ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

67th Meeting of ACAF on 19 June 2015

Information Paper

EU AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Secretariat
June 2015

EU AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

1. This paper summaries the main developments in relation to EU legislation and related matters since the ACAF meeting held on 2 February 2015.

European Commission Regulation 225/2012

2. Negotiations continue in Brussels on the review of Commission Regulation 225/2012 regarding controls on oil and fat-derived products used as feed materials. Discussions continue for Member State agreement of explicit definitions of batching, blending and categorisation of oils and fats. It is agreed testing frequencies of high risk products (e.g. deo-distillates) for dioxins and PCBs remain at 100%; whilst debate surrounds testing lower risk products, based on (representative) biannual sampling or monitored through individual HACCP plans. The testing of feed additives has fallen both within and outwith the scope of mandatory testing over recent months. The latest position (April 2015) is that tocopherols (vitamin E) are re-introduced into mandatory testing requirements, whilst other feed additives remain exempt. The Secretariat will keep the Committee informed of further developments as this is still a rapidly changing Regulation review.

European Commission Regulation 2015/327

3. On 2 March 2015 Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/327 was introduced which amended Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition. The amendments concern requirements for the placing on the market and conditions of use of additives consisting of preparations. The FSA is putting in hand an amendment to the Animal Feed (Composition, Marketing and Use) Regulations 2015, to enable the new labelling requirements to be enforceable.

4. Some additives authorised under Regulation 1831/2003 are ‘preparations’, which means the active additive has been mixed with other technological additives or other substances, which are not themselves intended to have a function in the feed - for example, they may assist stability or functionality of the active additive by improving homogeneity or ‘flowability’.

5. The new amendments are intended to bring better transparency through the labelling requirements - enabling verification that technological additives are for a particular function only.

Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed (SCoPAFF): Animal Nutrition Section

Feed additive authorisations January to April 2015

6. The January 2015 meeting was cancelled. There were fourteen votes in favour of European Commission proposals for feed additive authorisations at the February, March and April 2015 Standing Committee meetings. These are summarised in Annex I.

7. The future authorisation of formaldehyde is reaching a critical time period with a transitional period from the Biocides Regulations coming to an end on 1 July 2015. The discussion on formaldehyde has centred on its classification as a carcinogen, and the European Commission's intention that all such dangerous products become ever increasingly restricted in their use. In terms of the animal feed sector, the UK has worked closely with stakeholders to maximise the medium-term future of formaldehyde by supporting actions to ensure worker safety and maintaining momentum for industries that are currently heavily reliant on this product. This is also a fast-moving issue, with the latest proposal for (curative applications only) following the identification of *Salmonella* (and potentially wider *Enterobacteriacae*). Critically, the authorisation route will be discussed in upcoming meetings and will focus on whether to authorise for the full ten year period or through alternative tools for a shorter timeline. The Secretariat will also keep the Committee informed of further developments.

8. Other authorisations of significance include the fate of Toyocerin. The latest position of the European Commission was to repeal this product; although this has recently been challenged by the manufacturer and is scheduled for further discussion in June.

9. As the UK population may be under-nourished in respect of trace minerals, this proves an ongoing issue at Commission level where many other Member States seek to lower maximum permitted levels (MPLs) of these trace elements in animal feeds. The UK abstained from the vote in February 2015 on the authorisation of selenomethionine, which introduced a lower level of organic selenium. However, the UK negotiated maintaining MPLs for iodine-based additives in feed for certain food-producing animal categories (ruminants and laying hens) and reversed the decision to lower MPLs for pet species. There are further discussions scheduled for the trace elements zinc and copper at the June SCoPAFF meeting.

10. The Commission is also at the early stages of drafting definitions of new functional groups for feed additives; this will also extend to feed additives in drinking water, in due course.

Undesirable substances in feed

11. The removal of MPLs for nitrites in all feed materials under Commission Directive 2002/32/EC was agreed in principle by Member States, as these are not considered to be proportionate to the risk to consumers or to target species. However, a letter recently submitted to the European Commission by a representative organisation of the food/feed-producing sector raised concerns about implementing change through Commission Recommendations. Therefore, alternative legislative tools will be discussed later in the year.

12. Mycotoxin issues have been tabled a number of times over the last quarter. Most notably relating to high levels of *Fusarium* toxins observed in 2014 in maize harvests. Following on from previous discussions over masked mycotoxins, the Commission's 2016 feed and food work plan will include EURL method development and proficiency testing for multi-component masked mycotoxin analysis. As highlighted by research presented by FEDIAF, the European Commission is now exploring the potential for establishing threshold levels for a wider range of mycotoxins (beyond aflatoxin B_1) in pet food.

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

13. EFSA's FEEDAP Panel[1] continues to assess feed additive applications for authorisation and re-authorisation. The Panel's assessments are published as scientific opinions on FEEDAP's webpage:
    http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/panels/feedap.htm

14. FEEDAP's most recent meeting was held in Barcelona, on 5-6 May 2015 – A Technical Meeting with Stakeholders on Feed Additives Applications. The agenda for the meeting and individual presentations can be accessed via:
    http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/event/150506a.htm

15. The CONTAM Panel[2] of EFSA provides scientific advice concerning the presence of contaminants in both feed and food. The Panel's advice can be obtained via its webpage:
    http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/panels/contam.htm

[1] FEEDAP - Panel on Additives and Products or Substances used in Animal Feed
[2] The Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain

16. In April 2015 CONTAM published its scientific opinion on the risks to animal and public health and the environment related to the presence of nickel in feed. The CONTAM panel concluded that an adverse impact from nickel exposure via feed to animal species was unlikely. However, the panel also concluded their assessment of human health risks from the presence of nickel in food of animal origin may be of some concern in the young children; particularly toddlers. The CONTAM report can be accessed via:

    http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/4074.htm

ANNEX I – SCOPAFF FEED ADDITIVE AUTHORISATIONS

Feed additive votes:

There was no SCoPAFF AN meeting held in January 2015.

February 2015

Additive	Additive type	Proposal number	Authorisation type
selenomethionine produced from *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (NCYC R645)	Nutritional	SANCO/12480/2014	new
Preparation of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (NCYC R404)	Zootechnical	SANCO/12521/2014	new
Enterococcus faecium (NCIMB 10415)	Zootechnical	SANCO/12708/2014	new

March 2015

Additive	Additive type	Proposal number	Authorisation type
(Vitamin A) Retinyl acetate, Retinyl palmitate Retinyl propionate	Nutritional	SANCO/12776/2014	Re-authorisation/ new*
Taurine	Nutritional	SANCO/12781/2014	Re-authorisation/ new*
L-carnitine, L-carnitine L-tartrate	Nutritional	SANCO/12784/2014	Re-authorisation/ new*
Bioitin	Nutritional	SANCO/12821/2014	Re-authorisation/ new*
Endo-1,4- beta-xylanase and endo-l,3(4)-beta-glucanase	Zootechnical	SANTE/12520/2015	New

** Re-authorisation of existing application (1831/2003 Article 10(2)) with co-application for additional scope (Article 10(7)).*

April 2015

Additive	Additive type	Proposal number	Authorisation type
Potassium iodide, calcium iodate anhydrous and coated granulated calcium iodate anhydrous	Nutritional	SANCO/12773/2014	Re-authorisation/ new*
Beta-carotene	Nutritional	SANTE/10065/2015	Re-authorisation
Thiamine hydrochloride and thiamine mononitrate	Nutritional	SANTE/10025/2015	Re-authorisation/ new*
Tocopherol extracts from vegetable oils, tocopherol rich	Nutritional	SANTE/10014/2015	Re-authorisation

extracts from vegetable oils (delta rich) and alpha-tocopherol			
Ascorbic acid, sodium ascorbyl phosphate, sodium calcium ascorbyl phosphate, sodium ascorbate, calcium ascorbate and ascorbyl palmitate	Nutritional	SANTE/10026/2015	Re-authorisation/ new*
Alpha-galactosidase and endo-1,4-beta-glucanase	Nutritional	SANCO/12707/2014	Re-authorisation/ new*

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