

codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH
ORGANIZATION

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TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission
FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Italy

SUBJECT: **A) REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE REVISED PROPOSED DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE ON GOOD ANIMAL FEEDING**

B) REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON VALIDATED METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING FOR REGULATORY PURPOSES IN ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

DEADLINE: **30 November 2000**

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BACKGROUND

1. The First Session of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding agreed to develop a revised text of the Proposed Draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding by the Danish and Codex Secretariats to be distributed to governments and interested organizations for comments at Step 3 and the revised text and the compiled comments would form the basis of discussion at its next Session (ALINORM 01/38, para. 70).
2. The revised text of the Proposed Draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding was developed in light of the comments received (ALINORM 01/38, paras. 20-69) at its last Session to cover the entire feed chain including grazing or free-range feeding, forage crop production and aquaculture. The objective of the Code was to encourage adherence to Good Animal Feeding Practice at the farm level and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) during the procurement, handling, storage, processing and distribution of animal feedingstuffs for food producing animals in order to ensure the safety of food for human consumption. Issues regarding the inclusion of fermentation products, the definition of wastes and those provisions with square brackets need to be further discussed at its next Session.
3. The comments submitted in response to this Circular Letter would form the basis of discussion with the revised text of Proposed Draft Code for consideration and discussion at its next Session at Step 4.
4. In addition to general considerations of the revised Code, Member States and other interested organizations are also requested to provide information on internationally available validated methods of analysis and sampling for the examination of feedingstuffs for regulatory purposes in order to compile a list of methods of

analysis and sampling procedures for animal feedingstuffs (ALINORM 01/38, para. 56). Information submitted will be compiled for consideration and discussion at its next Session and reference would be made to those validated methods and sampling procedures at an appropriate point (Section 7) in the revised Code.

5. Governments and international organizations are therefore invited to submit their comments on the revised text of the Proposed Draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding and information on validated methods of analysis and sampling for the examination of feedingstuffs used for regulatory purposes and should do so in writing in conformity with the Uniform Procedure for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts (see *Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Eleventh Edition, pages 21-23*) to addressees as indicated above **not later than 30 November 2000**.

PROPOSED DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE ON GOOD ANIMAL FEEDING

[At Step 3 of the Procedure]

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

This code is to establish a feed safety system which covers the whole feed chain from farm to table in order to eliminate the potential risks to human health, animal health and environment. This code corresponds to the principles of food hygiene already established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission.¹

SECTION 2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This Code of Practice applies to the production and use of all materials of animal, plant and marine origin used for animal feed at all levels whether produced industrially or on farm. It also includes grazing or free-range feeding, forage crop production and aquaculture. The objectives of the Code are to encourage adherence to Good Animal Feeding Practice at the farm level and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) during the procurement, handling, storage, processing, and distribution of animal feedingstuffs for food producing animals in order to ensure the safety of food for human consumption. Those issues of animal welfare other than food safety related animal health are not covered. Where the presence of potentially harmful substances leads to an unacceptable level of such substances in feed, potential sources of contamination to and from the environment may be considered.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this Code ;

Raw materials: Various products of animal, plant and marine origin and inorganic substances, where the destination has not been finally decided.

Feed materials: Various products of vegetable or animal origin, in their natural state, fresh or preserved, and products derived from the industrial processing thereof, and organic or inorganic substances, whether or not containing additives, which are intended for use in oral animal feeding, either directly as such or after processing, in the preparation of compound feedingstuffs or as carriers of premixtures.

Feedingstuffs:

[1. Any substance, whether processed, semi-processed or raw which is intended for animal consumption.

2. Products of vegetable or animal origin, in their natural state, fresh or preserved, and products derived from the industrial processing thereof, and organic or inorganic substances, used singly or in mixtures, whether or not containing additives, for oral animal feeding]

Feed Additives :

[1. An ingredient or combination of ingredients, other than a premix, added to the basic feed mix or parts thereof to fulfill a specific need.

¹ Codex Recommended International Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1- 1969, Rev. 3 (1997)

2. Substances or preparations used in animal nutrition in order to effect the characteristics of feed materials, feedingstuffs or animal products or to satisfy nutritional needs or improve animal production or to meet specific nutritional needs of animals at a particular time or to reduce the harmful effect of animals excretion or to improve the animal environment.]

Medicated feedingstuffs :

[1. Any feed which contains drug ingredients intended for the treatment or prevention of disease of animals other than man.

2. Any mixture of a veterinary medicinal product or products and feed, which is readily prepared for marketing and intended to be fed to animals without further processing, because of its curative or preventive properties or other properties as a medicinal product.]

Undesirable substances : [Substances or products which are undesirable in feed due to possible risks to human and animal health]

Wastes : [To be defined]

SECTION 4. GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND REQUIREMENTS

Feed and feed ingredients should be obtained and preserved in a stable condition so as to prevent hazardous effects due to contamination or deterioration. Feeds should be in good condition and meet generally accepted quality standards.

There is a need for collaboration between all parties involved in feed and animal production, manufacturing and use of feed to establish the linkage between any identified or potential hazard and the level of risk. Such information is essential for the development and maintenance of appropriate risk management options and safe feeding practices.

4.1. RAW MATERIALS, MINERALS, VITAMINS AND FEED ADDITIVES

Raw materials of animal, plant and/or marine origin should be obtained from reputable sources, preferably with a supplier warranty. Minerals, vitamins and feed additives should be obtained from reputable manufacturers who guarantee the concentration and purity of ingredients and provide instructions for correct use. Monitoring of raw materials and ingredients should include inspection and sampling of ingredients for contaminants using risk based protocols. Laboratory testing, where undertaken, should be by validated standard methods. Ingredients should meet acceptable, and if applicable, statutory standards for levels of pathogens, mycotoxins, herbicides, pesticides and other contaminants which may give rise to human health hazards.

4.2. LABELLING

Labelling should be clear and informative so as to allow the farmer to handle and use feedingstuffs correctly. Labelling should be consistent with any statutory requirements and should describe the feed and provide instructions for use. Labelling requirements shall ensure traceability for all feedingstuffs of

their origin, full labelling of ingredients, the correct use of permitted additives, matters in relation to organically produced feed, monitoring programs for contaminants and nutrition profile and assessment of consequences for human and animal health. The label should also contain information about the species or category of animals and the purpose for which the compound feedingstuff is intended.

Genetically modified organisms (GMO products) should be labelled.

Trade name, the name and address of the producer or intermediates, registration number if available, product composition, direction and precautions for use, lot identification and manufacturing date and use before or expiry date should be on the label.

4.3. TRACEABILITY AND RECORD KEEPING

Traceability of raw materials, minerals, vitamins and feed additives in feedingstuffs should be ensured by proper labelling and record keeping. Feed manufacturers should keep records including master formulae, mixing sheets, daily production logs, inventory records, labels, invoices, file of complaints, file on manufacturing errors and corrective actions taken, analytical results and investigations of out of tolerance sample results, records respecting the disposition of returned and recalled feeds, records of the disposition of flush or recovered material, records of mixer validation and scale/metering device verification, etc.

Records should be maintained regarding production, distribution and use of feedingstuffs to trace in case of emergency situations or when there is an indication of non-compliance with established standards or procedures to take corrective measures.

In order to control the spread of specific pathogens it may be necessary to specify, for any given ingredient, the origin of country and species and any treatment process used prior to purchase. Care should be taken to preserve the identity of such material after procurement to facilitate any tracking that might be required. Manufacturers should provide adequate information to enable the quality and safety of feed to be maintained after delivery. Proper records should be maintained concerning source of ingredients, formulations, date of manufacture, processing conditions and any details of dispatch, transport and destination.

4.4. INSPECTION AND CONTROL PROCEDURES

Official regulatory programmes should be established to ensure foods of animal origin produced for human consumption are both safe and wholesome. Inspection and control procedures should be used to ensure that feeds meet requirements in order to protect consumers against food-borne hazards². Inspection system should be designed and operated on the basis of objective risk assessment appropriate to the circumstances³. Preferably the risk assessment methodology employed should be consistent with internationally accepted approaches. Risk assessment should be based on current available scientific evidence.

Feed manufacturers and industry should introduce self-regulation/auto-control to secure compliance with required standards.

² Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification (CAC/GL 20-1995)

³ Guidelines for the Design, Operation, Assessment and Accreditation of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CAC/GL 26-1997)

4.5. HEALTH HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH ANIMAL FEED

It is essential that the levels of hazardous substances in feed are sufficiently low that their concentration in food is consistently below the established maximum residue limits such as those established by Codex Alimentarius Commission.

All feed ingredients should meet minimum safety standards (e.g., heavy metal levels in minerals, maximum mycotoxin levels in grains, etc).

4.5.1. Feed Additives

Feed additives should be assessed for safety and approved under stated conditions of use. Borderlines between feed materials and additives and between additives and veterinary medicines must be set to prevent misuse.

Antibiotics should not be used in feedingstuffs for growth promoting purposes in the absence of public health safety assessment⁴. Only products licensed for administration to food producing animals should be used.

4.5.2. Feed materials

Feed materials contaminated with mycotoxins in excess of established national maximum levels or international maximum levels established should not be fed to animals. Monitoring of ingredients should include inspection and sampling of ingredients for contaminants. Ingredients should meet acceptable levels of heavy metals and other contaminants.

4.5.3. Feedingstuffs

Feedingstuffs may be marketed only if they are wholesome, unadulterated and of merchantable quality. Feedingstuffs should not represent a danger to human or animal health and should not be presented or marketed in a manner liable to mislead.

4.5.4. Undesirable Substances

Undesirable substances such as pesticides, agricultural and industrial chemicals, heavy metals, radionuclides, zoonoses, mycotoxins, and other microbiological contamination of feedingstuffs should be minimized. [The question of undesirable substances has yet to be resolved and will be discussed separately: see questionnaire attached to CL 2000/21-AF.]

In order to eliminate a number of infections for farm animals that could lead to human illness, untreated animal and human wastes should not be incorporated in animal feed and fish farming.

Reference should be made to the Codex Recommended International Code for Ante-mortem and Post-mortem Inspection of Slaughter Animals and for Ante-mortem and Post-mortem Judgement of Slaughter Animals and Meat (CAC/RCP 41-1993) which describes the conditions for disposal of meat products deemed to be unsuitable for human consumption.

⁴ WHO Global Principles for the Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance in Animals Intended for Food, June 2000, Geneva, Switzerland

SECTION 5. INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION OF ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

The ultimate responsibility for the production of safe and wholesome feed lies with the producer or manufacturer who should produce feeds with as low a level of hazard as possible and comply with any applicable statutory requirements.

The producer or manufacturer should establish quality assurance systems based on the principles of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP). The HACCP principles, as annexed to the Codex “Recommended International Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene”⁵ should be preferred.

The effective implementation of GMP protocols should ensure that:

1. Buildings and equipment including processing machinery, are constructed in a manner which permits ease of operation, maintenance and cleaning ;
2. All plant personnel is adequately trained and adequate working conditions for staff should be provided ;
3. Water used in feed manufacture meets hygienic standards and is of potable quality for animals and the conduits for water should be of inert nature ;
4. Machinery coming into contact with feed is dried following any wet cleaning process ;
5. Condensation is minimised ;
6. Sewage, waste and rain water is disposed of in a manner that ensures that equipment, ingredients and feed are not contaminated ;
7. Feed processing plants, storage facilities and their immediate surroundings are kept clean and effective pest control programmes should be implemented ;
8. All scales and metering devices used in the manufacture of feeds are appropriate for the range of weights or volumes to be measured and tested for accuracy regularly;
9. All mixers used in the manufacture of feeds are appropriate for the range of weights or volumes being mixed, and are capable of manufacturing homogeneous mixtures ;
10. The proper use of animal by-product meals and manufacturing strategies to avoid cross-contamination (flushing, sequencing, and physical cleanout) between batches of feeds containing ruminant meat or bone meal and feeds destined for feeding to ruminants ;
11. Procedures to allow the rapid recall of any feed, which is determined to pose a threat to animal and/or human health are in place ;
12. Information on contaminants and nutritional profiles in relation to human health should be monitored ;
13. Feeds are delivered and used as soon as possible after manufacture and stored so as to prevent deterioration and contamination ;
14. Processed feeds are separated from unprocessed ingredients and proper packaging materials are used;
15. Containers and equipment used for transport, storage, conveying, handling and weighing are kept clean ;
16. Cleaning programmes are introduced for feeds moving in international trade in bulk and traces of detergents and disinfectants should be minimised ;
17. Pathogen control procedures, such as pasteurisation or the addition of an organic acid to inhibit mould growth, are used where appropriate and monitored ;

⁵ Annex to the *Recommended International Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene: CAC/RCP 1-1969, Rev.3 (1997)*

- 18 . Apart from feeds fed moist, such as silage and by-products of brewing, ingredients and feeds are kept dry to limit fungal and bacterial growth by ventilation and temperature control ;
- 19 . Waste and unsaleable materials should be isolated and identified. Waste and unsaleable material containing hazardous levels of veterinary drugs, contaminants or any other hazards are disposed of in an appropriate and, where applicable, statutory manner and not used as feed ;
- 20 . Care should be taken to prevent, so far as reasonably practicable, deterioration and spoilage through appropriate measures which may include temperature and humidity control, and/or other control measures during handling, storage and transport of feedingstuffs ; and
- 21 . Trucks, containers used for transport of feedingstuffs are kept clean to avoid-cross contamination. Temperature are kept as low as possible and avoid condensation and spoilage.

SECTION 6. ON-FARM PRODUCTION AND USE OF FEEDINGSTUFFS

[To be developed, including provisions for HACCP]

SECTION 7. METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND SAMPLING

[To be added]