AC-03

Ver 1.3

Trade in Animal Feed

Feed Chain Alliance
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DOCUMENT HISTORY

Revision and approval date	Reason for the revision	Revision scope	Ultimate application date
0.0 03/07/2008	Simplification of structure	Entire document	01/01/2009
0.1 04/08/2008	Royal Decree of 01/07/08 modifying Royal Decree of February 21, 2006, laying down the conditions for approval and authorization of feed business establisments (BS/Mb (= Belgian Official Journal) 23/07/08) (modification of annex IV to the Royal Decree of 21/02/06)	Point 10: the placing on the market of animal feed considered to be critical	01/01/2009
0.2 22/12/2008	Better definition of the application scope: storage of primary products originating from farmers	Point 2.1.	01/01/2009
	Inventory of statutory analysis	Point 7.1.	
	Clarification of legal requirements (“medicated animal feed » and « animal feed considered critical »)	Point 10.1	
1.0 09/08/2012	Approval of version 2.0 included in the Auto-control Guide - Animal feed G-001	Entire document	09/11/2012
1.1 23/08/2013	Application of Commission regulation (EU) No 225/2012 and of the Royal Decree of 21/02/2006	Points 6, 7, 8 & 10	22/11/2013
1.2 23/12/2015	Modification to obtain consistency with the English and French versions (this amendment relates only to the Dutch version)	Point 7.1	23/12/2015
	Publication of Regulation (EU) 2015/1905 (amendment of Regulation (EC) 183/2005)	Points 8 & 10	
1.3 21/10/2016	New lay-out	Entire document	21/10/2016

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AC-03: Trade in Animal Feed

1. Introduction

This chapter focuses on the specific food safety aspects upon trade in feed, namely:

- Feed materials;
- Additives;
- Pre-mixtures;
- Compound feed.

2. Scope

Traders in animal feed must comply with provisions included in document 'AC-03: Trade in Animal Feed'. Usually a trader in animal feed also takes care of storage- and transshipment of these products.

Storage and drying activities, related, in particular, to collection and drying of cereals, oilseeds and protein seeds, are also part of the scope of this document.

A trader in animal feed, also may receive and store primary products originating from primary producers (third parties) having the intention of placing these products on the market, as instructed by the primary producer.

These activities are also covered by this document.

If the trader also provides services such as storage and transshipment of animal feed intended for third parties, he must, in particular, respect the provisions included in document 'AC-04: Storage and Transshipment of Animal Feed'. A trader is an operator placing feed produced by third parties on the market.

When a trader produces animal feed he must apply the provisions included in document 'AC-02: Production of Animal Feed'.

Road transport activities, performed by the trader, must take place in accordance with provisions included in document 'AC-05: Road transport of Animal Feed'.

Example of application scope for a feed trader
A trader should apply documents 'AC-00: Introduction', 'AC-01: General Provisions' and 'AC-03: Trade in Animal Feed'. His storage and transshipment activities are also covered by these documents. For his road transport activities, the trader applies document 'AC-05: Road transport of animal feed'.
If the trader provides facilities for the storing and transshipment of feed intended for third parties, he must, in addition, apply the provisions indicated in document 'AC-04: Storage and Transshipment of animal Feed'.
During harvest, a trader receives and stores cereals, produced by local farmers. If the delivered cereals contain a too high humidity level, and if considered necessary, the trader will proceed with the drying of cereals (in function of cereals and of trader's equipment). Subsequently these cereals are placed on the market, as instructed by the primary producer in order to proceed with the sale. Trader must apply documents 'AC-00: Introduction', 'AC-01: General provisions' and

‘AC-03: Trade in animal feed’.

Companies, trading animal feed containing animal by-products, must also comply with the requirements indicated in document ‘AT-11: Animal By-Products’.

Certain requirements included in technical documents of the AT-series must be considered within the company’s organization, and will become applicable as soon as a number of trade activities are performed:

- ‘AT-01: Legislation’;
- ‘AT-02: Notification requirement’;
- ‘AT-03: Table of Standard levels, Action thresholds and notification limits’;
- ‘AT-04: Practical realization of the HACCP plan’;
- ‘AT-05: Monitoring’;
- ‘AT-09: Mycotoxin control;
- ‘AT-10: Salmonella control’.

3. Product specifications

For all commercialized animal feed, the trader should have ‘product specifications’. At least requirements from the legislation (see ‘AT-01: Legislation’) should be respected.

Per product or product group there should be a product description showing sensitivity to food safety risks. The description, should consider the components forming the product (e.g. feed materials, additives and pre-mixtures) up and till distribution of the product.

The “product” specification sheets must, at least contain:

- Characteristics of the product;
- Characteristics for use.

Characteristics of the product should at least contain a description of:

- General data (name, code, etc.);
- Composition (chemical, physical, microbiological);
- Raw materials and auxiliary materials used;
- Standards (Legislation, Regulations, agreements with purchasers) and tolerances;
- Other characteristics (e.g. packaging).

Characteristics for use should at least contain a description of:

- Storage and conservation conditions;
- Transport and delivery conditions;
- Validity, if applicable.

Specifications can be drawn up per product group. Product group means a group of similar products (e.g. soya press cake: soy 44, soy 48 and soy 50).

Products belonging to one and the same product group may have:

- Been derived from a similar process;
- The same origin;
- A similar composition;

- A common destination (target animal).

Therefore it is important that specific differences between individual products within the same product group, are examined critically.

The trader must assess whether the product specifications have been met. The assessment should be performed in the company upon arrival of the feed.

The product specifications for compound feed, pre-mixtures and additives should be identical for incoming as well as outgoing products. As regards feed materials, the specifications of incoming and outgoing products may differ (e.g. feed materials (cereals, protein and oilseed crops) if dried)).

Production of feed by a third party on behalf of the company.

A company might want to develop his own range of feed but doesn't have the equipment to do it himself. He will outsource the manufacturing steps to a producer, but will ensure, the distribution, himself.

If a trader wishes to have feed manufactured by a third party, he must ensure the legislation in force is applied (e.g. the manufacturer has the required approval) (see point 4).

When he himself takes charge of the formulation or labeling, he should refer to requirements associated with these steps, specified in document 'AC-02: Production of animal feed'.

4. Purchase

Purchase of products is done based on the product specifications.

European establishments of feed suppliers must conforming the European Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 laying down requirements for feed hygiene, be registered and approved.

In Belgium, there is an intermediate level between registration and approval, as laid down in the European Regulation (EC) No 183/2005: the authorization. This level is described in the Royal Decree of January 16, 2006, laying down requirements for approvals, authorizations and registrations issued by the FASFC (Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain) (see 'AT-01: Legislation').

A Belgian establishment of a product or service supplier should be approved, authorized or registered depending on the company's activities.

An evaluation of the supplier may prove to be a relevant measure to ensure the food safety and the quality of purchased products and services.

5. Reception

Upon reception, one shall check whether these products are satisfying the requirements laid down. Accompanying documents and analysis documents must be verified (e.g. for animal feed considered to be critical).

All products present in a company, are deemed to be kept, unless evidence to the contrary, in view of trading or use (possibly after processing) of animal feed within Belgium.

The products should always comply with legal requirements of the country of destination (e.g. labeling). If the country of destination is unknown, in that case the product should comply with the legal requirements of the country where the products have been stored.

Upon reception of animal feed must be subject to an entry control (e.g. odor, color, structure, moisture content, temperature). Packaged products should be checked for damage.

There should be a procedure in place, describing the way as to how to handle products not complying with the requirements (e.g. refusal, acceptance under certain conditions, to give another destination) and should be applied if necessary.

Upon reception of feed materials, additives, pre-mixtures and compound feed, the company must keep a register in which the following data is recorded:

- Name of product;
- Name and address of supplier;
- Date of reception;
- Quantity;
- Batch number supplier;
- Validity date, if applicable.

6. Storage and other processes

6.1. Storage of animal feed

All products, bulk or bagged, shall be stored in such a way:

- As to be easily identifiable;
- That they are physically separated from other products;
- Mix-up with other products is excluded;
- That the expiry date is not exceeded;
- Storage conditions indicated on the label are respected.

Storage of products must be such that the chances of damage originating from packaging, spilling, or leakage of products, is reduced to a minimum.

Animal feed must be stored in such a way that they are easily identifiable, and thus exclude any mix-up with other animal feed.

When a product in transit, or intended for export outside the European Union, is stored in the company, a visible label bearing the words “Export” should be affixed. The owner or company storing the product must, on the basis of available documents, provide all information relevant to the destination of the product, at the latest upon delivery.

In order to limit the extent of a possible recall, is it recommended to completely empty silos and storage areas of dry products on a regular basis. Any emptying should be registered.

Containers which are to serve for storage and transport of products (mentioned below) intended for use in feed shall not be used for the transport or storage of products other than these unless these products comply with the applicable standards for the feed sector.

It shall apply to the following feed:

- Compound feed;
- Vegetable oils;

- Products derived from vegetable oils.

They shall be kept separate from any other cargo where there is a risk of contamination.

If separation is not an option, the containers shall be efficiently cleaned so as to remove any trace of product if those containers were previously used for products not meeting the requirements applicable to the feed sector.

The applicable procedure should be established in writing.

Animal fats of Category 3 material, as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009, intended for use in feed shall be stored and transported in line with that Regulation(cf. 'AT-11: Animal by-products).

Bulk and packaged feeding stuffs destined for ruminants are kept in facilities physically separate from those where animal proteins authorized in feed for non-ruminants (subsequent to annex IV to (EC) Regulation No 999/2001) and feed containing such proteins, are stored in bulk.

6.2. Measuring, dosing and control devices

The company should have a list in place of devices for metering, dosing and control. For example scales, thermometers, hygrometers and dosage equipment.

Of the equipment, the following should be defined in a clear manner:

a. What is the minimum and maximum permissible load or measuring range;
b. What is the accuracy of the device;
c. What is the authorized deviation of the device.

If the accuracy of the device exceeds the authorized deviation, it should be calibrated or replaced.

The equipment should be easy to clean.

Weighing equipment should be adapted to the quantity to be weighed.

Weighing equipment used for weighing goods which are to be sold (e.g. weigh bridges, bagging installations) should be calibrated every 4 years. Calibration should be performed by an inspection body, approved by the authorities. Companies, established in Belgium will find a list of approved inspection bodies on the website of FPS Economy, Metrology Division.

Weighing equipment for internal use should be controlled and calibrated on a regular basis.

The calibration and control frequency must be determined by the company (based on a hazard analysis e.g.)

These instructions and frequencies should be established in procedures. Registration records should be kept.

6.3. Drying

Drying consists of a mechanical phase (facultative) of a pre-cleaning and a drying phase. The air, conveying the heating through the product, must be clean. It is important that this air does not constitute a source of contamination for the animal feed.

Attention, through direct contact with combustion gases these products may, during the drying process, be contaminated with toxic substances.

By controlling the moisture level of the outgoing product, as well as controlling the temperature of the product and of the air, one can keep this step under control.

6.4. Cleaning and/or Sorting

This stage allows the elimination of foreign objects and/or separation between the feed itself.

It is necessary to check whether products derived from these processes (sorting residues e.g.) meet the target specifications. Their possible use in animal feed should be the object of a specific evaluation.

Animal feed must not contain toxic substances, harmful to human or animal health.

6.5. Packaging

The choice of packaging material will depend on:

- The nature of feed to be packaged;
- Managing risks linked to contamination, whereby packaging material is at the source;
- Managing risks linked to contamination, transferred through means of packaging material.

In exceptional cases (e.g. liquid products), containers may be re-used. In this case, the company must implement a cleaning method for containers, guaranteeing the food safety of products to be wrapped inside the containers.

During packaging, bulk feed for ruminants should be stored in premises, physically separated from those areas where animal proteins are authorized in feed for non-ruminants (in accordance with annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001)), and feed containing such proteins, stored in bulk.

6.6. Return flows

There are 2 types of return flows: the internal return flows, originating within the company itself (e.g. dust in filters, sorting residues) and external return flows, e.g., products retrieved from customers.

Activities should be organized in such a way as to reduce the return flows to a minimum.

Return flows and dust

Dust from sweeping floors or other surfaces, must not be re-incorporated in animal feed. In this case, it specifically relates to dust, accumulated over time within the company, and not to the occasional emission of dust from powder or flour-like feed, during grinding or upon delivery. After discharge of a dusty product into the collection bunker, usually some residues remain behind in the truck or on the grid. It often relates to a considerable amount of the product, which may be swept in the bunker and thus fed back to the batch.

Areas, storing return flows, must be registered.

Return flows should, if possible, be fed back to the original batch.

Regarding traceability data, the following should be deduced:

- Quantity and storage of each return;

- Batches in which return products have been processed.

For external return flows, biological, chemical and bacteriological qualities should be known. One must check whether cross-contamination had occurred in the external company. For recall of a product, there should be a procedure in place. For external return flows, a complaint administration should also be kept.

For each return flow should be recorded:

- The manner in which they are treated;
- The way in which the treatment is recorded and monitored.

The applicable procedure should be established in writing.

7. Control and analysis

7.1. General

Parallel to taking samples in the context of traceability (see points 5 and 8), the company may also be under the obligation to take samples for analysis. These analysis should be considered as a means of control, allowing:

- To demonstrate that the animal feed satisfies the requirements;
- To demonstrate that the food safety system satisfies the requirements;
- Continuous improvement of the food safety system.

Analysis, in the framework of the auto-control system, may be performed in an internal laboratory disposing of sufficient material and means, operating in accordance with the internal procedures in order to perform these analyses (methodology to be applied, calibration of the equipment, etc.).

The internal laboratory, performing analysis for the account of the company of for the account of third parties, must participate in ring tests.

In Belgium, laboratories are required to apply the notification principle (cf.'AT-02: Notification requirement') they must inform the FASFC of any exceeding, e.g. maximum authorized levels.

As part of the control of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs (see point 14.1), a feed business operator mandates a laboratory to perform an analysis, he shall instruct the laboratory to communicate the results of that analysis to the competent authority in case the levels of dioxin or dioxin-like PCBs are exceeded.

Three cases may be identified:

1. The laboratory is located in the same Member State as the feed business establishment. In this case, the competent authority is that of the Member State (in Belgium the FASFC);
2. The laboratory is located in a Member State other than the feed business establishment. In this case, the laboratory shall notify the competent authority of his country, which shall inform the competent authority of the Member State where the feed business establishment is located;
3. The feed business establishment shall inform the competent authority of the Member State where they are located if they mandate a laboratory located outside the European Union in a third country. Evidence must be provided that the laboratory performs the analysis in accordance with the European Regulation (see 'AT-01: Legislation').

The notification by the laboratory does not exempt the feed business operator from his obligation to also inform the competent authority.

In Belgian, certain legal texts are rendering the execution of analysis, related to specific parameters, mandatory.

In these identified cases, the Legislation usually advocates the use of laboratories, having an FASFC or ISO 17025 Accreditation.

If a Belgian company, approved or accepted, does not have sufficient means for performing a control, they should have a copy of a contract stating that they entrust the control to a laboratory, able to perform the analysis. A written order for the analysis (letter, email, fax) may replace the contract.

The contracts and the orders must be included in the list of analysis to be performed.

The following table lists the required analysis, the qualifications of the laboratory, as well as references to the legislation.

Mandatory parameter(s)	Application scope	Qualifications of laboratory	Reference in the Legislation
Dioxin	Additives E559, E561, E566, E598 and E568 belonging to the group of «binders, diluents and coagulants» (see point 14)	Approval FASFC or accreditation	Royal Decree of 21/02/06 - Annex IV
See type of control performed by the FASFC	Counter-analysis performed following an official control by the FASFC	Approval FASFC	Royal Decree of 15/04/05 – Art 2

The company develops a monitoring plan, including various process-critical control points (storage, drying, sorting etc.), from reception, up and till delivery (of the animal feed).

There should, at least, be a surveillance of the critical control points. This can be done on the basis of an analysis, a visual control, or by measuring a parameter such as the temperature or the pH.

This control plan strongly depends on the company's internal processes (storage, drying, sorting, etc.). The control on CCPs linked to the process steps, are not required to comply with document AT-05, as opposed to the monitoring of CCPs linked to the product.

The company, determines the control frequency linked to the process steps in function of the end control, and hazards that could occur in the end product.

Example

A trader stores cereals collected from farmers. He measures the temperature of the cereals once a week. The Company has identified the 'temperature' of the stock as a critical control point (process-CCP). This point is supervised according to a frequency determined by the Company (in this case once a week). As soon as the temperature exceeds a specific limit value, a switch must be made to ventilation of the stock where the temperature was exceeded.

The control plan will also include the monitoring plan, performed in the context of document 'AT-05: Monitoring' (see 7.2).

Depending on the company the control plan will relate to:

- Purchased (incoming) and sold (outgoing) products (cf. point 7.2);
- Control, imposed by the legislation in force (e.g. in Belgium, controls relating to animal feed considered critical, see point 10);
- Sampling and analysis of parameters related to processes developed in the company and identified in the HACCP plan;
- Monitoring of parameters as requested by the customer.

Legal analysis requirement and HACCP plan.

The application of certain legal requirements makes analyzing mandatory (e.g., looking for the presence of animal proteins, or dioxin monitoring). These laws are not necessarily applicable to all operators (e.g. applicable only for producers) and definitely not if located outside the European Union.

A company who has received a supply from such operators, must take this aspect into account when performing a hazard analysis (cf. document 'AT-04: Practical realization of the HACCP-plan') and determine if additional analyses should be performed on he purchased product (cf. document 'AT-05: Monitoring').

7.2. Monitoring

If in the context of an auto-control, analyzes are used as a means of control, or as a control measurement, the company should include them in an individual monitoring plan. This should be established in writing and should be observed.

Only if the process (e.g. long-time storage) could be the source of new CCPs or PVAs, should this plan should related to sold (outgoing) products, complying with document 'AT-05: Monitoring'. In this case the trader must perform a level 1 monitoring for these CCPs or PVAs.

The analyses results must be recorded.

The trader shall keep an updated overview of the analysis results.

Individual monitoring and sector-based monitoring

Certain sectors may develop a statistically substantiated sector-based monitoring plan. Such a plan should be drawn up according to the principles included in document 'AT-05: Monitoring'. In such a sector-based monitoring plan, common parameters as regards incoming and/or outgoing products, which shall be sampled and analyzed. By acting in group, a representative overview can be obtained of the analysis results.

Companies participating in a sector-based monitoring plan may, for parameters determined in their individual monitoring plan also included in the sector monitoring plan, refer to the latter.

Analysis results

If the company already has the analysis results following the application of a mandatory legal monitoring, the batch in question is not required to be re-analyzed as part of another section of his control plan (e.g. as CCP) as the result for this batch is already available.

This is obviously only possible if:

- The link between the analyzed batch and analysis report can be established without any ambiguity (e.g. by indicating the batch number on the analysis report);
- The laboratory, who has performed the analysis, satisfies all requirements (e.g. accreditation);
- The supplier satisfies the requirement as listed in point 5.

8. Labelling, delivery and purchase by the customer

Upon purchase of products by the customer or upon delivery, the legal terms (see 'AT-01: Legislation') should be clearly indicated on the packaging and/or accompanying documents.

Also any possible waiting periods, administration requirements, and specific storage and handling conditions, as a result of the characteristics of the animal feed should be clearly marked for the customer.

The denomination of the feed material is extremely important. It is recommended, where available, to use the denominations as laid down in the European Catalogue of feed materials.

The legal requirements as regards labeling and the delivery of animal feed, are indicated in the following documents (see 'AT-01: Legislation'):

for feed materials:

- Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 as regards the placing on the market and use of feed;
- Ministerial Decree of 12/02/1999 on the placing on the market and use of animal feed (in particular Chapter II to this Ministerial Decree).

for additives (and special nitrogenous products):

- Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 related to additives intended for animal feed;
- Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 as regards the placing on the market and use of feed;
- Ministerial Decree of 12/02/1999 as regards the placing on the market and use of animal feed (in particular Chapter II to this Ministerial Decree).

for pre-mixtures:

- Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 as regards additives intended for animal feed;
- Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 as regards the placing on the market and use of feed;
- Ministerial Decree of 12/02/1999 as regards the placing on the market and use of feed(in particular Chapter II of this Ministerial Decree).

for compound feed:

- Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 as regards the placing on the market and use of feed;
- Royale decree of 28/06/2011 as regards the placing on the market and used of feed;
- Ministerial Decree of 12/02/1999 as regards the placing on the market and use of feed (in particular Chapter II of this Ministerial Decree).

Labeling and destination of product

The label on the products shall clearly indicate whether they are intended for feed or other purposes. It is mainly for this reason that the legislation imposes indications such as «additives», «premixtures», «feed materials», « compound feed », etc.

If a certain batch of a product is declared not intended for feed use, this declaration shall not be subsequently altered by an operator at a later stage of the chain.

Feed business operators, responsible for retail or distribution activities having no impact on the labeling, contributes to the best of his ability to help ensure compliance with the labeling requirements, in particular, by not supplying feed of which he knows, based on available information and of which he should have concluded in professional capacity, are not compliant with the requirements.

Animal feed consisting of/or containing genetically modified organisms (GMO) or animal feed produced from GMO, shall be labeled as laid down in Regulation (EC) No1829/2003 and Regulation (EC) No 1830/2003.

Feed containing animal proteins, authorized in feed for non-ruminants (according to annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001), and which are not feed for pet animals, shall only be delivered to companies where no ruminants are held, fattened or bred.

Upon delivery of feed materials, additives, pre-mixtures and compound feed, the following data shall be recorded in a register:

- Name of product;
- Name and address of the buyer;
- Date of delivery;
- Quantity;
- batch number;
- Expiry date – if applicable.

If the purchaser of compound feed is a livestock farmer having a herd number, allocated by the authorities, this herd number should be indicated upon each supply of compound feed.

9. Nonconforming Products

If a batch does not meet the criteria, this batch should:

- Undergo (within the company) a treatment such as drying, sorting or packaging, to ensure once a again the food safety. If an appropriate treatment is not possible, this batch should be used outside the feed sector; or
- Receive another destination. If the batch is sold, the client should be informed in writing of nonconformities; or
- Destroyed.

Equipment (e.g. storage areas) where contaminated batches have been discovered, shall be thoroughly cleaned in order to prevent a re- contamination of following batches. To that end, a procedure shall be established.

10. Placing on the market of feed considered to be critical or subject to monitoring of «dioxine and dioxin-like PCBs»

10.1. Additives belonging to the group of « binding agents, anti-caking agents and coagulants » (Additives E559, E561, E566, E598 and E568)

10.1.1. Specific conditions

A Belgian company that places « animal feed considered to be critical[1] » (additives E559, E561, E566, E598 and/or E568) on the market, which have not been acquired from a supplier authorized conforming the Belgian legislation (e.g. import), must meet the following specific conditions:

- On the premises of his company, to have the ISO 17020 accredited inspection body or the ISO 17025 accredited laboratory perform the analysis in 3 specimen of 500 gram, a representative sample taken of each batch of " Animal feed considered to be critical" placed on the market for the first time in Belgium; The sample must be sealed and labeled by the referred institution, and must be kept in storage conditions rendering any unusual changes in the composition, or decay impossible;
- To entrust the first specimen to a laboratory which is approved by FASFC or accredited pursuant to the ISO 17025 standards;
- To have the laboratory determine the dioxin levels for additives E559, E561, E566, E598 and E568;
- To notify the FASFC of any exceeding of standards of undesirable substances and keep the batch concerned readily available;
- To keep the second specimen for the purpose of traceability (for subsequent controls), and keep the third specimen for the possible defense of rights during six months that follow the date of placing on the market of the batch concerned;
- Keep the analysis report, indicating the name of the institution having performed the sampling, if the product is intended for own production;
- Add the analysis report, indicating the name of the institution having performed the sampling, each time the company puts into circulation a batch (own production) of animal feed considered to be critical.

10.1.2. Register

The trader installed in Belgium must keep records on:

- The nature and quantity of the purchased animal feed considered to be critical;
- Date of reception;
- In case of purchase: if applicable, batch number, or production part in case of continuous manufacturing, as well as the precise indication of the storage area (tank number, silo number, etc.) in case of bulk storage;
- In the case of placing on the market (sales): name and address of purchasers, as well as batch number, or production part in case of continuous production, and the precise indication of the storage area (tank number, silo number, etc.) in case of bulk storage.

10.1.3. Samples

[1] *See Royal Decree of 21/02/2012 and accompanying Annex IV .*

The company stores, during 6 months, a representative sample of 500 g of each batch of animal feed considered to be critical, and will save this for possible controls. They will also keep the analysis report, accompanying the batch.

Sampling of animal feed which is considered, by the Belgian company, to be critical

Incoming product	Storage life
Additives of the group 'Binders, diluents and coagulants": E559, E561, E566, E598 and E568	min. 6 months

The samples must be easily identifiable in a way so as to exclude or minimize, any modification of their characteristics.

10.2. Monitoring of dioxin and dioxin-like pcb's

10.2.1. Definitions

Products derived from Category 3 animal fats:
Feed materials derived from animal fats and processed in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009. This definition is not applicable to processed animal proteins.

10.2.2. Animal feed concerned

The Animal feed[2] which are concerned by the monitoring established in the European Union, are:

- Crude coconut oil;
- Products derived from oils and fats of vegetable origin;
- Animal fats;
- Products derived from animal fats;
- Fish oils with the exception of refined oil;
- Products derived from fish oil, with the exception of refined oil;
- Fats and oils recovered from the food industry;
- Blended oils and fats;
- Products derived from oils and fats;
- Compound feed for food producing animals (other than blended oils and fats).

Fat blending and compound feed

In accordance with the definition of a compound feed (see AC-00: Introduction'), certain blends of fat should be considered as compound feed.

They may, e.g., include the following mixtures:

- Oil or fat with one or more fatty acids;
- Fat of animal origin (terrestrial animals) with fish oil;
- Vegetable oil with animal fat or fish oil.

[2] *In Belgium, these different feedingstuffs, with the exception of compound feed are also considered as «Animal feed considered critical» within the meaning of Royal Decree of 21/02/2012 and accompanying Annex V.*

A mixture of two products belonging to the same entry in Part C of the European Catalogue of feed materials (same number) and which are derived from the same plant or animal species must be considered as a feed material. If known, the label should indicate the species, from which the product is manufactured. The same principle applies for a mixture of two animal fats or two fish oils.

this also means that all standards and intervention thresholds applicable to compound feed, will also apply to this fat mixture.

10.2.3. Type of establishments that are subject to monitoring

10.2.3.1. General

Establishment placing these products on the market are not subject to a monitoring with a specific frequency, with the exception of importers (cf. 10.2.3.2).

Traders commercializing fats, oils or derived products intended to be used in feed, should have the contents of dioxin and dioxin-like PCBs analyzed by an accredited laboratory in accordance with methods laid down in the European legislation.

The monitoring relating to this feed must be implemented based on the HACCP analysis (cf. 'AT-04: Practical realization of the HACCP plan' and 'AT-05: Monitoring').

Trade and fat blending

An establishment mixing crude oils, refined oils, animal fats and oils recovered from the food industry and/or products derived thereof to produce a blended fat or oil intended for feed, shall be considered a producer and must, as such, apply document 'AC-02: Production of animal feed. This implies i.e. the obtaining of an approval and, application of a monitoring of dioxin and dioxin-like PCBs.

Storage of consecutive batches in the same silo is not considered as fat blending. This implies that subsequent storage of batches induces a temporary separation from the different batches present in the silo. This means that only a residual presence of the previous batch may be accepted without it being considered as a « mixture ».

10.2.3.2. Importers placing feed on the market

Feed business operators, who import and place feed, listed below, on the market, must check the levels of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs of these different products in accordance with the indicated frequency

Imported products	Frequency	Maximum batch size
Crude coconut oil	all batches (100%)	1000 tonnes
Products derived from oils and fats (other than :	all batches (100%)	1000 tonnes

Imported products	Frequency	Maximum batch size
- glycerine, - lecithin, - gums, - acid oils from chemical refining, - crude fatty acids from splitting, - pure distilled fatty acids from splitting, - soap stocks		
Animal fats	all batches (100%)	1000 tonnes
Fish oils	all batches (100%)	1000 tonnes
Oils and fats recovered from food business operators	all batches (100%)	1000 tonnes
Blended fats and oils	all batches (100%)	1000 tonnes
Tocopherols extracted from vegetable oil and tocopheryl acetate made thereof	all batches (100%)	1000 tonnes

The imported products not concerned by this specific monitoring, are subject to a monitoring put in place as part of the HACCP analysis (cf. documents 'AT-04 : Practical realisation of the HACCP Plan' and 'AT-05 : Monitoring').

The maximum size of the batches received must, under no circumstances be exceeded, unless demonstrated that the volume of a homogeneous load, exceeds the maximum size authorized for a batch, and that the batch was the subject of a representative sample. In that case, the analysis results of the representative samples of this batch, are acceptable .

Derogation

When a feed business operator has documentary proof that a batch of a product or all components of a batch entering his establishment has already been analyzed at an earlier stage of production, processing or distribution confirming the monitoring included in this point, the feed business operator shall be released from the obligation to analyze this batch. He shall proceed with the analysis conforming his own HACCP plan (see 'AT-04 : Practical analysis of the HACCP Plan').

The importers concerned shall have their products analysed in an accredited laboratory in order to determine the sum of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs.

The analysis must be carried out according to methods laid down at European level (cf. Regulation (EC) 152/2009).

Any batch of products analysed and accompanied by documentary proof stating that these products, or all of its constituent components, have been analysed or have been submitted for analysis to an accredited laboratory.

The proof of analysis shall unambiguously link the delivery and the batch or batches tested. In particular, when the delivery is obtained from more than one batch or component, the documentary proof to be provided shall be a proof for each of the components of the delivery.

10.2.4. Sampling

The samples can be taken by the operator or by a third party (e.g. accredited independent body).

The Belgian operator who applies the monitoring described in points 10.1 and 10.2, must satisfy the following specific conditions[3] [4] :

- On the premises of his company, to have the ISO 17020 accredited inspection body perform the analysis in 3 specimen of 500 gram, a representative sample of animal feed concerned. The sampling may also be performed by the ISO 17025 accredited laboratory, in charge of the analysis. The sample must be kept in storage conditions rendering any abnormal changes in the composition or alteration impossible;
- To entrust the first specimen to a laboratory which is approved by the FASFC, or accredited pursuant to the ISO 17025 standards;
- To have the laboratory determine the levels of dioxin and dioxin-like PCBs in compliance with methods described in the European Legislation (cf. 'AT-01 : Legislation') ;
- To report any exceeding of standards and action levels for undesirable substances to the AFSCA and keep the batch concerned readily available;
- To keep the second specimen for the purpose of traceability (for subsequent controls), and keep the third specimen for the possible defense of rights during six months that follow the date of placing on the market of the batch concerned;

10.2.5. Register

The company installed in Belgium must also keep records on :

- The nature and quantity of animal feed that has been produced or purchased ;
- Manufacture or reception date;
- If applicable, batch number or the specific production fraction in case of continuous production as well as the exact description of the storage location (tank number, silo number etc.) in case of bulk storage;
- The names and addresses of purchasers to which animal feed has been delivered and also the batch number or the specific production fraction in case of continuous production as well as the exact description of the storage location (tank number, silo number etc.) in case of bulk storage.

[3] *Annex V of the Royal Decree of 21/02/2006 laying down the conditions for approval and authorization of feed business establishments.*

[4] *These specific sampling conditions shall not apply to feed business operators placing on the market feed materials of animal origin, intended exclusively for pet animals.*