

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

57th Meeting of ACAF on 7 March 2012

Information Paper

EU AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Secretariat: February 2012

EU AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

1. This paper outlines the main developments in relation to EU legislation and related matters since the ACAF meeting held on 14 December 2011.

Official feed and food controls – Regulation (EC) No 882/2004

Feed Hygiene - Amendment to Regulation 183/2005

2. The Committee may recall the contamination incident in Germany in December 2010-January 2011, in which approximately 500 metric tonnes of fatty acids of vegetable origin were contaminated with dioxins and PCBs above the legally permitted maxima. By the time this was ascertained, the contaminated fats had been sold on for use in compound feed for pigs and poultry, and the resulting feed distributed to farms across northern Germany, with small quantities also sent to farms in Denmark and France. Quarantine restrictions were placed on all the farms concerned, on all products (feed and food) that were potentially contaminated, and on all businesses which might have handled the contaminated feed and food. Subsequent investigation found that the contamination was attributable to a batch of fatty acids derived from the production of biofuels which were both intended and labelled for technical uses only (i.e., not for feed and food use). It therefore appeared that the contaminated fats had been diverted, either fraudulently or negligently, into the feed and food chains in Germany.
3. The Commission considered that this incident exposed a need to strengthen the controls on the processors and blenders of fats and oils, to ensure that they have the correct procedures and equipment in place for the safe handling of these materials, and to require their testing prior to use. The Commission's proposal, to amend Regulation 183/2005 on feed hygiene, was first discussed in March 2011 and went through a number of iterations as negotiations progressed. Its chief elements included the approval, rather than the registration, of feed business operators processing and blending fats and oils of vegetable origin; requirements for the transport and storage of these fats and oils; requirements for their monitoring for the presence of contaminants above the legally permitted maxima; and a requirement for laboratories which undertook sampling and analysis of these fats and oils to report breaches of the permitted maxima to the competent authorities.
4. The UK supported the general thrust of this proposed amendment, but considered the requirement for 100% monitoring of all batches of fats and oils, irrespective of their source or potential use, to be disproportionate. The Commission subsequently agreed that monitoring and testing should be focused on high risk materials. The amended proposal was adopted by qualified majority vote at the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health on 21 November 2011, with the UK voting in favour. The

proposal is now with the European Parliament for its scrutiny. Once adopted, it is anticipated that Member States will have a period of six months to implement its provisions.

5. Approval requires a physical inspection of a feed business operator's premises to ensure that it has the procedures and equipment in place for the safe handling of these materials, and is capable of undertaking its activities to the standards required. Approval of feed business establishments also requires the payment of a fee to cover the costs of inspection by the competent authority. The Food Standards Agency expects to consult formally later this year on the level of fee to be charged.

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)

6. EFSA has recently published an Opinion concerning the presence of the mycotoxins T-2 and HT-2 in feed and food.

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/2481.pdf>

7. With regard to the presence of these substances in animal feed EFSA is of the view that:
 - (a) human exposure to these substances is almost entirely via food derived from non-animal sources; and
 - (b) there is a relatively low risk that the presence of these substances in feed would cause animal health or welfare problems.
8. While it might be appropriate for the EU to set limits for food to help protect consumer safety, it would not appear to be proportionate to the risk to consumers to set maximum levels for feed.
9. The EFSA Opinion was discussed briefly at the SCoFCAH meeting of 19/20 January 2011. The initial conclusion was that it might be appropriate to set guidance values for T-2 and HT-2 in an amendment to Commission Recommendation 2006/576/EC.

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2006:229:0007:0009:EN:PDF>

10. These guidance values would not be statutory maximum limits, but would provide a guide as to maximum levels that would be acceptable for animal welfare. The Commission Recommendation already sets guidance values for other mycotoxins (e.g. ochratoxin A).

11. EFSA's CONTAM Panel has also published the results of a survey of the presence of ergot alkaloids in feed- and food-grade cereals sampled between August 2010 and May 2011.

<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2482.htm>

12. Perhaps surprisingly, the highest frequencies of contamination were found in cereals for human consumption. However, the highest levels of ergot alkaloids were found in consignments (particularly rye) intended for feed use.

Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health (SCoFCAH): Animal Nutrition Section.

Feed additives

13. There were seven votes in favour of European Commission proposals concerning feed additive authorisations. These are summarised in the tables below.

Feed additive authorisations from SCoFCAH - December 2011

Additive	Proposal	Type of authorisation	Target species	Additive type
6-phytase (from <i>Pichia pastoris</i> DSM 23036)	SANCO/12619/2011	New	Certain poultry, piglets, pigs for fattening and sows.	Digestibility enhancer
<i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i> DSM 8866	SANCO/12620/2011	New	All species	Silage agent
<i>Bacillus subtilis</i> CBS 117162	SANCO/12343/2011	New	Weaned piglets, pigs for fattening	Gut flora stabiliser
Lasalocid A, Robenidine, Maduramicin, Salinomycin.	SANCO/12755/2011	Change of authorisation holder	Certain poultry	Coccidiostats

Feed additive authorisations from SCoFCAH - January 2012

Additive	Proposal	Type of authorisation	Target species	Additive type
Caraway oil, lemon oil, certain herbs	SANCO/12890/2011	New	Weaned piglets	Zootechnical
Sodium bisulphate	SANCO/12889/2011	New	Non-food producing animals	Flavour and acidifying agent
Monensin sodium (Coxidin)	SANCO/12887/2011	Extension	Chickens reared for laying	Coccidiostat

Undesirable substances in feed

14. The following possible amendments to the controls on undesirable substances (contaminants) in animal feed have been identified:

Proposed changes to controls on undesirable substances

Product	Substance	Current limit (mg/kg)	Change to (mg/kg)	Comments
Calcium and magnesium carbonate	Arsenic	2	15	
Calcium and magnesium carbonate	Fluorine	150	350	
Calcium and magnesium carbonate	Lead	10	20	
Calcium and magnesium carbonate	Mercury	0.1	0.3	
Natrolith-phonolith	Lead	30	60	
Complete fish feed for salmonids	Endosulfan	0.005	0.05	
Feed materials	Seeds from <i>Ambrosia spp</i>	5 - 200	No change	Use of non-compliant feed to be allowed where milling destroys viable

				<i>Ambrosia</i> seeds.
Complete and complementary feed for pet animals containing marine-sourced feed materials	Arsenic	2 - 4	10	
Dicopper chloride trihydroxide	Arsenic	30	50	
Crustacean meal	dioxins	1.25*	1.75*	* Limits given as ng WHO-TEQ/kg
Withdrawal feed for pheasants, guinea fowl, quails and partridges	Lasalocid sodium	N/A	1.25	

**ACAF Secretariat
February 2012**