
Iron chelates of lysine and glutamic acid

(FAD-2018-0010; CRL/180016)

Dossier related to: FAD-2018-0010 - CRL/180016
Name of Product: Iron chelates of lysine and glutamic acid
Active Agent(s): Iron
Rapporteur Laboratory: European Union Reference Laboratory for Feed Additives (EURL-FA)
JRC Geel, Belgium
Report prepared by: Zigmas Ezerskis
Report checked by: María José González de la Huebra
Date: 13/07/2018
Report approved by: Christoph von Holst
Date: 19/07/2018
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the current application authorisation is sought under Article 4(1) for iron chelates of lysine and glutamic acid under the category/functional group (3b) "nutritional additives"/"compounds of trace elements", according to the classification system of Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003. Specifically, authorisation is sought for the use of the feed additive for all categories and species.

Iron chelates of lysine and glutamic acid is a solid preparation with a minimum content of 15 % (w/w) of iron, 19 % (w/w) of lysine and 19 % (w/w) of glutamic acid.

The feed additive is intended to be incorporated into premixtures and feedingstuffs. The Applicant proposed maximum levels of total iron in feedingstuffs ranging from 450 to 750 mg/kg or 250 mg/day – depending of the animal species/category – and thus complying with the limits set in the Corrigendum to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/2330.

For the quantification of total iron in the feed additive, premixtures and feedingstuffs the Applicant submitted two internationally recognised ring-trial validated CEN methods based on inductively coupled plasma-atomic emission spectrometry (ICP-AES): EN 15510 and EN 15621. These two methods together with the Community method based on atomic absorption spectrometry, which was further ring-trial validated by the UK Food Standards Agency (FSA), were previously evaluated and recommended by the EURL in the frame of the Iron group dossier.

In addition, other two ring-trial validated methods, namely: ISO 6869 based on atomic absorption spectrometry and EN 17053 based on inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) were recently evaluated and recommended by the EURL in the frame of two similar dossiers (FAD-2017-0071 and FAD-2017-0072).

Based on the acceptable method performance characteristics available, the EURL recommends for official control the five ring-trial validated methods: i) EN 15621 and ISO 6869 for the quantification of total iron in the feed additive, premixtures and feedingstuffs; ii) EN 15510 and EN 17053 for the quantification of total iron in premixtures and feedingstuffs; and iii) the Community method (Commission Regulation (EC) No 152/2009 – Annex IV-C) for the quantification of total iron in feedingstuffs.

For the quantification of lysine and glutamic acid in the feed additive the Applicant submitted the ring-trial validated EN ISO 13903 method based on ion exchange chromatography coupled with post-column derivatisation and photometric detection (IEC-VIS). This standard method is equivalent to the experimental protocol described in the Community method designed for the determination of free (synthetic and natural) and total (peptide-bound and
free) amino acids including lysine and glutamic acid, using an amino acid analyser or a High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) equipment. This method does not distinguish between the salts and the amino acid enantiomers.

The Applicant applied the above mentioned IEC-VIS method for the analysis of five batches of the feed additive with an average content of 20 % (w/w) for lysine and 21 % (w/w) for glutamic acid. Relative standard deviations for repeatability (RSDr) of 2.3 % and 4.7 %, respectively, were obtained. This is in agreement with the precision values reported in the frame of the two ring-trial validation studies.

Based on the performance characteristics available, the EURL recommends for official control the method based on IEC-VIS to quantify lysine and glutamic acid in the feed additive.

Further testing or validation of the methods to be performed through the consortium of National Reference Laboratories as specified by Article 10 (Commission Regulation (EC) No 378/2005 as last amended by Regulation (EU) 2015/1761) is not considered necessary.

KEYWORDS
Iron, iron chelates of lysine and glutamic acid, nutritional feed additives, compounds of trace elements, all animal species

1. BACKGROUND

In the current application authorisation is sought under Article 4(1) (new feed additive) for iron chelates of lysine and glutamic acid under the category/functional group (3b) "nutritional additives"/"compounds of trace elements", according to the classification system of Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003. Specifically, authorisation is sought for the use of the feed additive for all categories and species [1,2].

Iron chelates of lysine and glutamic acid is a solid preparation with a minimum content of 15 % (w/w) of iron, 19 % (w/w) of lysine and 19 % (w/w) of glutamic acid [3,4].

The feed additive is intended to be incorporated into premixtures and feedingstuffs [4]. The Applicant proposed maximum levels of total iron in feedingstuffs complying with the limits set in the Corrigendum to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/2330: 450 mg/kg for bovines and poultry; 500 mg/kg for ovines; 600 mg/kg for pet animals; 750 mg/kg for other species; and 250 mg/day for piglets up to one week before weaning [3,4].
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

In accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 378/2005, as last amended by Regulation (EU) 2015/1761, on detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the duties and the tasks of the European Union Reference Laboratory concerning applications for authorisations of feed additives, the EURL is requested to submit a full evaluation report to the European Food Safety Authority for each application or group of applications. For this particular dossier, the methods of analysis submitted in connection with iron chelates of lysine and glutamic acid and their suitability to be used for official controls in the frame of the authorisation were evaluated.

3. EVALUATION

Description of the analytical methods for the determination of the active substance in the feed additive, premixtures, feedingstuffs and when appropriate water (section 2.6.1 of the dossier - Annex II of Commission Regulation (EC) No 429/2008)

For the quantification of total iron in the feed additive, premixtures and feedingstuffs the Applicant submitted two internationally recognised ring-trial validated CEN methods: EN 15510 based on inductively coupled plasma-atomic emission spectrometry (ICP-AES) after ashing or wet digestion with hydrochloric acid [5] and EN 15621 based on ICP-AES after pressure digestion [6].

These two methods together with the Community method based on atomic absorption spectrometry [7], which was further ring-trial validated by the UK Food Standards Agency (FSA) [8], were previously evaluated and recommended by the EURL in the frame of the Iron group dossier (including FAD-2010-0031; FAD-2010-0070; FAD-2010-0331) [9].

In addition, other two ring-trial validated methods, namely: ISO 6869 based on atomic absorption spectrometry [10] and EN 17053 based on inductively coupled plasma-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) [11] were recently evaluated and recommended by the EURL in the frame of two similar dossiers (FAD-2017-0071 and FAD-2017-0072) [12,13].

The performance characteristics reported for the five methods mentioned above are summarised in Table 1.

Based on the acceptable method performance characteristics available, the EURL recommends for official control the five ring-trial validated methods: i) EN 15621 and ISO 6869 for the quantification of total iron in the feed additive, premixtures and feedingstuffs; ii) EN 15510 and EN 17053 for the quantification of total iron in premixtures and feedingstuffs; and iii) the Community method (Commission Regulation (EC) No 152/2009 – Annex IV-C) for the quantification of total iron in feedingstuffs.
Table 1: Performance characteristics for the quantification of *total iron* in *premixtures* and *feedingstuffs*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>EN 15510</th>
<th>EN 15621</th>
<th>UK FSA</th>
<th>ISO 6869</th>
<th>EN 17053</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mass fraction (mg/kg)</td>
<td>293 – 8182</td>
<td>277 – 15940</td>
<td>197 – 340</td>
<td>79 – 31000</td>
<td>36.1 – 3114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSĐ, (%)</td>
<td>2.4 – 4.8</td>
<td>2.9 – 6.3</td>
<td>2.3 – 9.5</td>
<td>0.9 – 16(*)</td>
<td>3.0 – 4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSĐR, (%)</td>
<td>5.1 – 10</td>
<td>9.6 – 12.4</td>
<td>5.3 – 9.5</td>
<td>6.0 – 24(*)</td>
<td>5.7 – 13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOQ (mg/kg)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RSĐ, and RSĐR: relative standard deviation for *repeatability* and *reproducibility*; LOQ: limit of quantification; (*) the larger precision values were obtained for mixed feed.

Even though the methods EN 15510 and EN 17053 were ring-trial validated at a narrower range for the *total iron* content than the methods EN 15621 and ISO 6869, the first two ones still might be considered for the quantification of *total iron* in the *feed additive* after appropriate dilution with the condition that the methods are proven as fit-for-purpose.

**Methods of analysis for the determination of the residues of the additive in food (section 2.6.2 of the dossier - Annex II of Commission Regulation (EC) No 429/2008)**

Evaluation of corresponding methods of analysis is not relevant for the present application.

**Identification/Characterisation of the feed additive (section 2.6.3 of the dossier - Annex II of Commission Regulation (EC) No 429/2008)**

For the quantification of lysine and glutamic acid in the *feed additive* the Applicant submitted the ring-trial validated EN ISO 13903 method based on ion exchange chromatography coupled with post-column derivatisation and photometric detection (IEC-VIS) [14].

This standard method is equivalent to the experimental protocol described in the Community method designed for the determination of *free* (synthetic and natural) and *total* (peptide-bound and free) amino acids including lysine and glutamic acid, using an amino acid analyser or a High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) equipment [15]. This method does not distinguish between the salts and the amino acid enantiomers.

The *free* amino acids are extracted with diluted hydrochloric acid. Co-extracted nitrogenous macromolecules are precipitated with sulfosalicylic acid and removed by filtration. The solution is filtered and adjusted to pH 2.2. The amino acids are separated by ion exchange chromatography and determined after post-column derivatisation with ninhydrin by photometric detection at 570 nm. The procedure chosen for the determination of the *total* amino acids depends on the amino acids under investigation. Total lysine and total glutamic
Acid can be determined from unoxidised or oxidised samples. The oxidation is performed at 0 °C with the mixture of performic acid and phenol. An excess of the oxidation reagent is decomposed with sodium disulfite. The unoxidised or oxidised samples are hydrolysed with hydrochloric acid (6 mol/l) for 23 hours. The hydrolysate is adjusted to pH 2.2. The amino acids are separated by ion exchange chromatography and determined by post-column derivatisation with ninhydrin and photometric detection at 570 nm [15].

The Applicant applied the above mentioned IEC-VIS method for the analysis of five batches of the feed additive with an average content of 20 % (w/w) for lysine and glutamic acid and obtained a relative standard deviation for repeatability (RSD_r) ranging from 1.8 % to 2.0 %. This is in agreement with the precision values reported in the frame of the two ring-trial validation studies [14,15].

Based on the performance characteristics available, the EURL recommends for official control the method based on IEC-VIS to quantify lysine and glutamic acid in the feed additive.

Further testing or validation of the methods to be performed through the consortium of National Reference Laboratories as specified by article 10 (Commission Regulation (EC) No 378/2005 as last amended by Regulation (EU) 2015/1761) is not considered necessary.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In the frame of this authorisation the EURL recommends for official control:

- the methods EN 15621 and ISO 6869 for the quantification of total iron in the feed additive, premixtures and feedingstuffs;
- the methods EN 15510 and EN 17053 for the quantification of total iron in premixtures and feedingstuffs; and
- the Community method based on atomic absorption spectrometry (AAS) for the quantification of total iron in feedingstuffs (only);
- the method based on ion exchange chromatography coupled with post-column derivatisation and photometric detection (IEC-VIS) for the quantification of lysine and glutamic acid in the feed additive

**Recommended text for the register entry (analytical method)**

For the quantification of total iron in the feed additive, premixtures and feedingstuffs:

- Inductively Coupled Plasma-Atomic Emission Spectrometry after pressure digestion (ICP-AES) – EN 15621; or
– Atomic Absorption Spectrometry (AAS) – ISO 6869; or
– Inductively Coupled Plasma-Atomic Emission Spectrometry (ICP-AES) – EN 15510 (for premixtures and feedingstuffs only); or
– Inductively Coupled Plasma-Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS) – EN 17053 (for premixtures and feedingstuffs only); or
– Atomic Absorption Spectrometry (AAS) – Commission Regulation (EC) No 152/2009 (for feedingstuffs only)

For the quantification of lysine and glutamic acid in the feed additive:
– ion exchange chromatography coupled with post-column derivatisation and photometric detection (IEC-VIS)

5. DOCUMENTATION AND SAMPLES PROVIDED TO EURL

In accordance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003, reference samples of iron chelates of lysine and glutamic acid have been sent to the European Union Reference Laboratory for Feed Additives. The dossier has been made available to the EURL by EFSA.

6. REFERENCES

[1] *Application, Reference SANTE_E5_FWD. APPL. 1831-0012-2018
[3] *Application, Proposal for Register Entry – Annex A
[4] *Technical dossier, Section II: Identity, characterisation and conditions of use of the feed additive; methods of analysis
7. RAPPORTEUR LABORATORY & NATIONAL REFERENCE LABORATORIES

The Rapporteur Laboratory for this evaluation is the European Union Reference Laboratory for Feed Additives, JRC, Geel, Belgium. This report is in accordance with the opinion of the consortium of National Reference Laboratories as referred to in Article 6(2) of Commission Regulation (EC) No 378/2005, as last amended by Regulation (EU) 2015/1761.

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following National Reference Laboratories contributed to this report:

- Centro di referenza nazionale per la sorveglianza ed il controllo degli alimenti per gli animali (CReAA), Torino (IT)
- Laboratori Agroalimentari, Departament d’Agricultura, Ramaderia, PESCA, Alimentació i Medi Natural. Generalitat de Catalunya, Cabrils (ES)
- Państwowy Instytut Weterynaryjny, Pulawy (PL)
- RIKILT Wageningen UR, Wageningen (NL)
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- Staatliche Betriebsgesellschaft für Umwelt und Landwirtschaft. Geschäftsbereich 6 – Labore Landwirtschaft, Nossen (DE)