

**Feed Hygiene Requirements
for Livestock Farmers Mixing
Additives and Premixtures
directly in Feeds and Mixing
Compound Feed with Additives**



INTRODUCTION

1. EC Regulation 1831/2003 of 22 September 2003 laying down requirements for feed hygiene (the Feed Hygiene Regulation) was one of a number of animal feed measures proposed in the European Commission's White Paper on Food Safety of January 2000. It contains a number of provisions aimed at improving feed safety, including rules to improve the operational standards of feed businesses and traceability measures to ensure that in the case of a feed contamination incident feed products can be easily traced and recalled if necessary. The Regulation also requires the registration and/or approval of feed business establishments.
2. EC Regulation 1831/2003 of 22 September 2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition (the Feed Additive Regulation) revised and updated previous legislation on feed additives. The essential points are that only authorised additives may be used in feed; that these additives may be used only for the specific purposes (age and species of animal, maximum inclusion rate etc.) laid down in the authorisation; and that new feed additives will only be authorised following a scientific evaluation by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) of their safety, quality and efficacy.

INTENDED AUDIENCE

3. This guidance note is intended for livestock farmers mixing additives for the feeding of food producing animals (i.e. farmed livestock) on their own holdings.

PURPOSE OF GUIDANCE

4. This question & answer guidance note provides advice on the procedures to be followed by livestock farmers who mix additives with feed materials to feed animals on their own holdings.

LEGAL STATUS OF GUIDANCE

5. This guidance note explains the legal requirements of EC Regulation 1831/2003 laying down requirements for feed hygiene as they apply to farmers mixing additives into feed for use on their own holdings. However, it cannot cover every situation and livestock farmers with specific queries may wish to seek further advice from their Local Authority.

THE GUIDANCE

What are additive and premixture products ?

6. Feed additives include substances such as vitamins, trace elements (e.g. copper, zinc) and preservatives. Feed additives have to be authorised before they can be used in animal feed and may only be used in accordance with their authorisation. Premixtures are mixtures of additives, often including a carrier substance (e.g. limestone) to aid dispersion of the additives in the feed mix.
7. Feed additives and Premixtures are different to compound feeds. Compound feeds are mixtures of feed materials such as wheat, barley, rapeseed meal, palm kernel expeller and minerals (e.g. magnesium oxide). Bought in compound feeds may be labelled as complete feeds or complementary feeds such as mineral feeds. Compound feeds may or may not contain additives.

How can I identify additive and premixture products ?

8. Such products are subject to mandatory labelling. Additive product labels must declare the name of the additive, and its authorisation number. Premixture labels must bear the word "Premixture". These products are distinguishable from compound feeds as the labels of compound feeds must include the description "complete feed", "complementary feed" or "mineral feed" as appropriate.

Where can I find a list of authorised feed additives ?

9. Authorised feed additives are listed in the European Union's Register of Feed Additives which can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/animalnutrition/feedadditives/registeradditives_en.htm

You can use this register to check if an additive is authorised and its conditions of use e.g. maximum incorporation levels or use only for certain animal species. To establish this you must check the authorising Regulations, which are included as links in the Register.

10. The groups of additives that farmers may most commonly use in a straight form as a feed mix ingredient include:
 - ◆ vitamins
 - ◆ trace elements: iron, iodine, cobalt, copper, manganese, zinc, molybdenum, selenium (please note - not all compounds of these elements are authorised)
 - ◆ urea
 - ◆ preservatives (e.g. propionic acid) and
 - ◆ silage additives (silage agents)

11. Other groups of additives that may be used include:

- ◆ antioxidants
- ◆ emulsifiers, stabilisers, thickeners, gelling agents and binders
- ◆ anti caking agents
- ◆ acidity regulators (e.g. sodium bicarbonate)
- ◆ denaturants
- ◆ colourants
- ◆ flavourings
- ◆ amino acids, their salts and analogues
- ◆ digestibility enhancers (enzymes)
- ◆ gut flora stabilisers (micro organisms including yeasts)
- ◆ substances which favourably affect the environment
- ◆ substances for the control of radionuclide contamination, and
- ◆ coccidiostats and histomonostats.

12. Substances such as sodium hydroxide used to soften grain are not considered to be feed additives, rather they are considered to be “treatments”

13. For more information on feed additives see the Food Standards Agency’s website:

<http://www.food.gov.uk/business-industry/farmingfood/animalfeed/animalfeedlegislation/animalfeeddaddfaq/>

What are the requirements that farmers mixing feeds must comply with ?

14. Farmers who buy-in feed additives (except silage agents) and premixture products and mix them directly (i.e. straight) with feeds (forage, silage, haylage, cereals etc.) must comply with Annex II of the EC Feed Hygiene Regulation (183/2005) . They must also apply a feed management system based on the principles of HACCP to such mixing operations. HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points system) is a systematic approach to safety management. Mixing feed additives and premixtures is considered to be higher risk compared to other types of activity.
15. Farmers mixing compound feeds with other feeds (forage, silage, etc.) must comply with Annex I of Regulation 183/2005, which does not require them to apply HACCP but to put in place measures to generally control feed hazards. Annex I requires operators to ensure that feed produced and used is protected against contamination and spoilage and also to keep certain records (e.g. of feed bought and used) . This activity includes both the mixing of compound feeds that contain additives and those compound feeds that do not contain additives. It includes top dressing, e.g. the sprinkling of mineral feeds on forage etc. Farmers using silage agents must also comply with the requirements of Annex I of the Regulation.

Further guidance can be found in the Code of Practice for On-Farm Feeding:

http://assurance.redtractor.org.uk/resources/000/576/439/Industry_Feed_Code_of_practice_April_2010.pdf

What requirements apply to farms that do not mix feeds ?

16. Farms that, for example, buy-in compound feeds but do not mix them with other feeds, or use crops grown on-farm for feed must comply with the requirements of Annex I of the Feed Hygiene Regulation. Amongst other things, Annex I contains conditions covering on-farm storage and transport.

What requirements apply to farmers who sell mixed feed ?

17. Farmers producing any mixed feed, using feed additive / premixtures or producing compound feeds which they supply to other feed businesses must apply the requirements of Annex II and a feed management system based on the principles of HACCP. This includes ensuring the use of appropriate weighing equipment, metering devices and mixing machinery in order that homogenous mixtures are produced. Operations must also be carried out according to written procedures.

What are the approval / registration requirements for farms ?

18. Farmers mixing feed additives or compound feeds containing additives must be registered or approved by their enforcement authority. Registration involves the placing of establishments on a list with follow up inspections. In Great Britain, the Local Authority is responsible for registration of farms. Some farmers may already be registered for food hygiene purposes. There is no need to register twice if you also mix feed, but farmers should inform the Local Authority if they intend to carry out new activities. Approval requires a prior inspection visit by the Local Authority before a premise is allowed to operate.
19. Farms mixing feeds with non-antibiotic growth promoters, coccidiostats and histomonostats (including compound feeds containing these additives) are subject to approval, which in Great Britain is carried out by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) - for further details contact the VMD's Inspection and Investigations Team on 01932 338475.
20. Livestock farms also have to follow a code of animal feeding practice (Annex III of EC Regulation 1831/2003). This includes requirements relating to pasture, grazing, storage, on-farm distribution, the provision of feed and water, and personnel. Guidance on these requirements can also be found in Code of Practice for On-Farm Feeding.

Other Points

21. The Local Authority maintains a list of feed business establishments, including farms, registered under the Feed Hygiene Regulation, including the activities carried out. The activities relevant to on-farm mixing are:

- ◆ R04 - Manufacture of compound feed for supply to other feed businesses;
- ◆ R10 - Mixing feed on-farm, with additives and premixtures for a farm's own use;
- ◆ R11 - Mixing feed on-farm, with compound feeds which contain additives for a farm's own use.

Other activities are:

- ◆ R13 - Livestock farms (including fish farms) which do not mix feeds or mix feeds without additives;
- ◆ R14 - Arable farms growing or selling crops for feed.

22. When applying for registration, farmers should indicate all of the above activities that they carry out, even if such activities may only be carried out from time to time. Application forms are available from your Local Authority.

National Legislation

23. EC Regulations are directly applicable in all Member States, but in order to give them effect in the UK it was necessary to introduce certain national rules. For EC Regulation 1831/2003, national enforcement powers (e.g. penalties and offences) and procedures for application for registration and approval were introduced in the Feed (Hygiene and Enforcement) Regulations 2005, which came into force on 1 January 2006. The provisions of EC Regulation 1831/2003 on feed additives are given effect by Part 3 of the Animal Feed Regulations 2010, which came into force on 23 November 2010. There is separate but parallel legislation in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The full titles and numbers of this legislation are as follows:

- ◆ The Feed (Hygiene and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005 No. 3280)
- ◆ The Feed (Hygiene and Enforcement) (Wales) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005 No. 3368) (W265)
- ◆ The Feed (Hygiene and Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (S.S.I. 2005 No. 608)
- ◆ The Feed (Hygiene and Enforcement) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2005 (S.R. 2005 No. 546)
- ◆ The Animal Feed (England) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 2503)
- ◆ The Animal Feed (Wales) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010 No. 2652) (W220)
- ◆ The Animal Feed (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 373)
- ◆ The Animal Feed (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2010 (S.R 2010. No. 355)



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