

New tool screens for chemical contamination

CALUX[®] technology, developed by Xenobiotic Detection Systems (XDS) based in the United States, is being examined by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for its efficacy in detecting dioxin-like compounds. Dioxins are by-products of a number of chemical processes including the burning of plastics in waste disposal. XDS will train FDA scientists in CALUX protocols that measure dioxins at less than one part per trillion.

In the patented CALUX process, firefly luciferase is produced when dioxin-like chemicals are found. XDS has genetically engineered mammalian cell lines to contain the gene for luciferase, an enzyme fireflies use to produce light. The amount of light produced is directly related to the amount of dioxin-like chemicals. XDS' patent-pending separation techniques enable separation of dioxin/dibenzofurans and PCB contaminants. *Contact:*

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