

THE EC FEED HYGIENE REGULATION

RECORD-KEEPING REQUIREMENTS FOR FARMERS

The EC Feed Hygiene Regulation¹ was introduced in 2006 to help ensure that feed provided to animals is safe and thus livestock products (milk, meat and eggs) do not pose a risk to human health. The Regulation applies to most farms that feed livestock and farms that produce crops for use as animal feed.

The Regulation requires farmers to follow appropriate hygiene procedures to ensure that hazards are properly controlled. These are complementary to the standards that apply to the production of food and which are set out in legislation on food hygiene²

Record-keeping

The Regulation also requires farmers to carry out a certain amount of record-keeping. Accurate record-keeping is important so that if a feed or food-related problem occurs its origins can be quickly identified, and it can be handled with minimal disruption to the farm business.

Guidance on maintaining records

The record-keeping requirements that farmers must follow are shown on page 4 of this leaflet. This guidance provides advice on how farmers can keep records to comply with the legislation without duplication or unnecessary input and how, in many cases, it should be possible to use existing documentation rather than create new records. Guidance on the specific requirements is set out below.

(a) Any use of plant protection products and biocides

This covers the application of pesticides or herbicides to crops intended to be used or sold as feeds. This includes applications for both prevention and treatment.

This requirement also covers biocides such as products to disinfect equipment in contact with feed, and areas where animals are kept or transported.

To comply with this requirement you are advised to keep a record of:

- the product name and batch number ;
- the date purchased;
- the date used and crops or other surfaces or equipment treated; and
- rates of treatment.

Names of products and batch numbers should be found on product labels and these labels can be retained to help fulfil this record-keeping requirement. A suggested format for recording information is also set out in the Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products, Annex F³ issued by the Health and Safety Executive but note that this includes the recording of some items that are not necessary to comply with the Feed Hygiene Regulation.

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2005:035:0001:0022:EN:PDF>

² <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/hiojregulation.pdf> (this is EC Regulation 852/2004 –see Annex I, Part III of this Regulation for the record-keeping requirements for primary producers).

³ http://www.pesticides.gov.uk/safe_use.asp?id=64

(b) Use of genetically modified (GM) seeds

Keep a record of:

- the variety and amount of any GM seeds bought and planted for feed crops

(Note, however that in the UK, at the present time, no GM seeds are currently authorised for commercial planting).

(c) Any occurrence of pests and diseases that may affect the safety of primary products.

The presence of certain pests (e.g. vermin) and diseases of crops (including mycotoxins) can adversely affect the safety of livestock and livestock products and records should be maintained of such occurrences⁴.

(Advice on keeping records of steps taken to prevent or remedy such occurrences are set out in Sections a) above and the Section on *Records on measures to control hazards* below).

(d) The results of any laboratory analyses on samples of feedingstuffs that may have importance for food or feed safety.

This might include analyses for contaminants such as aflatoxins, heavy metals (lead, mercury etc) or prohibited materials such as meat and bone meal.

To fulfil this requirement it should only be necessary to retain a copy of the analysis supplied by the laboratory and link it to details of the feed (see (e) below).

(If you find feed to be contaminated you should not use it and must take steps to protect the feed and food chain and inform your local authority of the matter).

e) The source and quantity of each input of feed and destination and quantity for each output of feed

Keep a record of:

<i>Feeds purchased</i>	<i>Feeds sold</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Type (e.g. compound feed , barley)• Quantity• Supplier• Batch number(s)• Date received	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Type• Quantity• Identity of person/business supplied• Date Sold

This information should usually be available as part of a business's normal accounting procedures and found in invoices, receipts and feed labels.

Records on measures to control hazards

The Regulation includes a general requirement for farmers to keep measures put in place to control hazards. It may be that for many farms the records maintained to comply with the

⁴ Annex I , Part III, of the Food Hygiene Regulation requires farmers to keep records of veterinary medicinal products or other treatments administered to animals. Other veterinary legislation also requires records to be kept of veterinary medicinal products.

requirements at Sections (a) – (e) above cover many of the measures put in place to control hazards relating to feed.

Please retain any additional documentation that demonstrates where specific hazards have been addressed. This might include, for example, papers from contractors that a pest control system has been implemented or building work has been undertaken or materials has been purchased to protect supplies of feed.

Format and availability of records

The above guidance emphasises that, as far as possible, existing documents will be sufficient as the basis of records. It is not intended that it should replace any existing systems that farmers have in place and which fulfil other requirements (e.g. to fulfil the requirements of farm assurance schemes). Both paper and electronic records are acceptable. The important point is that the records should be readily available for checks by inspectors responsible for feed controls.

To help you keep records you may wish to use the 'Farm Notes' booklet which is available from : Anthony Higgins, Food Standards Agency, 10A-C Clarendon Road, Belfast BT1 3B6, email : anthony.higgins@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk, telephone: 028 9041 7761.

In certain cases, third parties may hold copies of relevant records (e.g. your feed supplier or laboratories). However, it is your responsibility to ensure any details are available for inspection.

How long do you need to keep records ?

This will depend on the livestock species for which the feed is used, and the length of the production cycle. As a general rule they should be retained until the products (milk, meat or eggs) have been consumed. For some livestock enterprises (e.g. broilers) it may only be necessary to keep records for a few months; whilst for beef farmers it may be necessary to retain records for up to two years. You should also remember that livestock products may be stored for some time – either frozen or as a processed product – before being consumed.

Further information

If you would like further information on the requirements of the Feed Hygiene Regulation go to the Food Standards Agency's website at:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2005/l_035/l_03520050208en00010022.pdf

Or contact : Ned Mazhar
Animal Feed Unit
Food Standards Agency
3c Aviation House
125 Kingsway
London WC2B 6NH

Email: nader.mazhar@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 7276 8609

We welcome feedback on this guidance which can be sent to the contact details above.

EXTRACT FROM THE EC FEED HYGIENE REGULATION (183/2005)

(ANNEX I, SECTION II)

Record-keeping Requirements for Primary Producers

1. Feed business operators shall keep records relating to measures put in place to control hazards, in an appropriate manner and for an appropriate period, commensurate with the nature and size of the feed business. Feed business operators must make relevant information contained in these records available to the competent authority.

2. Feed business operators must, in particular, keep records on:

- (a) any use of plant protection products and biocides;
- (b) use of genetically modified seeds;
- (c) any occurrence of pests or diseases that may affect the safety of primary products;
- (d) the results of any analyses carried out on samples taken from primary products or other samples taken for diagnostic purposes that have importance for feed safety;
- (e) the source and quantity of each input of feed and the destination and quantity for each output of feed.

3. Other persons, such as veterinarians, agronomists and farm technicians, may assist the feed business operators with the keeping of records relevant to the activities they carry out on the farm.

Farms that buy-in additives and premixture products (e.g. vitamins A and D and trace elements (copper, selenium, zinc etc) and add them to feeds have to follow different requirements that are set out in Annex II of EC Regulation 183/2005.

A number of types of farms are exempt from the requirements of EC Regulation 183/2005. This includes those engaged in the feeding of food-producing animals kept for private domestic consumption and the feeding of animals not kept for food production. A complete list of exemptions is shown at Article 2.2 of the Regulation.