Expert certifications (ISCC, GLOBAL G.A.P., Organic, ISO 17020)



LABORATORY TEAM

Veselka Pashova	Laboratory Manager	
M. Kirilova	V. Zaharieva	N. Stoyanova
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HUNGARY

DURING A CHALLENGING AND BUSY YEAR, OUR TEAM IN HUNGARY HAS OVERSEEN DEVELOPMENTS IN EVERY FIELD OF ITS SERVICES.

LABORATORY SERVICES

Continuous development: in addition to testing against a wide range of parameters, we are constantly looking to acquire new laboratory equipment to increase capacity and improve quality. These will include a new LC-MSMS and new HPLC equipment for pesticide and mycotoxin determination. For PH3 (phosphine), we are in the process of improving detection limits.

Meeting requirements: we hold GAFTA, FOSFA and ISO/IEC 17025:2018 accreditations, and are a GMP+ B11 registered laboratory, which allows us to conduct feed analysis for GMP+FSA certified companies.

Pesticides screening: we have made a major investment this year – in our new LC-MSMS – to increase capacity and to cope with a growing compound list.

The list of pesticide substances changes dynamically, and we regularly update our capabilities to meet demand.

GEP CERTIFICATION

We have successfully extended our good experimental practices (GEP) accreditation for another five years and we continue to deliver reliable results to the plant protection products (PPP) authorization process. Building on this success, our expanding team has been conducting an increasing number of efficacy trials for PPP factories in Hungary.

In 2020, we launched a three-year series of biofungicide experiments in vineyards aimed at developing organic farming technologies. Plus, we have launched a 10-month program of experiments to test the effectiveness of environmentally friendly insecticidal preparations used in organic farming against warehouse pests.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

We are very optimistic about the new SGS Smart Warehouse system, a remote inspection system, that helps to minimize risk and ensure safe storage. This pioneering real-time monitoring and automated reporting system allows fast responses to variations in warehouse conditions to reduce product damage.

For all our partners we continuously develop our processes and strive to deliver better services and more competitive turnaround times.

RITA FEJOS

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Viktória Váry	Head of Administration
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Zsolt Schifferer	Technical Manager
Rita Fejos Novak	Business Manager



LABORATORY TEAM

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Eva Dobre		Greta Helmeczi	
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Maria Czapar	Microbiology Team Leader	Gabor Ivanyi	Soil Team Leader
Lajos Molnar	Laboratory head	Judit Diosine	Grain Products Team Leader



ROMANIA

INLAND SERVICES, ISCC AUDITS AND CONTAMINANTS SCREENING ARE ALL GROWTH AREAS FOR OUR ACTIVITIES IN ROMANIA.

INLAND SERVICES

With the biggest inland inspection team in Romania, some 40 inspectors, we have more people and cover a bigger geographic area than anyone else. Operating as two teams, one at Constanta Port and a second covering the rest of the country, we inspect premises, silos, warehouses, cargoes, barges, wagons and trucks, during storage, loading and unloading. All our inspectors are trained and equipped to carry out spot analysis.

PESTICIDE SCREENING

Building on the success of our pesticide screening services, today we can conduct analyses and screen for more than 300 substances using our LC-MSMS system. We also provide regular contaminant testing for intake stock, inland and in port.

CERTIFICATIONS

Responding to customer demand, we have recruited a third International Sustainability & Carbon Certification (ISCC) approved auditor. Plus, our field trials operations have been awarded good experimental practices (GEP) certification by the Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development.

LABORATORY SERVICES

Across our network, we offer testing and analysis for mycotoxins, heavy metals, pesticide residues, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), protein content (Kjeldhal and Dumas methods), as well as gluten, gluten index and falling number testing, Zeleny test, moisture, fiber, total ash and HCL insoluble ash, test weight, impurities, oil content and many others. At Constanta Port, many tests can be completed in 24 hours upon request. In summer 2019, we started fatty acid testing on HO SFS – the first lab in Romania to provide this service. We have also extended mycotoxin testing using an HPLC Alliance e2696.

COVID-19 DISINFECTIONS

Our newest service is disinfection using a high performance ULV fog generator. This new service allow us to disinfect all premises and equipment to reduce the risk of transmission.

FUMIGATION SERVICES

Our Gafta approved fumigation and pest management team uses the most efficient and safe fumigants and include fumigation of grain packed or in bulk, loaded, in transit, in warehouses or silos.

Procedures used are probing, dust retaining sleeves, recirculation system or combined, according to the Gafta regulations. Other services include checking hold/container tightness, ventilation assistance, gas-free confirmation and grain coloring.

VEGOILS INSPECTIONS

SGS Romania has a well trained and experienced team able to provide complete inspection services for vegoils – tanks and vessels.

NATIONWIDE NETWORK

With 158 employees, our nationwide network of offices, in Timisoara, Turnu Severin, Turnu Magurel, Craiova, Bucuresti, Giurgiu, Calarasi, Slobozia, Braila, Iasi and Suceava, offers fast and efficient access to all inspection sites.

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 Ionut Cristian Lepadatu Business Manager



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 Filip Panfil

SERBIA

NEW SERVICES AND NEW ACCREDITATIONS REINFORCE OUR FOCUS ON DELIVERING THE BEST SERVICES TO COMMODITIES CLIENTS ACROSS SERBIA, AND BEYOND!

Across Serbia, we have more than 50 inspectors, scientists and administrators supporting the commodities sector.

GAFTA & FOSFA

As GAFTA and FOSFA approved surveyors, we can assess grain at every stage, both in the field and in port. As well as our extensive inland presence, we can also be found in all Danube ports.

NON-GMO SERVICES

Following our approval as a Certification Body (CB) for Danube Soya and Non-GMO Certification, we are now able to deliver certification across Serbia and have been able to expand availability of the service into neighboring countries.

ACCREDITATIONS

We have been successfully audited against the new ISO/IEC 17025: 2018 standard and completed our transition. ISO/IEC 17024 certification allows us to develop personal certification

standards for those involved in the quality inspection of cereals and oilseeds, such as producers, processors, storage facilities and traders. We remain a Certification Body for 'Serbian Quality', a national scheme that promotes quality.

LABORATORY SERVICES

As demand for services grows, we continue to develop our capacity and capabilities. Samples can be analyzed on-site or in our laboratory. We are Gafta approved analysts for cereals and feed, and the only FOSFA approved analyst for oilseeds in Serbia.

SPOT TESTING

For fast results and improved decision-making, we offer on-site spot testing for:

- GMO
- Mycotoxins

Using the most advanced equipment in the country for grain testing in the field, we can test for:

- Physical parameters
- Moisture content
- Protein content
- Impurities
- Test weight

COVID-19 CONTROL PROGRAM

Delivered as a standalone audit, or as an addendum to a regular audit, this program assures compliance with the World Health Organization's (WHO) COVID-19 guidelines and those of other recognized bodies.

QUALITY MAPS

Sampling, testing and reporting has started for the 2020 quality map season to ensure subscribers have access to the latest data on grain health and quality.

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Dušica Mijatović	
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Andrijana Radić	Executive Manager



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WHEN YOU NEED TO BE SURE

