1. Community guides to good practice, pursuant to Article 22 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 laying down requirements for feed hygiene

All Member States gave their agreement on the three Community guides presented for final assessment. In the case of the guide for the compound feed and premixtures manufacturing sector, the agreement was given provided that certain conditions are met as described under 1.1 below. Therefore the titles and references of these guides will be published in the C series of the Official Journal of the European Union in accordance with Article 22 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 on feed hygiene. Furthermore the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health shall periodically review these guides in cooperation with the stakeholders and other interested parties.

The development of these guides by the industrial sectors concerned and the assessment which was carried out by the competent authorities of the Member States and by the Commission services were both regarded as highly positive experiences that should continue to be extended to other sectors of the chain.

1.1. European Feed Manufacturers Guide (EFMC), by the European Feed Manufacturers' Federation (FEFAC)

As an outcome of the assessment carried out by the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health, the Community guide to good practice for the EU industrial compound feed and premixtures manufacturing sector – European Feed Manufacturers Guide (EFMC) has been developed by FEFAC in accordance with Article 22 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 on feed hygiene, its contents are practicable throughout the Community for the sector to which it refers and is suitable as guide for compliance with the hygiene and HACCP requirements of that regulation, provided that the following conditions are met:

1) Before publication, this version guide shall be corrected in order to reflect the following remarks made by the Member States:
   • the title shall contain the words "for food-producing animals";
   • the wording related to medicated feed shall be reviewed in order to be more accurate;
the section on finished feed labelling (3.6.2.3.) shall make reference to other labelling requirements, in particular at least those mentioned in the Community legislation on genetically modified feed and transmissible spongiform encephalopathies;

2) within a period of three months, the coverage related to medicated feed shall be further reviewed and developed in collaboration with the Member States.

In the future FEFAC is encouraged to further develop the following subjects in subsequent revisions of the guide:

- practical examples of HACCP in feed production
- reference to the responsibilities of feed business operators in terms of general requirements of food law
- risk-based analysis of best practice to ensure effective tracing of products
- other hazards, such as fertilisers and plant protection products

1.2. Guide to Good Practice for the Manufacture of Safe Pet foods, by the European Pet Food Industry Federation (FEDIAF)

As an outcome of the assessment carried out by the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health, the Community guide to good practice for feed additive and premixture operators has been developed by FAMI-QS (Feed Additive and Premixture Quality System) in accordance with Article 22 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 on feed hygiene, its contents are practicable throughout the Community for the sector to which it refers and is suitable as guide for compliance with the hygiene and HACCP requirements of that regulation.

In the future FAMI-QS is encouraged to further develop the following subjects in subsequent revisions of the guide:

- reference to the responsibilities of feed business operators in terms of general requirements of food law
- risk-based analysis of best practice to ensure effective tracing of products

1.3. Community Guide to Good Practice For Feed Additive and Premixture Operators, by the Feed Additive and Premixture Quality System European Association (FAMI-QS Asbl)

As an outcome of the assessment carried out by the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health, the Community guide to good practice for the manufacture of safe pet foods has been developed by FEDIAF in accordance with Article 22 of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 on feed hygiene, its contents are practicable throughout the Community for the sector to which it refers and is suitable as guide for compliance with the hygiene and HACCP requirements of that regulation.

In the future FEDIAF is encouraged to further develop the following subject in subsequent revisions of the guide:

- risk-based analysis of best practice to ensure effective tracing of products

Discussion took place.

3. **Communication on a report of the Commission to the Council and Parliament on the use of coccidiostats**

The Commission representative asked Member States for collaboration on the collection of data regarding the use of coccidiostats and histomonostats as feed additives, as well as, the use of available alternatives. These data will be the basis for a report of the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council with a view to a decision on the phasing out of the use of coccidiostats and histomonostats as feed additives by 31 December 2012 (as laid down in article 11 of Regulation No 1831/2003). Due to the strict deadline for the presentation of the Commission report, Member States are asked to provide such information within one month from the present request.

4. **Impact assessment about the modernisation and simplification of the legislation on the circulation of feed (former recast-project)**

The Commission representative informed the Member States about the current state of play concerning the impact assessment (IA). The Commission is still collecting data on the impacts of the different options while in parallel finalising the IA-report. The Commission representative introduced Member States into the revised issues paper containing the problem definition, the objectives and the policy options for the different issues. He indicated the preliminary impacts of each option to the extent they have been compiled.

The Member States had the opportunity to provide some input on the impacts they link to the options. Though there were valuable contributions from the Member States they were not in the position to deliver figures or ranges for the financial impacts of options.

The Commission representative summed up and explained that there is still some time to forward information to be included in the IA-report. Before the finalisation of the IA-report the draft will be presented as well to the stakeholders.

In the next Committee the Commission will try to give an advanced presentation of the IA.

5. **Update on the contamination incident of lead in zinc oxide (RASFF 2006.870 and updates)**

The Portuguese and Spanish delegation updated the Committee on the contamination incident of high levels of lead in zinc oxide, originating from China. It was confirmed that all contaminated zinc oxide and premixtures produced from the contaminated zinc oxide has been traced and blocked and that no contaminated zinc oxide has been fed to animals. Measures were taken to avoid that the contaminated zinc oxide could enter the feed chain.
6. General discussion on the presence of heavy metals and dioxins and PCBs in trace elements intended for animal feed

An overview of RASFF (Rapid Alert System for Feed and Food) notifications on the presence of heavy metals and dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in trace elements was provided to the Committee. A discussion took place on possible follow-up.

The Committee was also informed on a request of the Malaysian authorities to reconsider the maximum level of dioxins in palm fatty acid distillates (PFAD) intended for animal nutrition. The Commission representative informed the Committee to transmit to the Member States the information provided by the Malaysian authorities in support of their request. The issue will be tabled for discussion at a future meeting of the Committee.

7. Discussion on a draft Commission Decision on special conditions governing the import of trace elements originating from China intended for animal feeding or human consumption

Following the contamination incident on lead in zinc oxide originating from China, a discussion took place as regards the scope of the envisaged measures initially limited to zinc sulphate (following a contamination incident of very high levels of cadmium in zinc sulphate originating from China). Several delegations expressed to be in favour of extending the scope of the envisaged measures to trace elements based on zinc. As regarding the possible extension of the envisaged measures to all trace elements, it was found appropriate to examine if problems of high contamination by heavy metals and/or dioxins have been identified in other trace elements originating from China. In addition some minor comments were made as regards the envisaged measures.

A short discussion on the appropriateness of possible inclusion of trace elements of certain origins in the list of feed and food of non-animal origin, for which increased controls are necessary, took place.

8. Discussion on follow up on the opinions from EFSA on the presence of DDT and hexachlorobenzene in animal feed

The Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) adopted on 22 November a scientific opinion related to DDT as an undesirable substance in animal feed¹. After detailed examination of the scientific opinion, it was agreed that the current provisions as regards DDT in Annex to Directive 2002/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 May 2002 on undesirable substances in animal feed are appropriate to protect animal and public health. Consequently there is no need to change the current provisions as regards DDT. At the occasion of a future amendment to the annex, the name of the metabolite TDE should be replaced by the more common name DDD.

The Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) adopted on 13 September 2006 a scientific opinion related to hexachlorobenzene as an undesirable substance in animal feed. After detailed examination of the scientific opinion, it was agreed that the current provisions as regards hexachlorobenzene in Annex to Directive 2002/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 May 2002 on undesirable substances in animal feed are appropriate to protect animal and public health. Consequently there is no need to change the current provisions as regards hexachlorobenzene.

The Committee was also informed of the request from EFSA to provide data on the presence of mercury and nitrate/nitrite in animal feed in view of a risk assessment on these substances.

9. Discussion on Camelina sativa as undesirable substance in feed

The Committee was informed that the Scientific Panel on Contaminants in the Food Chain from the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) discussed again at their last plenary meeting on 23-25 January 2007 the issue of Camelina sativa but no conclusion was reached as regards the possible harmfulness of the presence of Camelina sativa in feedingstuffs. The comprehensive opinion on the risks related to the presence of glucosinolates in feed has now to be awaited before being able to discuss the appropriateness of listing Camelina sativa as undesirable substance in the annex to Directive 2002/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 May 2002 on undesirable substances in animal feed.

10. A.O.B.

Discussion on a draft Regulation (EC) concerning the authorisation of a microbiological preparation of Enterococcus faecium (Bonvital) as a feed additive (Document SANCO/201/2007) Annex Entry

Discussion took place.

Bernard VAN GOETHEM,
Acting Director
(signed)

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