

# AFLATOXIN M1 IN DAIRY PRODUCTS AVAILABLE IN SERBIAN MARKET

*Biljana Škrbić, Jelena Živančev, Igor Antić*

University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Technology,  
Novi Sad, Serbia

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This study was conducted in order to monitor of the natural occurrence of AFM1 in different types of milk and white cheese available in Serbian market...





*... Important in a light of recent outbreak of milk contamination by AFM1 that occurred at the end of February in Serbia...*

ПОЛИТИКА ONLINE 31. oktobar 2013. Beograd 16°C

Ако се загађеност млека означава фактором 1, онда прерађено млеко у праху има највишу могућу концентрацију загађења – фактор 7, кажу у Saveznom institutu za procenu rizika u ishrani u Berlinu



Mleko u prahu ima najvišu koncentraciju aflatoksina – faktor 7

Afera mleko – mlečni proizvodi, meso i iznutrice zatrovani kancerogenim gljivičnim otrovom aflatoksin B1 i M1 – izvesno će na duži period otpljati u srpskom lancu ishrane. To je posledica загађења stočne hrane kontaminiranim kukuruzom.

- Strani investitori primetili reforme
- Krstić: Stabilizacija javnog duga u 2016.
- Ilić: Građevinska dozvola za 30 dana i u startu besplatno
- Vučić: Niko ne sme da ucenjuje državu, posebno ne FAP
- Blokada SNS-a, kontrablokada URS-a
- Radulovićev recept za kraj privatizacije
- Blokada pruge na jubilej FAP-a
- Privilegije sapliću lične karte
- Privatizacija u Srbiji oročena na 31. decembar 2014.
- Srbija 93. na svetu po uslovima poslovanja
- Radnici FAP-a blokirali prugu Beograd – Bar
- Pošalj SMS za krađu struje

RAZGOVOR NEDELJE: SAŠA RADULOVIĆ, ministar privrede

- Lična karta pa pomoć od države
- Poletela Er Srbija – prvo za Abu Dabi
- Restrukturiranje Srbijagasa najkasnije za godinu i po
- „Južni tok“ teče po planu
- Zbogom, Jate, dobar let, Er Srbija
- Državne banke koštale nas milijardu evra

Till now, there have not been available studies reporting the AFM1 content in milk and dairy products from the Serbian market

and

this study presents the first **comprehensive** survey of the occurrence of AFM1 in different types of milk and white cheese available in Serbia.





The presence of **AFM1** in cow's milk is the consequence of the consumption of feed contaminated by **aflatoxin B1 (AFB1)**, a secondary metabolite produced of some molds during the crop growth, harvest and/or storage since...





...

**AFB1** is known to be metabolized to form the monohydroxy derivative - **AFM1**.



*The AFM1 derivative can be detected in milk within 12–24 h after the first intake of AFB1, while its concentration decreases to an undetectable level 72 h after the initial intake is stopped.*



- **AFM1 is also known to be hepatotoxic and carcinogenic compound.**
- **International Agency for Research on Cancer classified AFM1 in Group 1 toxin as possibly carcinogenic for humans.**

**International Agency for Research on Cancer**



**World Health  
Organization**



The AFM1 is not destroyed by pasteurization of milk, and thus can be transferred into yoghurt, powdered milk and other milk based products.





*The contamination of milk and milk products with AFM1 displayed variations according to:*

- ✿ geography,
- ✿ country,
- ✿ season,
- ✿ environmental conditions,
- ✿ inability of certain agricultural systems,
- ✿ low availability of green fodder,
- ✿ excessive use of concentrated feed, cottonseed cake, corn, soybean, threshed wheat straw, paddy straw, wheat bran and
- ✿ contamination of the feed and the grain with AFs during storage.





THUS, milk has the greatest  
potential demonstrated for  
introducing AFM1 into human  
diet.



*The frequency of occurrence of AFM1 in commercially available milk and dairy products, the high intake of these products by human population,*

*especially by infant and young children and its probable carcinogenic effect,*

*led to an increased concern about the establishment of measures to control AFM1 contamination.*

In the light of these concerns, several countries have established regulatory limits for AFM1 in milk and derivative products, with values varying according to national legislation.





*According to the Food and Agriculture Organization,  
sixty countries have established regulatory limits for  
AFM1.*

The European Commission Regulation 1881/2006 sets a maximum limit of 0.05  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  for AFM1 in raw milk, heat-treated milk and milk for the manufacture of milk based products.

20.12.2006

EN

Official Journal of the European Union

L 364/5



COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1881/2006  
of 19 December 2006  
setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs  
(Text with EEA relevance)



EUROPEAN  
COMMISSION

It should be noted that regulations regarding AFM1 toxin in cheese have not yet been established by European Commission.



**The same limit was also valid in Serbia from 2011 till the end of February 2013.**

**However, after the outbreak of milk contamination by AFM1 that occurred in Serbia in the very end of February 2013,**

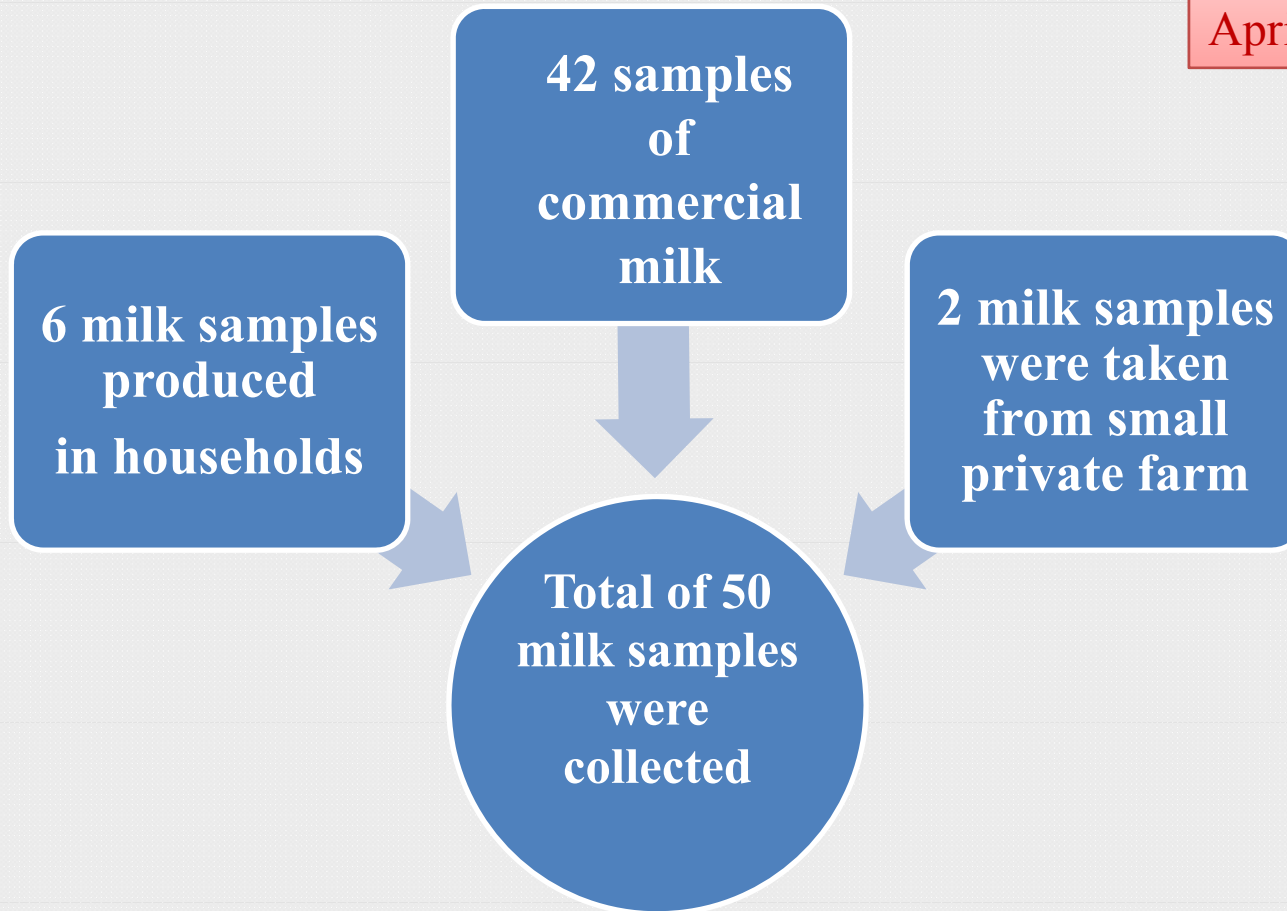
**the Serbian Government has established new maximum level of 0.5 µg/kg,**

**seemed to be a practical compromise between the need to control the AFM1 and the economic consequences of the setting regulatory limit.**





Sampling period:  
February,  
April and May



4 cheese  
samples  
produced  
in  
household



13 samples  
of  
commercial  
cheese



Total of 17  
white  
cheese  
samples  
were  
collected

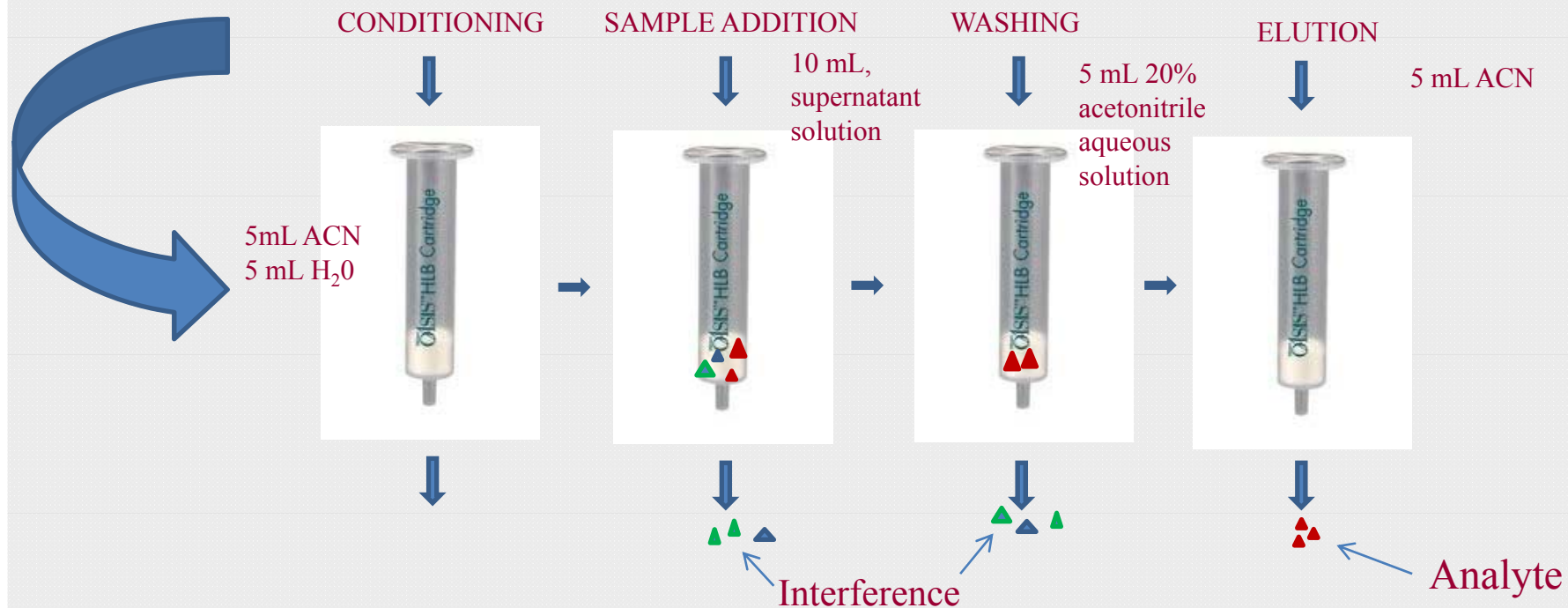


The sample preparation procedure for milk based on solid phase extraction (Oasis HLB, Waters).

20 g milk

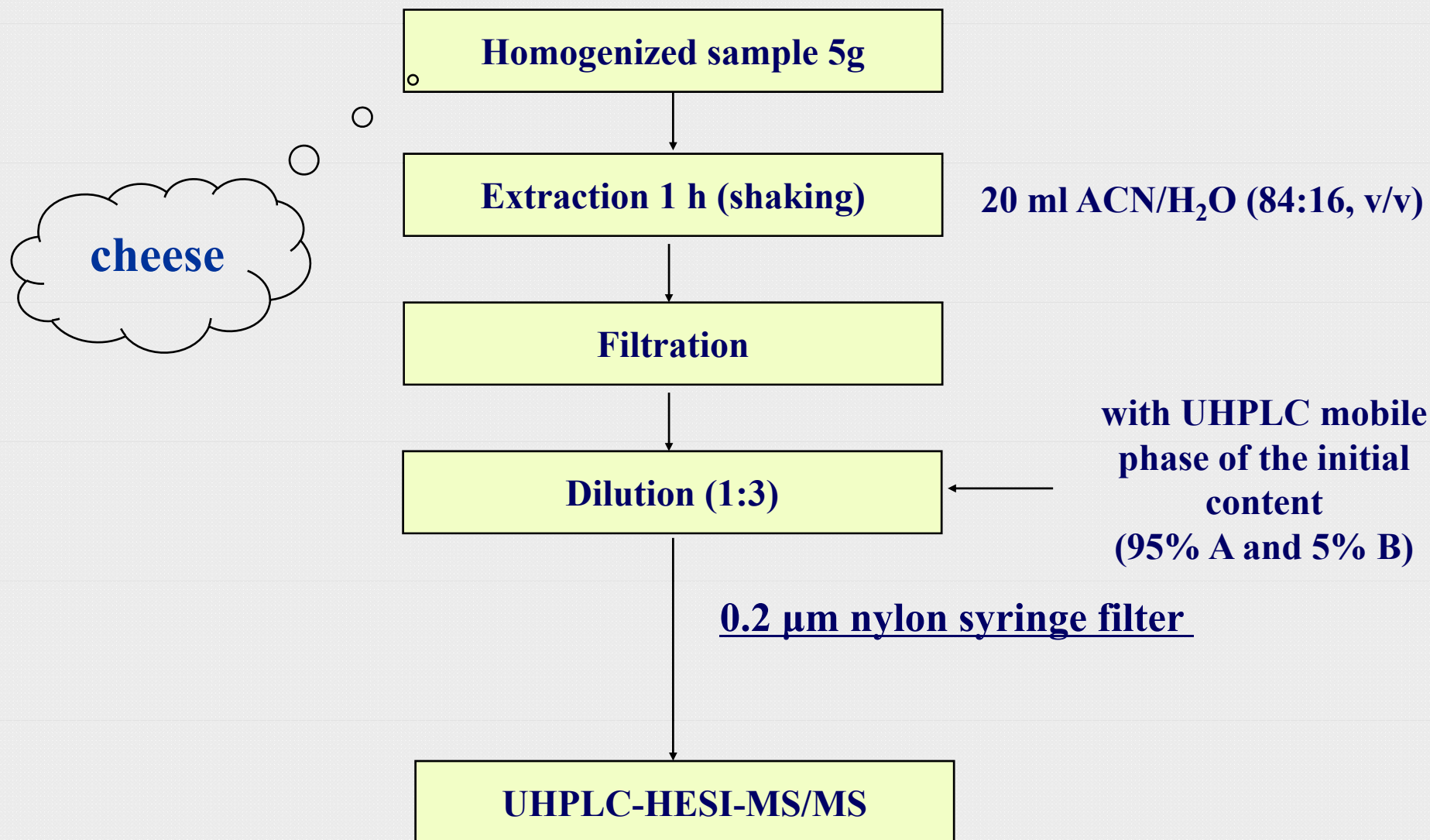
Centrifugation 10 min (8000 rpm)

fat layer was removed and the supernatant was collected

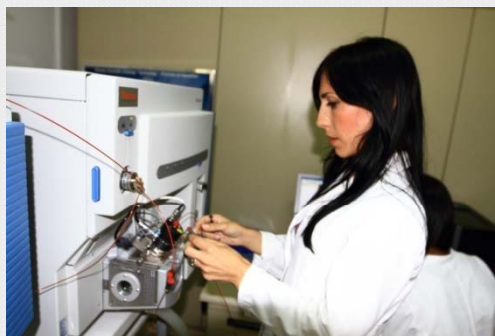
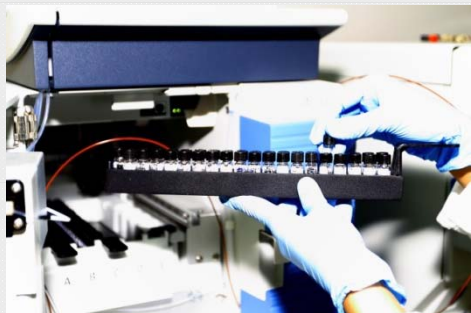


Eluate was collected and evaporated to dryness using gentle stream of nitrogen. The residue was reconstituted with 1 ml of 20% aqueous acetonitrile and the obtained solution was passed through the 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  nylon syringe filter.

The simple sample preparation technique with only one step of extraction was used for isolation of AFM1 from white cheese.



The selected samples  
were analyzed by  
ultra-high performance liquid chromatography with  
heated electrospray ionization triple quadrupole  
mass spectrometry (UHPLC/HESI-MS/MS).



## UHPLC/HESI-MS/MS parameters of AFM1 separation and identification under optimized conditions on Accela-TSQ Vantage (Thermo Fisher Scientific, USA)

Mycotoxin	Retention time, min	Dwell time, s	Precursor ion, m/z	Product ions: quantifier/qualifier, m/z	CID <sup>a</sup> , eV
AFM1	2.86	0.1	329 [M+H] <sup>+</sup>	259.1/273.1	25/23

<sup>a</sup> Collision-induced dissociation energy for quantifier/qualifier ion.





## Validation data of UHPLC-HESI-MS/MS for AFM1 determination

Samples	AFM1 spiked level ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ )	Recovery (%)	RSD (%)
milk	0.05	69	10
	0.5	71	7
white cheese	0.25	110	9
	0.5	72	7

*Milk*  
 $R^2 > 0.990$   
LOD = 0.0002  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$

*White cheese*  
 $R^2 > 0.990$   
LOD = 0.02  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$



Recovery values for **milk and white cheese** were within the range of 69-110% recommended by the Commission Regulation (EC) 401/2006.

## UHPLC-MS/MS chromatograms for AFM1 corresponding

to:

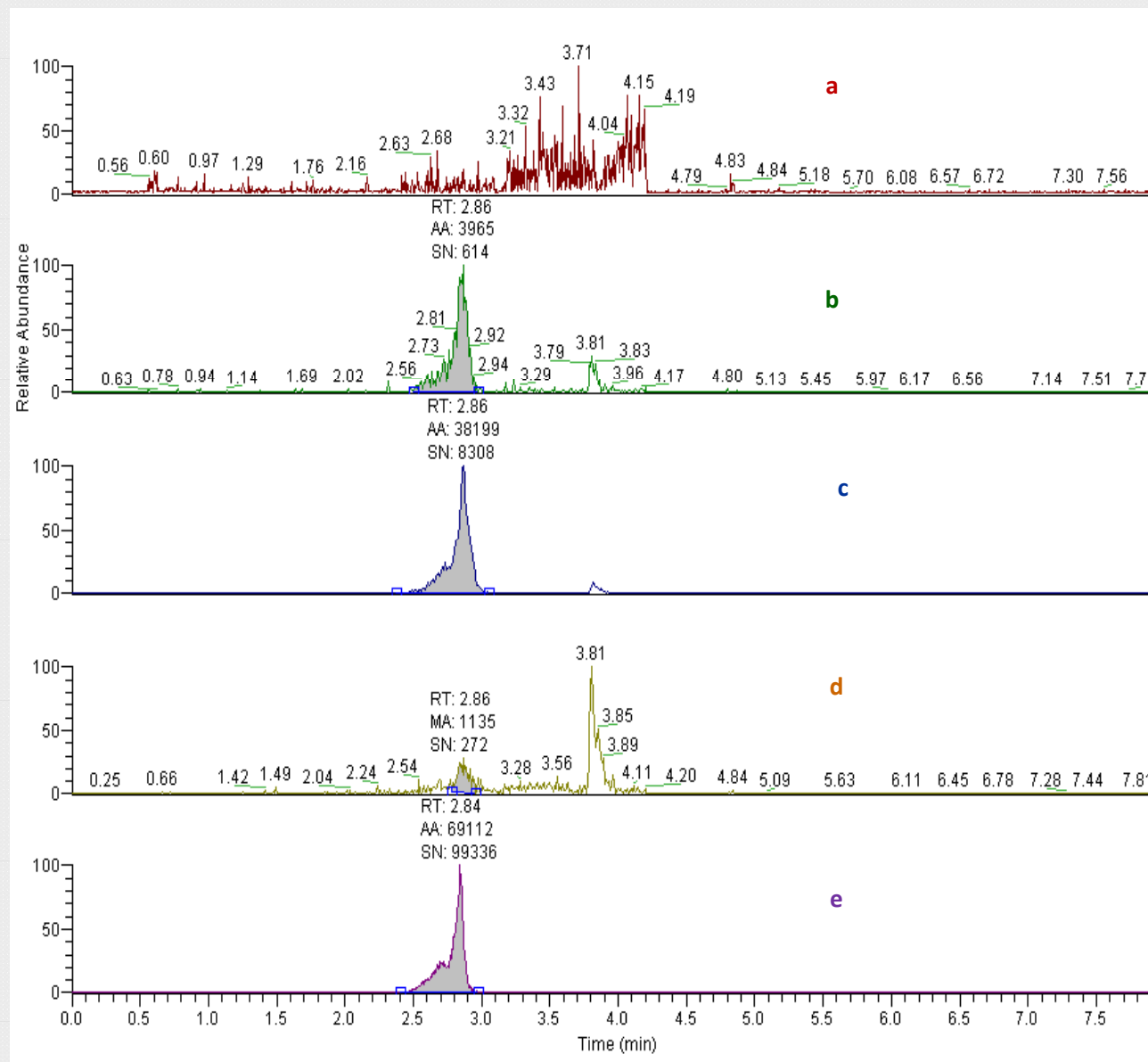
a) uncontaminated  
sample ( $\square$  LOD),

b) uncontaminated  
milk sample  
spiked at level of  
 $0.05 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ,

c) uncontaminated  
milk sample  
spiked at level of  
 $0.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$

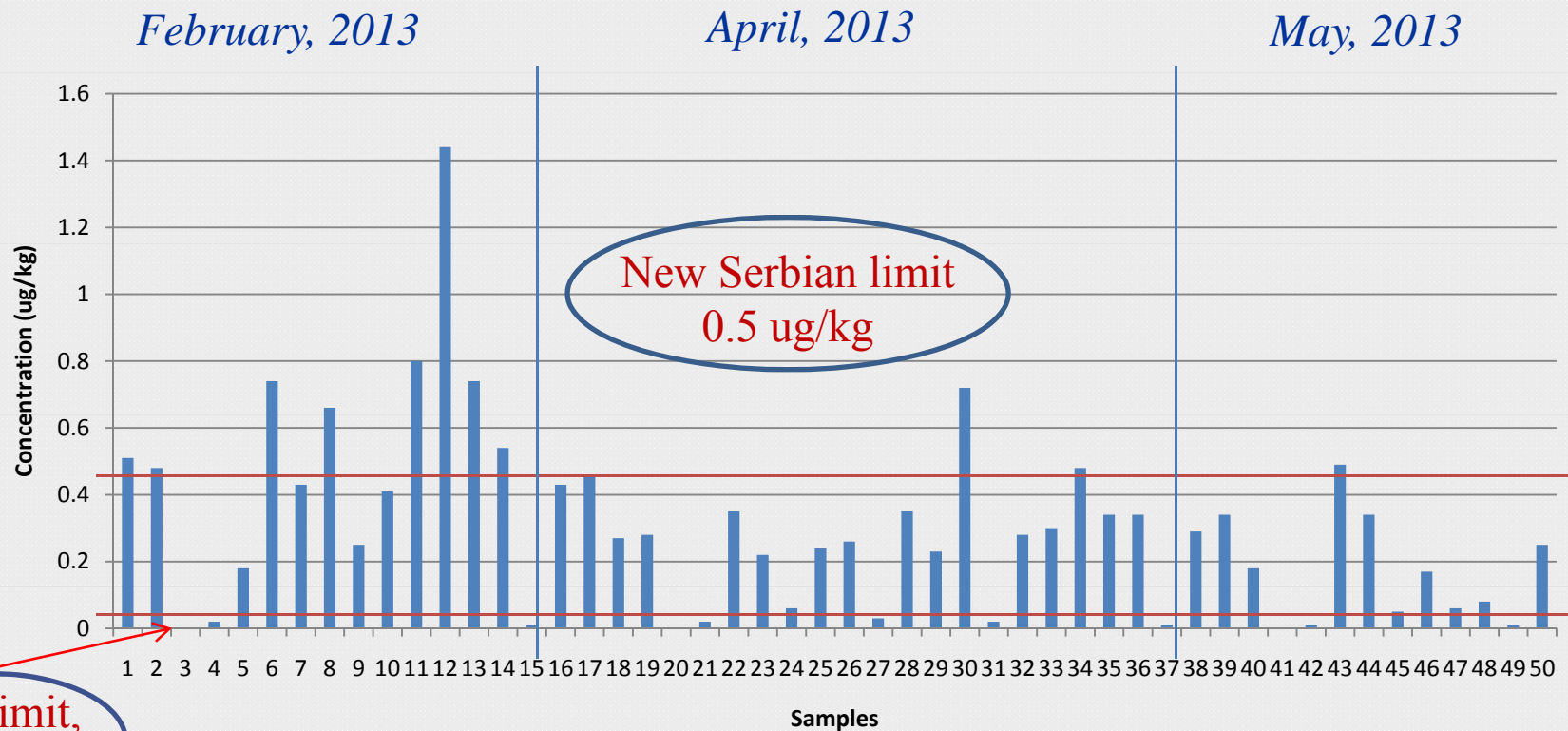
d) the real sample  
with the lowest  
level of AFM1  
( $0.01 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ) and

e) the real sample  
with the highest  
level of AFM1  
( $1.44 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ).





## Occurrence of Aflatoxin M1 in all milk samples analyzed in this study



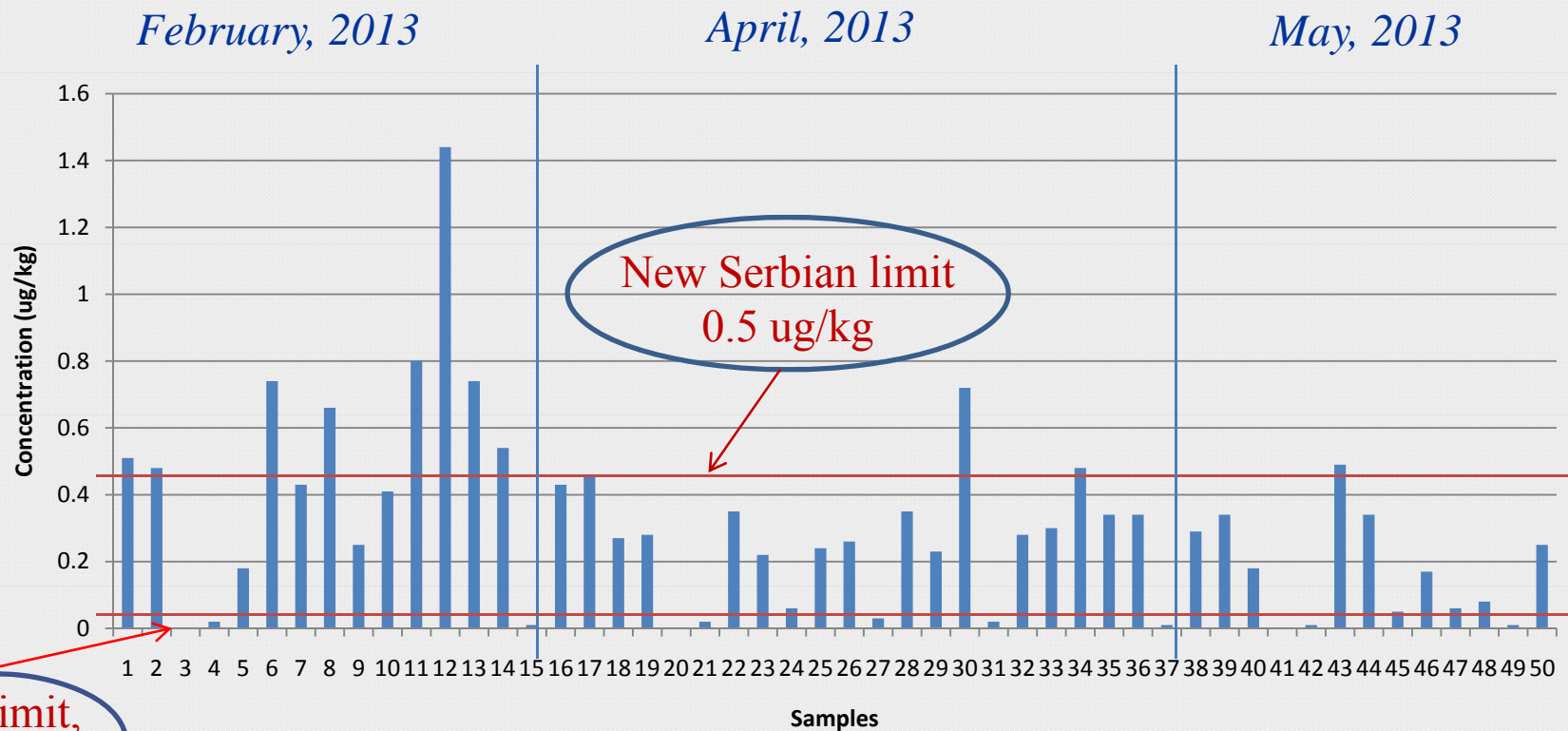
EU limit,  
 $0.05 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$

In February, 80% of the analyzed samples were significantly contaminated with AFM1 toxin with levels above  $0.05 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  set as maximum allowable concentration by EU.

Almost the same percentage of the positive samples with AFM1 above EU limit was obtained for samples taken in April.

Frequency of occurrence of AFM1 (69% of the analyzed samples) in investigated samples of milk collected in May was lower than for the investigated in February and April.

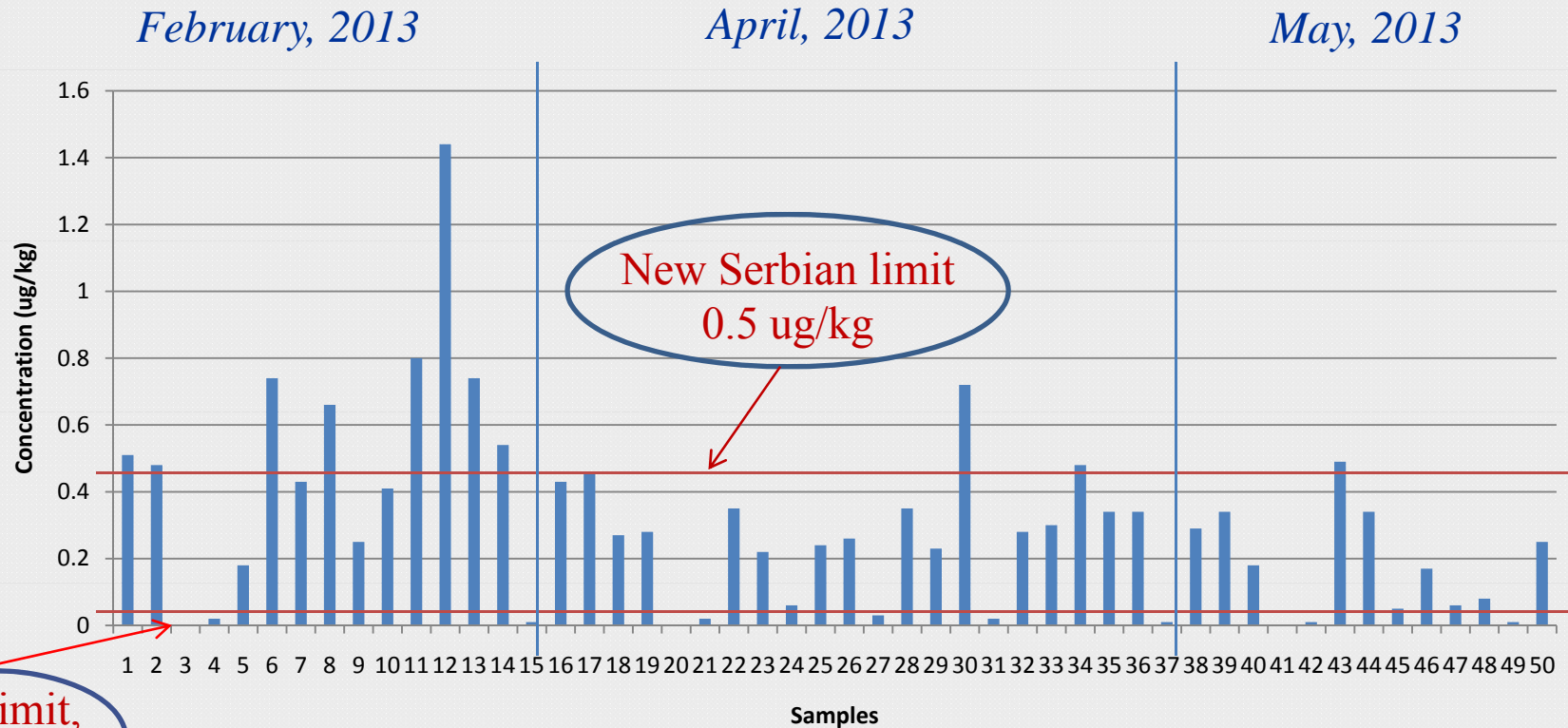
## Occurrence of Aflatoxin M1 in all milk samples analyzed in this study



The contamination levels of the AFM1 toxin in milk samples collected in February ranged from  $< \text{LOD}$  to  $1.44 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ , while concentration range of selected toxin in investigated samples of milk collected in April was from  $< \text{LOD}$  to  $0.72 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ .

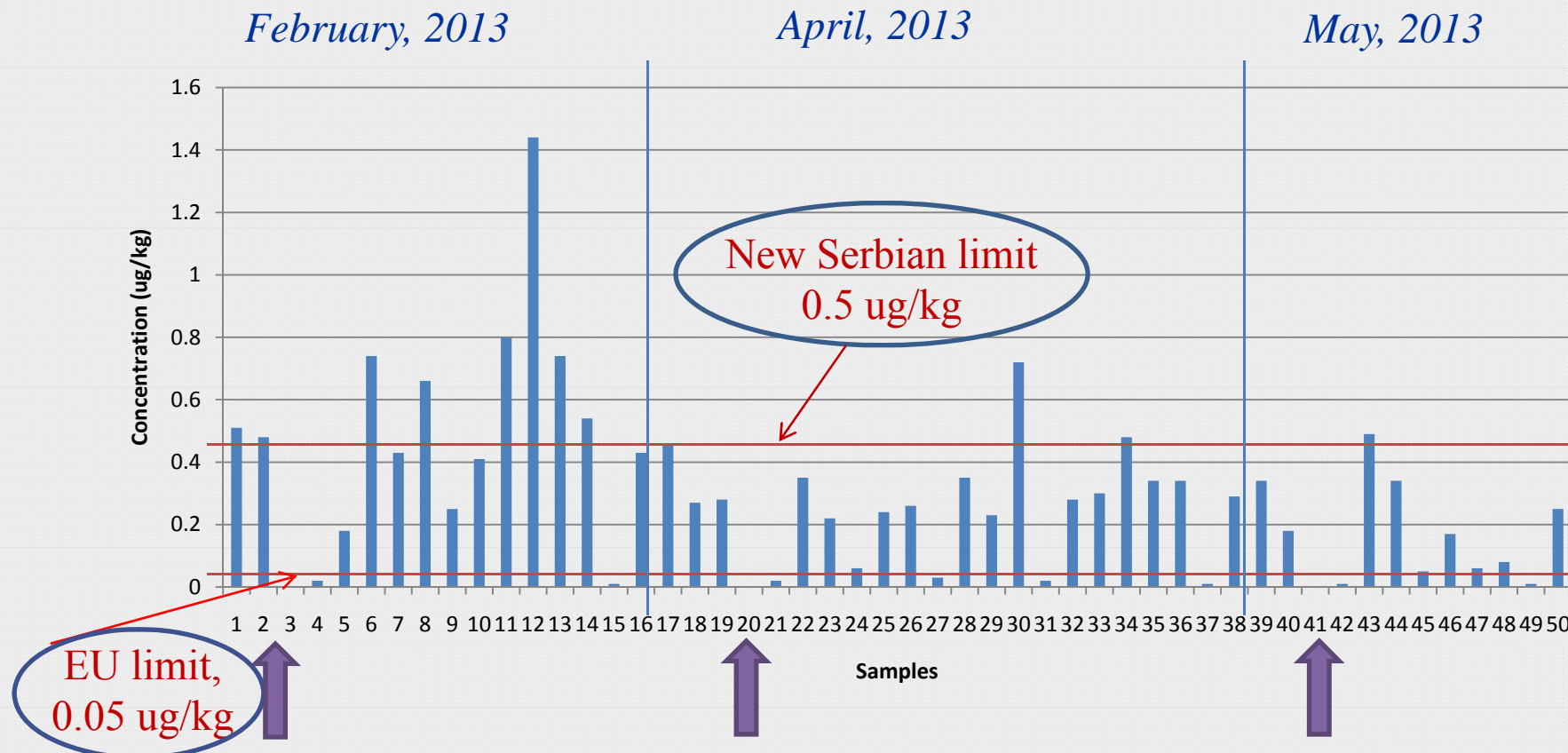
Remarkably, lower concentration range of AFM1 ( $< \text{LOD} - 0.49 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ ) in milk samples collected in May was obtained.

## Occurrence of Aflatoxin M1 in milk samples analyzed in this study



In total, only 12 samples out of 50 investigated milk samples were not contaminated taking into consideration level of  $0.05 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  sets by EU regulation. Considering the new value set for AFM1 by the Serbian regulation, only one of the investigated milk samples produced in Serbia and/or found in domestic market in April exceeded the limit of  $0.5 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ .

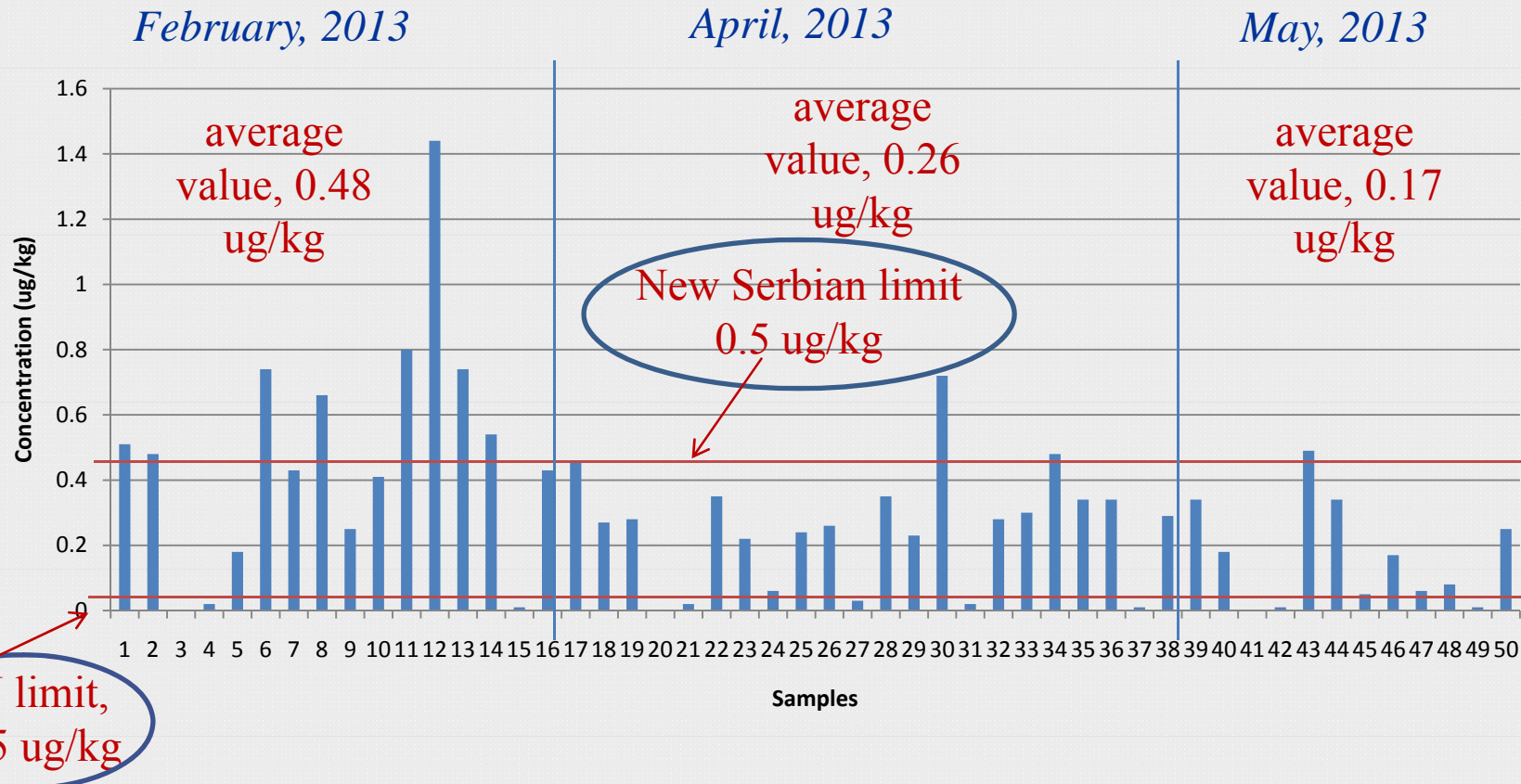
## Occurrence of Aflatoxin M1 in all milk samples analyzed in this study



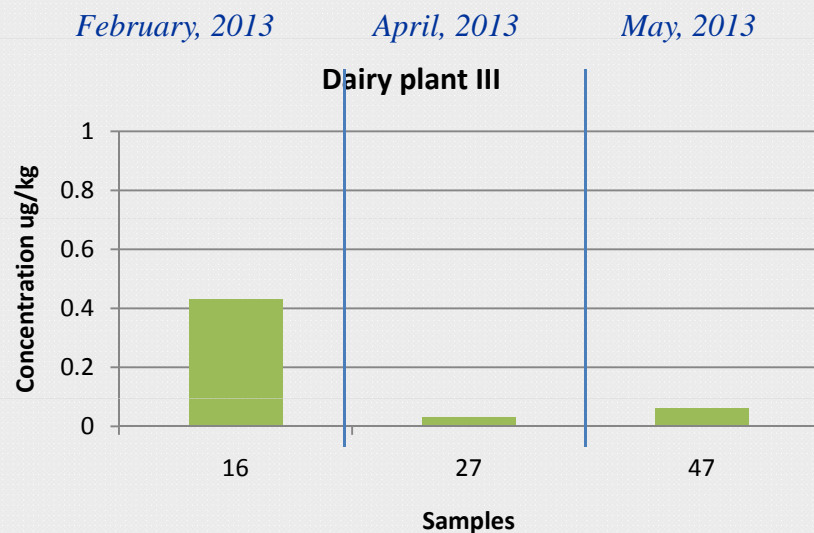
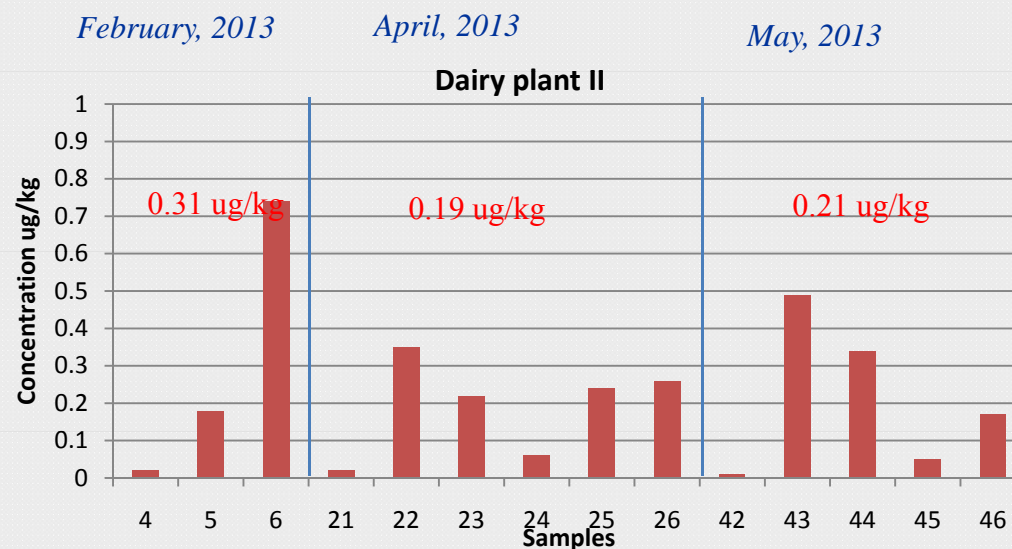
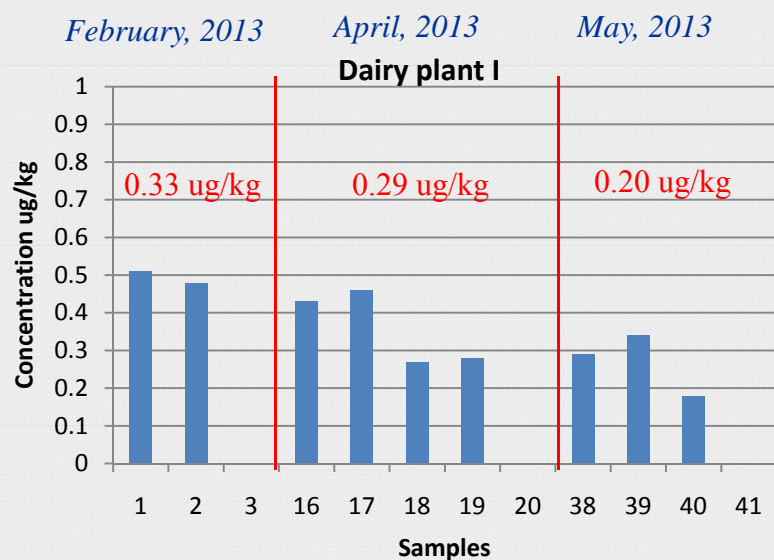
The lowest levels of AFM1 were determined in samples (no. 3, 20 and 41) of organic milk produced at the dairy plant I.

It is worth to note that organic milk from this dairy plant is the only commercially available organic milk in Serbia.

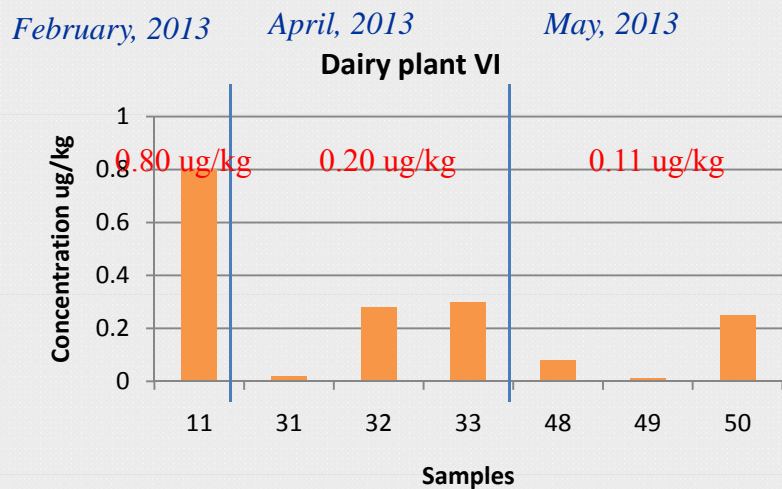
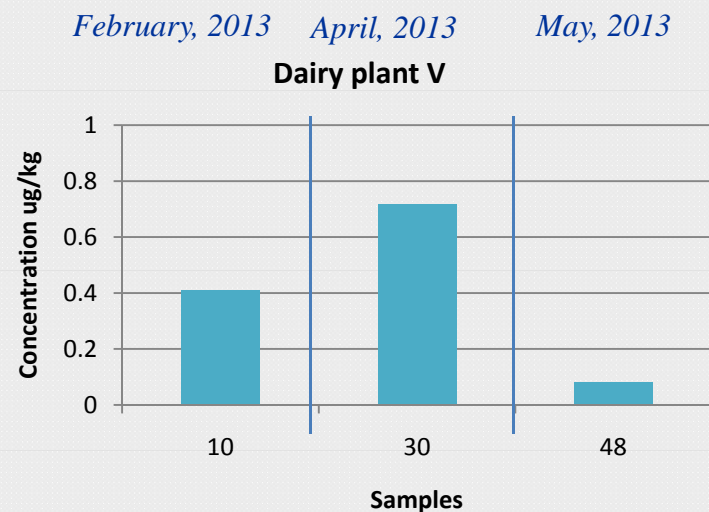
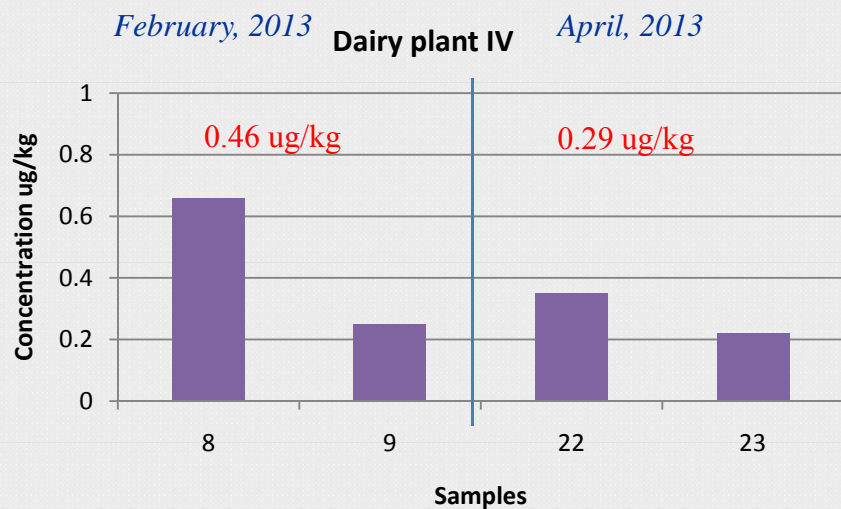
## Occurrence of Aflatoxin M1 in all milk samples analyzed in this study



The occurrence of AFM1 indicated that the level of this toxin was the highest during February followed by April and May; the average value of AFM1 in February samples was 0.48  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ , while in April and May, it was 0.26 and 0.17  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ , respectively.

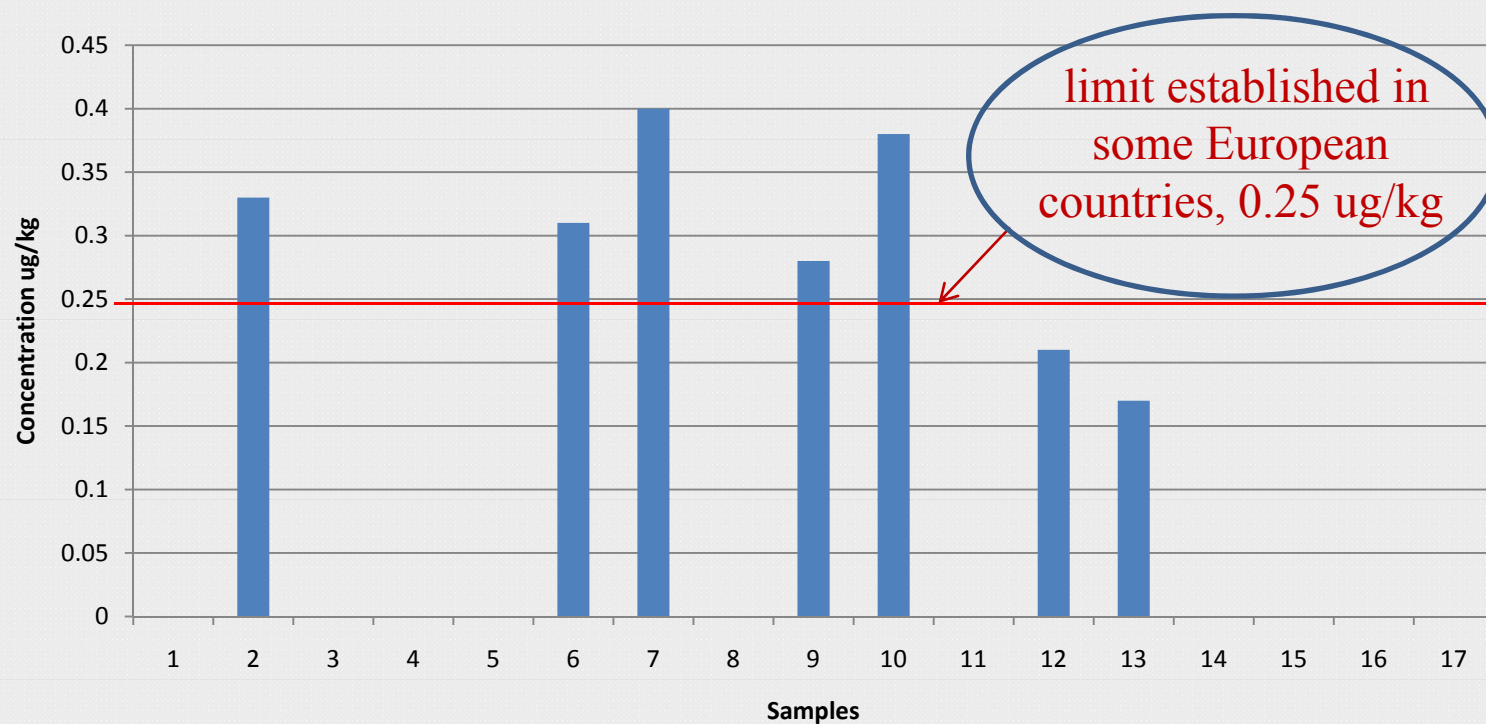


The similar trend of reducing average value from February to May could be seen also when the samples originating from each dairy plant were taken into account.



The only exception could be seen for dairy plant V but it could not be taken as representative for the following of the trend because only one sample per period was available.

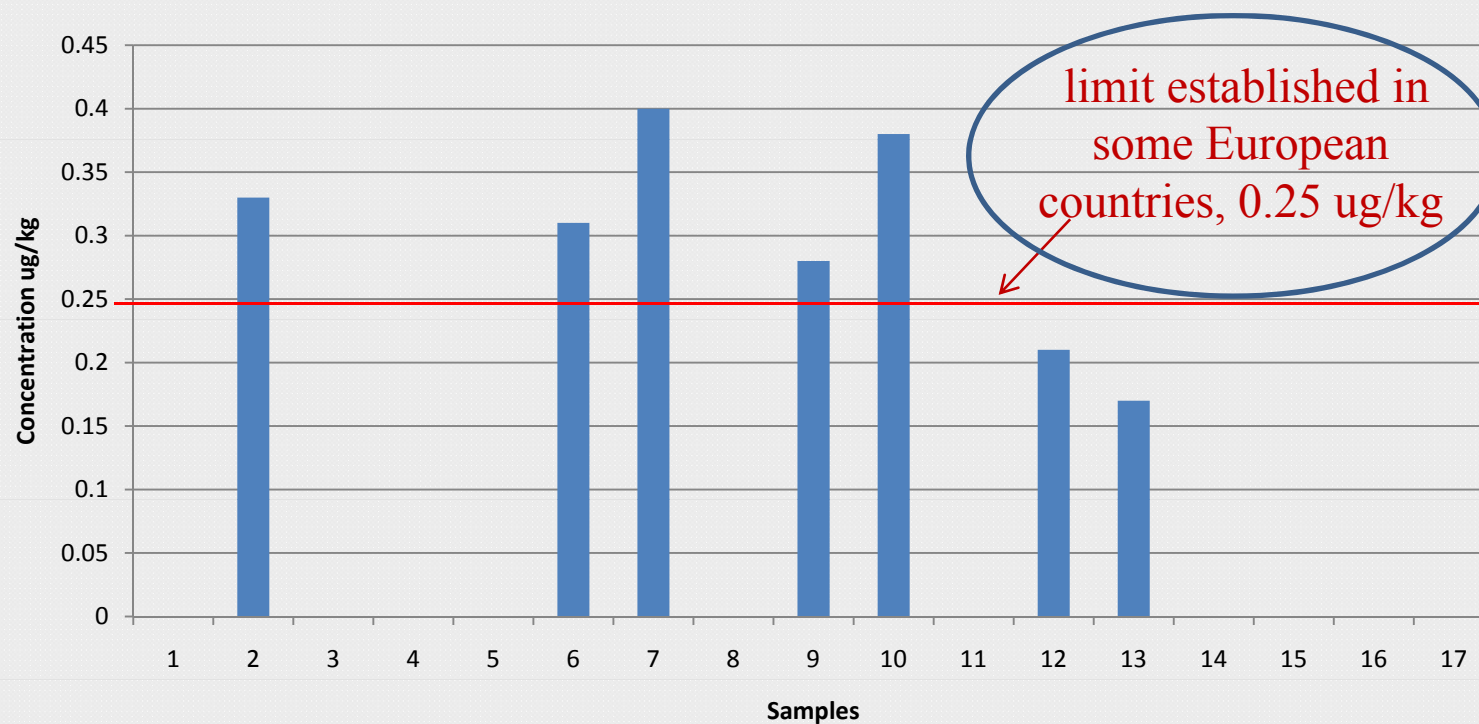
## Occurrence of Aflatoxin M1 in white cheese samples analyzed in this study



- ✓ It should be noted that regulations regarding AFM1 toxin in cheese have not yet been established by European Commission.
- ✓ However, the maximum acceptable level of AFM1 in cheeses in some European countries including Switzerland, France, Austria and Turkey has been established as 0.25  $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ .



## Occurrence of Aflatoxin M1 in white cheese samples analyzed in this study



The contamination levels of the AFM1 toxin in white cheese samples collected in Serbian market ranged from  $< \text{LOD}$  to  $0.40 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$ .

Frequency of occurrence of AFM1 in investigated samples of cheese with level above  $0.25 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$  was 39%.

## CONCLUSIONS

- *The obtained results indicate that the contamination of milk with AFM1 has the potential to be a serious public health problem in Serbia, particularly if the EU regulation would be taken into account.*



## CONCLUSIONS

**✘** *The high level of AFM1 in investigated samples of milk confirmed that constant monitoring throughout the milk production chain is necessary in order to minimize health risks related to the presence of this toxin in milk.*

## CONCLUSIONS

**✘** *Reducing the levels of AFM1 in milk can be achieved by the implementation of good agricultural and storage practices to control of AFs contamination feed supply chain*

*and*

**✘** *also by regulating stringent limits for AFs in feed and milk in Serbia.*





*Thank you for your kind attention!*