

ANIMAL FEED HYGIENE FOR FARMERS

1. The requirements of the EC Feed Hygiene Regulation (183/2005)¹ will come into force for most businesses that make, market or use animal feed from **1 January 2008**.

2. This affects farms which are feed businesses (i.e. most livestock farms and arable farms that grow, use or sell crops for use as animal feed). Such farms will have to follow basic hygiene procedures in relation to the feed they use or grow and ensure that hazards are properly controlled. They must also provide a statement of compliance to their local authority (see paragraphs 9-11 overleaf and the attached statement of compliance template).

3. The purpose of this measure is to ensure that feed is safe and can be traced in the event of a food/feed safety incident.

What are the requirements?

4. The Feed Hygiene Regulation applies in all Member States of the EU.

5. The detailed requirements are mainly set out in the Annexes to the Regulation.

Annex I - covers the requirements that primary producers (farms) have to follow. Operations should be managed to avoid hazards and to ensure that feed products produced and used are protected against contamination and spoilage.

Annex II - sets down more detailed requirements for those farms that buy-in additives and premixture products (e.g. such as vitamins A and D and trace elements (copper, selenium, zinc etc))² and add them directly to feeds. Such farms must also apply the principles of a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) system.

Annex III - is a code on animal feeding practice, which all producers are obliged to follow when feeding animals that produce food products for human consumption.

6. It is expected that most farms will already be following the requirements of the Regulation – for example, as demonstrated by their membership of an assurance scheme or existing good practices on farm.

7. Further guidance on feeding practices is available, as follows:

- The Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs Review of ‘On-Farm Feeding Practices’ report (available from the link overleaf) includes information on identifying hazards and minimising risks in the use of feed at farm level;

¹ Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 January 2005 laying down the requirements for feed hygiene

² For the purposes of this note “premixtures” are those specialist feed products which are sold and labelled only as “premixtures”. They should not be confused with other commonly used feed products which are sold and labelled as “complementary feedingstuffs” or “mineral feedingstuffs”.

<http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/farm.pdf>

- Industry Code of Practice for On-Farm Feeding. This Code applies to farmers and covers all aspects of on farm feeding, including on farm mixing. A copy of this code can be found at:

http://www.redtractor.org.uk/download/rt_code_farm_feeding.pdf

Statement of compliance

8. The Regulation also requires feed business operators, including many farmers to make a statement of compliance to their local authority to confirm that their farm(s) comply with the requirements of the Regulation.

9. To assist feed business operators (including farmers), to provide the required statement, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) has produced the attached template which if completed fulfils the legal requirement for feed businesses to make a compliance statement.

10. Completed statements should be sent to the trading standards department of the local authority relevant to the farm that is responsible for enforcing the provisions of the Regulation and receiving such statements. .

Details of relevant authorities can be found at the following link:

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DI1/Directories/Localcouncils/index.htm>

There is no fee for making a statement of compliance.

Farms not required to make a compliance statement

11. Please note that a compliance statement does not have to be made in respect of farms that were previously approved or registered under the Feeding Stuffs (Establishments and Intermediaries) Regulations 1999 (which implemented Directive 95/69/EC). These are farms which mix compound feeds containing additives or buy-in additives/premixtures and add them directly to feeds. The Feed Hygiene Regulation applied to these farms from 1 January 2006.

12. There are other farm-related activities that fall outside of the scope of the Regulation (see below) and therefore the requirement to submit a statement of compliance does not apply:

- the private domestic production of feed for food-producing animals kept for private domestic consumption and for animals not kept for food production;
- the feeding of food-producing animals kept for private domestic consumption;

- the feeding of animals not kept for food production;
- the direct supply of small quantities of primary production of feed at local level by a producer to local farms for use on those farms;
- the direct supply, by the producer, of small quantities of primary products to local retail establishments directly supplying the final consumer (e.g. farms);
- the retailing of pet food.

(with regard to the term 'small quantities of primary production' - a working definition is less than 20 tonnes per annum)

Where to find further information

- Feed businesses can contact their local authority for further information about making a statement of compliance.
- Further background on the Feed Hygiene Regulation can be found on the Agency's website:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/scotland/regsscotland/regsguidscot/>

November 2007
Food Standards Agency Scotland