



Rodent Diets General Information

Zeigler provides a series of rodent diets with differing ingredient and nutrient concentrations to accommodate animal colonies maintained for the production and use in biomedical research or other commercial endeavors. Diets also differ in nutrient composition to accommodate rodents of different genotypes, and for differences in requirements during the life cycle: growth, reproduction, and maintenance.

Rodent Research Quality (RQ) Diets

Zeigler Rodent RQ Diets are fixed formula diets that provide those nutrients required for maximum reproductive performance in rat and mouse production and research colonies maintained in conventional environments. Zeigler Rodent RQ diets are “Closed Formula” or proprietary formula diets in that the quantitative ingredient concentrations are not readily available.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Open Formula Diets

Zeigler Rodent NIH Open Formula Diets were developed at NIH as standard reference diets for use throughout the biomedical research community. These diets are referred to as “Open Formula” diets because the quantitative ingredient composition is readily available. Zeigler was the first company to make the NIH diets commercially available approximately 35 years ago. Zeigler also manufactures and markets the National Toxicology Program 2000 Diet (NTP-2000), an open formula diet specifically formulated for the bioassay studies conducted for the NTP.

Diets Limited in Phytoestrogen Concentrations

The dietary concentrations of phytoestrogens are a concern in various toxicological and biomedical research programs. To accommodate the requirements of these programs, Zeigler nutritionists formulated diets with lower phytoestrogen concentrations. Zeigler modified the NIH diets to minimize the naturally occurring phytoestrogen contributions of soybean meal, soybean oil and alfalfa meal. The resulting formulations are offered to you as the Rodent Phytoestrogen Reduced diets.

Utilization of Rodent Diets

- Shelf Life:** Zeigler’s all natural ingredient rodent diets are formulated for a shelf life of six months after the date of manufacture, which is consistent with the recommendations in the NIH “Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.” Laboratory animal diets should be stored in cool, dry areas where the humidity is low in order to realize maximum shelf life. In addition, feed storage areas should be free of vermin and hazardous materials in order to prevent biological or chemical contaminations.
- Sizes:** Zeigler rodent diets are most frequently manufactured in binamic 8 pellets (5/8”-3/4” wide, 3/8”- 7/16” thick, 3/8”-1” long). These diets can also be manufactured into pellets of various other sizes, or in meal form, to accommodate specific customer requirements.
- Packaging:** Zeigler rodent diets are packaged in 3-ply laminated paper bags of varying weights to accommodate customer requirements.
- Feeding Instructions:** Zeigler rodent diets are formulated for ad libitum feeding. Adult rats will consume 15-20 grams of feed per day, while adult mice will consume 4-6 grams of feed per day. Clean, fresh water should be available ad libitum.