In the Chair: Ms. M.-L. Moreau, in the absence of Dr. W. Penning

All the Member States were present, except Malta who was not represented.

1. Authorisations under Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003


The draft proposal of authorisation was submitted to the Committee and a discussion was held.

1.2. Discussion on a draft Commission Regulation concerning the authorisation of a feed additive belonging to the category of zootechnical additives (Document SANCO/00496/2006) - Annex Entry

The draft proposal of authorisation was submitted to the Committee and a discussion was held.

2. Applications under Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003

A representative of the Commission updated the members of the Committee about two new applications for authorisation received by the Commission under Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003.


3.1. Sodium propionate (E211), propionic acid (E280), sodium propionate (E281) (KOFA GRAIN pH 5) as a preservative for pigs and dairy cows, for permanent authorisation.

The current authorisation expires on 1 August 2006.

Supplementary dossier for cattle for fattening.

A representative of the Commission presented the current state of the dossier and an exchange of views took place. The dossier will be discussed at the next experts committee meeting.

3.2. Enzymes

3.2.1. Roxazyme G2 Liquid and granular formulation Endo-1,4-beta-glucanase EC 3.2.1.4, Endo-1,3(4)-beta-glucanase EC 3.2.1.6, Endo-1,4-beta-xylanase EC 3.2.1.8 produced by
Trichoderma longibrachiatum (ATCC 74252), enzyme. Num. 11 Animal category: piglets. Rapp: BE. Request for permanent authorization

The Commission representative informed the Committee about the arrival of this new dossier and presented it to the Committee. Discussion took place about new dossiers arriving in accordance with the transition measures under Article 25 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003.

3.2.2. Roxazyme G2 Liquid and granular formulation Endo-1,4-beta-glucanase EC 3.2.1.4, Endo-1,3(4)-beta-glucanase EC 3.2.1.6, Endo-1,4-beta-xylanase EC 3.2.1.8 produced by Trichoderma longibrachiatum (ATCC 74252), enzyme. Num. 11 Animal category: laying hens. Rapp: BE. Request for permanent authorization.

The Commission representative informed the Committee about the arrival of this new dossier and presented it to the Committee. Discussion took place about new dossiers arriving in accordance with the transition measures under Article 25 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003.

4. Legal status of Chondroitin sulphate and Glucosamine and request under Directive 93/74/EEC for a particular nutritional purpose for the support of the cartilage function in case of articular wearing down

An exchange of views took place. As the discussion is ongoing, it was decided to resume the discussion in the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

5. Residues of packaging material in animal feed made from products of the agri-food industry

A Member State presented an expert opinion on residues of packaging materials in products from the agri-food industry intended as animal feed and suggested to consider an amendment of Commission Decision 2004/217/EC (negative list of feed materials) to include a reference to technically unavoidable residues of packaging materials.

A representative from the Commission invited the delegations to examine the expert opinion and the suggestion and to submit comments and possibly any existing data, scientific opinions or risk assessments relating to residues of packaging materials in products from the agri-food industry.

This issue will be discussed in the next meeting of the Standing Committee.

6. Particular nutritional purposes

Reduction of risk of milk fever (Rapp: SE)

The Commission representative asked the Committee for submitting further comments to the amended Annex Entry. After receiving these comments, the Commission will ask EFSA to deliver an opinion.
7. Feed Hygiene:
Exchange of views on the assessment of draft Community guides to good practice, in accordance with Article 22 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 laying down requirements for feed hygiene

The draft Community guides to good practice (for hygiene and HACCP in the feed sector) that have been presented to the Commission in 2005 will be assessed in accordance with a work programme, which includes the establishment of mini-groups of Commission and Member States representatives: one mini-group for each guide. A consultation period open to the participation of the Member States and stakeholders runs until mid-March. The first assessment is expected to be finalised in the beginning of April, when the Commission will request to the stakeholders the revision of the draft guides.

As regards the development of new Community guides for the stages of the feed chain that have not been covered yet, the Member States will reflect on the proposal of following the procedure established in the guidelines for the development of Community guides for the food sector. The Commission will consult stakeholders in order to consider the possibility of envisaging the development of Community guides addressing the production of feed materials, in particular at primary level.

8. Undesirable substances
8.1. Aflatoxins in peanuts intended for bird feed

Concern has been expressed as regards the possibility that peanuts sold at retail levels for the feeding of wild birds are consumed by the human population, and this could potentially endanger public health due to the disparity between the maximum levels on aflatoxins in peanuts intended for animal feed (20 µg aflatoxin B1/kg) and human consumption (2 µg aflatoxin B1/kg), including young children.

FVO inspections have also highlighted the problem that peanuts intended for use as wild bird feed can be diverted back into the food chain.

To address this problem, amendments to the legislation on contaminants in food is currently under discussion to provide that whereby peanuts which are not clearly labelled for feed use, then the maximum levels set for peanuts for direct human consumption do apply by default. In addition, several options have been considered to strengthen the feed legislation to avoid that peanuts intended for bird feed are consumed by humans. These options included:

- an amendment to the annex to Council Directive 96/25/EC on the circulation and use of feed materials as regards labelling provisions for peanuts for direct feeding of birds,
- an amendment to Directive 2002/32/EC on undesirable substances in animal feed whereby a specific lower level of aflatoxin B1 for peanuts intended for direct feeding of birds would be established,
- voluntary labelling initiative by the feed business operators as regards these peanuts for wild bird feeding.

Comments were raised by several delegations as regards the different options. It was also mentioned that similar problems could occur with sunflower seeds.

The Commission representative indicated that the comments made would be considered and
that a proposal for further discussion would be submitted at the next meeting.


As a follow-up to different EFSA opinions, suggestions were put forward as regards possible amendments to the existing provisions on endosulfan, endrin, aldrin/dieldrin, hexachlorocyclohexane for consideration. Due to a lack of time the discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

8.3. Discussion on levels for certain indicator ergot alkaloids corresponding to the current provisions on sclerotia from rye ergot

The Scientific Panel on contaminants in the Food Chain of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) adopted on 19 April 2005 a scientific opinion on the risks for public and animal health related to the presence of ergot in animal feed.

Directive 2002/32/EC establishes a maximum level for rye ergot of 1000 milligrammes (0.1%) in all feedingstuffs containing ungrounded cereals.

The Scientific Panel concluded that no consistent relationship can be established between the amount of sclerotia and the total ergot alkaloid concentration. Due to variations in ergot alkaloid pattern, the available data do not allow identifying marker ergot alkaloids that could be monitored in all feed materials as indicators for ergot contamination. Data on the sensitivity of agricultural animal species towards ergot alkaloids are incomplete and do not allow the establishment of tolerance levels for individual ergot alkaloids and mixtures thereof.

Available data indicate that adverse effects may occur in agricultural animals, particularly in pig, after intake of feed with ergot at levels close to the current EU level. The limited data available do not provide any evidence that ergot alkaloids accumulate in edible tissues, including milk and eggs and thus food from animal origin is unlikely to be an important source of human exposure.

It is appropriate to collect more data on the presence of these ergot alkaloids, particularly in processed cereals and compound feedingstuffs. For monitoring purposes it is appropriate to determine the ergot alkaloids of relevance.

8.4. Update of the monitoring programme on the background presence of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in animal feed

A proposal to replace the Commission Recommendation 2004/704/EC of 11 October 2004 on the monitoring of background levels of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in feedingstuffs was presented. The main modifications consisted of

- including the new Member States in the monitoring programme
- minimum number of feed samples to analyse yearly are provided for larger categories of feed materials and compound feed providing the Member States more flexibility
- paying particular attention to products intended for animal feed originating from regions where due to e.g. climatic conditions resulting in floods, changes have happened in the production conditions which could possibly affect the dioxin and dioxin-like PCB concentration of the food products in the region.
- simplification of the reporting sheet without losing essential information.

Details on minimum number of feed samples to analyse yearly by the individual Member States were not yet provided.

No particular comments were raised at this stage but this item will be discussed again at a next meeting of the Committee once the draft Recommendation has been completed with the minimum number of samples recommended to be analysed by the Member States.

8.5. Update and follow up on recent contamination cases: dioxin in animal fat and cadmium in zinc sulphate originating from China

Dioxins in pig fat
The Belgian and Dutch delegations provided a detailed update on the contamination case on dioxins in pig fat.

The source of contamination was the high level of dioxins in the hydrochloric acid used in the extraction process for production of gelatine from pig bones with fat as by-product. Normally the hydrochloric acid is filtered before use through two filters in sequence whereby the dioxins are removed by active carbon. However during a short period both filters failed and the hydrochloric acid continued to be used. As a consequence of this contamination incident, 445 farms have been blocked in Belgium, of which most (407) have been released in the meantime after investigations. Consequently, the Belgian authorities are considering with the sector to strengthen the auto-control on fats and oils and to increase the frequency of analysis on dioxins with Calux assay.

The Dutch delegation informed the Committee that all blocked farms have been released in the meantime. Pigs at slaughter weight containing levels of dioxins above the EU maximum level for pig meat and pigs containing such levels of dioxins of which could be expected that they would still not comply at slaughter weight were culled and destroyed.

It was concluded that extensive monitoring continues to be important in order to identify in an early stage contamination of the feed and food chain, as new sources continue to be identified. The quick finding of the source and the effective traceability resulted in an effective management of this contamination incident.

Cadmium in zinc sulphate originating from China
Extensive information on this contamination incident was provided by the French and Belgian authorities.

Zinc sulphate extremely high contaminated with cadmium originating from China has been imported into France in 2004. Due to the late detection of the contamination in January 2006, the highly contaminated zinc sulphate was already to a certain extent incorporated in premixtures and compound feed and fed to animals. All premixtures and compound feed have been blocked. At this stage about 1500 farms are affected. The kidneys and the liver of the slaughtered animals from the affected farms are blocked systematically for analysis. A very wide variation in the level of cadmium in the kidneys and liver could be observed.

Also Belgian farms were affected by the contamination incident. All contaminated compound feed has been blocked and kidneys and liver of animals fed with contaminated feed have been blocked and sampled for analysis. A significant cadmium level was frequently observed in
kidneys from bovines of more than one year, not only as a consequence of this contamination incident but also because of environmental contamination. Much less frequent positive results were found in livers. Following these results, the Belgian authorities introduced a ban on using kidneys of bovines of more than one year for human consumption.

The Commission representative indicated that they have written to the Chinese authorities asking more information as regards the origin of this extreme high contamination and asking to take measures to avoid that such highly contaminated zinc sulphate can be exported in the future to the EU. No answer was yet received.

Furthermore the Commission has written on 6 February 2006 to all professional organisations asking to inform immediately their members of this contamination incident and to point out to the feed business operators their legal obligations to take all appropriate measures, in particular to carry out systematic controls in the context of the HACCP procedures, to ensure that any zinc sulphate and premixtures containing zinc sulphate, in particular the zinc sulphate originating from China used for the production of feed, contains levels of cadmium below the maximum level established in EU legislation (Directive 2002/32/EC, as amended).

A delegation pointed out that it is urgent to establish the list of companies in third countries which are authorised to export feed additives to the EU.

Other issues raised

Cyprus informed the Committee of a finding of 45 ppm of cadmium in manganous oxide. A notification will be sent to the RASFF.

The Belgian authorities informed the Committee that they have been informed by a company that in test samples of choline chloride and vitamin K3 originating from China high levels of dioxins were detected by the CALUX assay. A low, but significant level of dioxins was detected in a test sample of L-threonine originating from China.

The Commission called upon the competent authorities of the Member States for increased vigilance and increased frequency of control.

9. Methods of sampling and analysis

9.1. Measurement uncertainty and correction for recovery: discussion on possible amendment to current provisions

Commission Directive 2005/6/EC of 26 January 2005 amending Directive 71/250/EEC as regards reporting and interpretation of analytical results required under Directive 2002/32/EC introduces provisions concerning the reporting and interpretation of analytical results with regard to measurement uncertainty and correction for recovery on undesirable substances in animal feed. These provisions entered into application from 16 February 2006 onwards. These provisions were discussed at the occasion of an Expert Committee “Methods of Analysis in Feedingstuffs” on 19-20 January 2006 and it was agreed that some amendments were appropriate. It concerned the necessity of a second determination in case a level far below the EU maximum level on undesirable substances is found and also as regards the correction for recovery. It was proposed that the Standing Committee would endorse these changes awaiting formal amendment of the legislation. As the proposed amendments have been made only late available, the discussion and endorsement was postponed to the next meeting.

All the methods of analysis adopted pursuant Council Directive 70/373/EEC have been screened by the Expert Committee “Methods of analysis in animal feedingstuffs” in order to verify if the methods were still up-to-date to keep them in EU legislation. All the methods of analysis which have been considered as appropriate to be kept in EU legislation have been compiled into one Regulation in application of Regulation 882/2004 on official controls in feed and food. An overview of the kept methods was provided.

9.3. Update on progress of the discussions as regards adapting the current provisions of sampling laid down in Commission Directive 76/371/EEC of 1 March 1976 establishing Community methods of sampling for the official control of feedingstuffs

The Committee was informed that a specialised working group has been established to discuss this matter and that the first meeting of this working group has taken place on 18 January 2006. A similar working group has been established to elaborate a guidance on sampling large lots, static lots etc of cereals for mycotoxins. This working group had its first meeting on 21 February 2006. The outcome of the discussions of this working group will be submitted to the working group on sampling for feedingstuffs for consideration.

10. Any other business


The Commission services are currently examining the questions sent by the Slovenian authorities and will provide answers as soon as possible.

10.2. Glycerol

One delegation raised the issue of the possibility of consideration of glycerol (synonym glycerine) produced as a by-product of the production of biodiesel as a feed material (source of energy), taking into account that a) glycerol is authorised as a feed additive as emulsifier E 422 with no maximum limit established, and b) glycerol can be used as a glucose precursor for the reduction of risk of ketosis for specified animal categories under Directive 93/74/EEC on feeding stuffs intended for particular nutritional purposes. Several delegations said that they had no objection in principle to considering glycerol for this use as a feed material. It was also pointed out that it might be relevant to consider the potential occurrence of impurities.

10.3. Ethoxyquin

One delegation raised the issue of the desirability of re-evaluation of the currently authorised feed additive antioxidant ethoxyquin, possibly at the latest at the time of the renewal of authorisation due to take place by 2010 (as the vast majority of existing feed additives) taking into account a number of issues. One of these issues is the evaluation of ethoxyquin as a plant protection product, where an MRL of 3 mg/kg has been established where this product is used for the post-harvest treatment
of pears. An ADI of 0.005 mg/kg body weight was established by the JMPR in 1998. Ethoxyquin is not currently authorised as food additive.

It was also noted that there may be some trade problems regarding the monitoring of the presence of residues following the use of ethoxyquin in fish meal and possibly also some fish products. In addition, it was mentioned that there is a pending evaluation for an additional study of ethoxyquin as antioxidant in feed for dogs.

10.4. Fees relating to the CRL for feed additives authorisations

One delegation raised the issue of the low level of the fee established at present for evaluating the methods of analysis for applications for feed additive authorisations under Regulation 1831/2003 and the corresponding compensation for NRLs. The mechanisms foreseen in Regulation 378/2005 laying down the tasks and duties of this CRL, adopted last year, should be used to consider the appropriate updating of the fee, probably in 2007, when enough experience has been gathered regarding the operation of the CRL and the consortium of NRLs assisting it.

10.5. Follow-up to the judgment of the Court of Justice of 6 December 2005 (preliminary ruling concerning the validity of Directive 2002/2/EC)

Following a question asked by one delegation, a Commission representative confirmed that the intention of the Commission was to proceed in two steps: first proposing the necessary measures in order to comply with the Court judgment, which is a formal issue, and secondly proposing the recasting of the feed labelling legislation, which is foreseen in 2007 after the completion of an ongoing impact assessment.

It was indicated that according to Article 10 of the EC Treaty, Member States have to take all appropriate measures in order to ensure fulfilment of their obligations arising out of the Treaty. Therefore, they do not have to wait until the adoption of the measures to be taken by the institutions in order to comply with the Court judgment.

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