Reading a certificate of analysis

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What a lot certificate can tell a laboratory, and what it deliberately does not prove.

A certificate of analysis is a document tied to a lot. When Rierink has a file on record, the COA library shows the compound, the lot identifier, the retest date, and a link to that file. If a result such as a purity figure is printed on the document, it can be stored with the lot. If it is not, the field stays empty. We do not invent a number to fill a column.

Read the name, the lot, and the date first. Those three lines are what connect a vial in front of you to a piece of paper. A retest date is a statement about the document's review cycle, not a promise that a different vial, from a different lot, matches the tested sample.

A certificate is not a marketing licence. It does not turn a research material into a medicine, and it does not authorise human or veterinary use. Unless the document itself says so, it is not a sterility test, not an endotoxin test, and not a heavy-metals screen. An analytical laboratory such as the kind of independent HPLC work associated with public peptide testing tells you about the sample that was submitted. It does not, by itself, prove that every vial in a later shipment was the tested sample.

That limit is useful. It keeps the catalog honest. A pending file is shown as pending.

Receiving laboratories remain responsible for their own checks and for the use they make of the material. Rierink's briefings, including this one, do not provide reconstitution volumes, dosing, or administration guidance.

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