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FEFAC GUIDELINES

FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A

CODE OF PRACTICE

FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

March 2001

CONTENTS

FEFAC Guidelines for the implementation of a Code of Practice for the manufacture of animal feedingstuffs

1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose of the present guidelines

- The present guidelines are designed to provide practical information for the implementation of a Code of Practice for the production of safe and high quality animal feedingstuffs. They establish a set of principles covering (i) the sourcing of quality feed materials, (ii) the production, storage, transport and delivery of quality feed, in general, and (iii) the use of additives and veterinary medicinal substances in feed, in particular. They require record keeping to ensure an adequate traceability system due to help managing potential contamination cases in co-operation with public authorities.
- Feed manufacturers can use these guidelines to compare the methods and practices they describe with their own production methods and plant management and, when necessary, improve or adapt these. Specific conditions on each plant will determine the way in which manufacturers adapt and transpose the provisions laid down in the present guidelines to establish practical rules, procedures and working instructions. These objectives should be achieved using HACCP principles each time required or any equivalent risk management system. The Code of Practice may be developed under ISO 9000-9002 registration or other equivalent quality management programmes providing that they incorporate HACCP principles and are subject to certification by an independent institution.
- In principle, this guide may also be used for the production or preparation of premixes.

1.2. Quality management

Compound animal feedstuffs are a significant link in the chain of production of food products from animal origin. Producing safe feed and food products is first and foremost a question of good management practices at each stage of the feed and food chain from primary production to final processing. It is therefore the responsibility of each operator in the feed & food chain to implement good practices to ensure the safety and the quality of the goods he produces.

The EU feed legislation provides for an approval or registration procedure for establishments operating in the animal feed sector. Directive 95/69/EC sets minimum conditions to be fulfilled by approved feed establishments. Compliance with these minimum requirements is therefore certified by national official bodies through the delivery of the approval.

Good management implies that all employees involved in the production of feed (including storage and transport) be aware that they contribute to the quality of the finished products.

Quality is defined as the extent to which the whole of the properties of a product, process or service meet the requirements imposed. These requirements are dictated by the intended use of the product or by the capacity of the whole of the properties of a product, process or service to satisfy a specific need.

In order to meet these quality standards, a number of precautionary measures must be taken into account in the management of the plant. For the production of quality animal feeds (or premixes), one must understand the factors which influence the quality of the output, such as feed materials, plant installations and the organisation of the plant.

A feed which is now considered to be of good quality may in the future no longer meet the demands of the livestock farmers and of the final users (i.e. the consumers), simply because these demands and needs change over time. Any additional demand from the legislator or from the livestock farmers play a role in this continuous process of change.

Quality therefore requires:

- paying attention to final consumers' demands,
- knowing the animals' needs,
- paying attention to the wishes of the buyers of the compound feeds,
- paying attention to the quality and safety of feed materials,
- paying attention to any hazard linked to the production process that may endanger animal or human health,
- paying attention to the amendments to the legislation relative to the composition and preparation of animal feeds and premixes,
- keeping abreast of the evolution and developments in animal feeding and their influence on the animal production and quality.

Accordingly, the manufacturer will have to organise his production process for premixes and/or animal feeds so as to guarantee the continued supply of products of quality. The emphasis is not only placed on production, but also on all the other activities in the plant, ranging from research and development to service and technical assistance. A system to verify and record the origin of raw materials must be at the disposal of the compound feed manufacturer.

To sum up, the animal feed industry needs to ensure that all stages and all levels of the production process can be monitored in an efficient and reliable way.

1.2.1 Risk analysis

Product safety is an intrinsic aspect of quality. The development of a Code of Practice must therefore include a risk analysis based on HACCP principles.

The whole process must be examined in detail to identify potential associated hazards with particular attention to those which may affect human or animal health, by carrying out a HACCP study. HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points) is a systematic approach to the identification and assessment of hazard associated with all stages of feed production, the definition of means of their control and the identification of critical control points. It is based on seven principles:

- Analysing and identifying possible hazards along the vertical chain;
- Identifying the critical control points which must be monitored in order to avoid or minimise the occurrence of hazards;
- Laying down critical limit values which must without fail be observed in order to control the hazards at each critical control point;
- Introducing a surveillance system for regular monitoring or observation of the critical points;
- Laying down corrective measures which should be taken whenever an inadmissible deviation is recorded at a critical point;
- Laying down procedures for verification of the correct operation of the HACCP system (functional control system);
- Setting up a system for effective management of the documentation relating to the HACCP plan (data collection/organisation of documentation).

When carrying out an HACCP study, specific attention must be paid to cross-contamination. Where a hazard presents a significant risk to the product, it is necessary to establish and document control measures to reduce or eliminate it. Critical control points for hazards must be identified and particular emphasis must be placed upon documenting the control procedures and corrective actions at these points and demonstrating that they are effective.

1.2.2 Undesirable substances and products / negative list / specific feed materials

The presence of undesirable substances in feed materials and additives is a source of potentially toxic chemical hazards. In producing compound feed, the manufacturer must make sure that the Maximum Permitted Levels (MPL's) of undesirable substances or products mentioned in Directive 1999/29/EEC are not exceeded.

In order to comply with the MPL's in compound feedingstuffs, approved feed manufacturers must have sufficient training and the necessary equipment at their disposal to process feed materials and additives containing undesirable substances or products.

The EU legislation establishes a list of products whose use as feed materials is prohibited. The manufacturer must make sure that products included on the list of prohibited products are not used. Certain feed materials and additives are subject to restriction for use in certain species. The manufacturer must make sure that they are used accordingly and that risks of incidental presence are controlled / eliminated.

Specific feed materials that are covered by an approval or registration procedure must be obtained from suppliers that are approved or registered.

1.2.3 Bacterial quality

Contamination with pathogens is a typical microbiological hazard. Pathogenic Salmonella and other pathohenic organisms are widely distributed. Hence, their complete elimination from the environment cannot be expected. However, all sections of the feed and food industry - including livestock producers, raw material importers, suppliers and producers of feed materials, and feed manufacturers (including

commercial compounders, integrated producers and on-farm mixers) as well as slaughterhouses, hauliers and distributors of meat - have a responsibility to eliminate or at least reduce to a minimum the number of salmonella and other pathogenic organisms present in the finished product destined for human consumption, keeping in mind that pathogenic Salmonella should be eliminated in any case. This should be achieved using HACCP systems.

1.2.4 Additives and veterinary medicinal substances

The quality of a feed or a premix can be influenced by mistakes in the addition of micro-components. This is especially true in cases where the methods of incorporation of additives and veterinary medical substances into the feed or premix require particular attention.

Additives and veterinary medicinal substances, when incorporated into the feed, need to be mixed in appropriate quantity and in an homogeneous way into the feed taking into account the manufacturer's recommendations. Using this mode of incorporation for these substances ensures that the feed contains the quantity required by the animal.

When used without caution or inappropriately, additives and medicinal substances can produce adverse effects on both animal and human health, as well as on the environment. For this reason, national and international bodies impose increasingly strict regulations on animal feed preparations and premixes containing these substances:

- the use of additives in animal feed is regulated by the EU Council Directive on feed additives (70/524/EEC).
- the use of veterinary medicinal substances, which require a prescription or written veterinary instructions for the use of medicated feed, is regulated by Directive 90/167/EEC.

Premixes and animal feed manufacturers who incorporate additives and veterinary medical substances, shall be in possession of an authorisation issued by the competent authorities. Annex II of Directive 84/587/EEC stipulates that companies using additives belonging to the categories of antibiotics (A), coccidiostats and other medicinal substances (D) and veterinary medical substances, must comply with (global) criteria regarding the installations, the management and administration of the plant, as well as with the qualification of the employees. It is also clearly stated that veterinary medicinal substances may only be incorporated in animal feed in the form of premixes.

1.2.5 Quality control

A quality control plan must be drawn up and implemented for the use of raw materials, premixtures and final products. This quality control plan based on critical control points defined as a result of the HACCP study must a.o. ensure :

- that compound feedingstuffs containing premixtures comply with the specifications defined by the manufacturer;
- the nature, content and homogeneity of the additives concerned;
- that levels of incidental presence of substances and products subject to restriction of use is as low as reasonably achievable (ALARA principle);

- that the bacteriological quality and analytical constituents (Directive 79/373/EEC) of compound feed to be put in circulation, as well as the undesirable substances they contain, are recorded.

This quality control plan must foresee checks on critical control points in the manufacturing process and sampling procedures, as well as determine the frequency of these checks and sampling procedures. The plan is also to specify which methods of analysis are to be used and how frequently. The quality control plan must mention what is foreseen in case of non compliance with the specifications. Whenever it is possible, different people shall be responsible for production and quality control.

However, each package of additives, veterinary medicinal substances and premixes shall be examined individually upon receival in order to detect possible damages. These checks must also ascertain that the products received conform to the information on the labels.

Manufacturers must have the use of a properly equipped quality control laboratory where trained staff is employed or sign a contract with an external laboratory preferably accredited.

2. Facilities and equipment

- Facilities and manufacturing equipment must be kept clean and in a good state to provide the most optimal conditions for the manufacture of compound feedingstuffs whether or not containing premixes.
- Different points on the transport systems, where products can be accumulated, shall be accessible in order to allow cleaning.
- The layout, design and operation of the facilities and equipment must be such that they:
  - minimise the risk of error,
  - permit effective cleaning and maintenance,
  - avoid bacterial contamination, cross-contamination and any adverse effects on the quality of the product in general,
  - allow for a uniform distribution of all ingredients.
- Facilities and equipment used in manufacturing operations which are essential for the quality of products must undergo appropriate and regular checks, of which a record shall be kept. The checks shall be carried out in accordance with written procedures established in conjunction with the manufacturer of the equipment in use. In the case of integrated feed manufacturers, the checks can be carried out at the request and under the responsibility of the feed manufacturer.
- Control measures must be carried out on a regular basis to exclude the presence of unauthorised access to the feed plant or undesirable animals such as rodents, insects, birds, etc. within the precincts of the plant. Preventive measures, in the form of a control plan, must be taken to avoid the presence of harmful organisms or substances.

3. Personnel

3.1 General requirements

- Manufacturers must employ a sufficient number of trained staff for the manufacture of compound feedingstuffs whether or not containing premixes. Employees must be kept abreast of the various developments and evolution in their area of responsibility by attending:
  - training courses;
  - study meetings;
  - internal instruction sessions.
- The management shall set up periodical evaluation programmes in the form of formal interviews in order to review the employees' competence. Results of these interviews shall be recorded.
- Each company must have an organisation chart determining the responsibility of the people in charge at each stage of the production process - as well as of the personnel and their substitutes.
- An organisation chart setting out the educational and professional qualifications of the supervisory staff must be drawn up and made available to the competent authorities responsible for carrying out inspections.

3.2 Specific requirements

- The staff must be adequately trained for quality controls. The person responsible for supervising quality control must furthermore be in a position to carry out his function impartially, independently and to take the appropriate decisions. Whenever it is possible, different people shall be responsible for production and quality control.
- Internal regulations, taking national regulations on health and safety into account, shall in addition determine that:
  - key personnel, where possible, shall have designated deputies and have supporting staff assisting them;
  - all operatives shall wear garments appropriate to the process being carried out. The garments shall regularly be cleaned;
  - no one suffering from a communicable enteric disease shall be employed in the production process.

4. Purchase and delivery

4.1 Purpose

Monitoring the purchase, delivery and intake of feed materials, premixes and/or additives and veterinary medicinal substances must ensure that these products are:

- traceable;
- of conform quality;
- delivered in conditions allowing these to be used for the manufacture of premixes and/or compound feeds in agreement with the quality objectives of the plant concerned;
- delivered by an approved or registered supplier when the products are covered by an approval or registration legislation.

4.2 Purchase

4.2.1 General requirements

- In order to control the quality of animal feeds, the plant shall have a standard specification mentioning the characteristics - including bacteriological quality - required for each feed material, additive and veterinary medicinal substance and/or premix bought outside. When the company uses Codex Alimentarius Standards, the production standards cannot drop below the standards prescribed by the respective Codex standards.
- This standard specification shall indicate under which conditions and to what extent derogations may be accepted. For example, specifications of the bought-in batches will be compared with the standard specifications to establish possible differences in the composition or the shelf life of the bought-in batches.
- Feed materials should be purchased from suppliers which have undergone an authorisation procedure carried out by the buyer including an audit of the quality system in place. This quality system has to comply at least with the provisions laid down in European/national Professional Code of Practices where exists. Where no European/national Professional Code of Practice exists, suppliers should follow recognised proceedings such as ISO or GMP or any other equivalent system incorporating HACCP principles to guarantee hygienic and safe quality. Suppliers Codes of Practice must enable to reach the lowest level of undesirable substances technically achievable and in any case below the MPL fixed in Annex to Directive 1999/29/EC. Annex 1 establishes a list of European Codes of Practices developed by European suppliers associations and recognised by FEFAC.
- The feed manufacturer must intensify controls on raw materials that are obtained from newly recognised suppliers.

4.2.2 Specific requirements

- Specific feed materials that are covered by an approval or registration procedure must be obtained from approved or registered suppliers in accordance with EU feed legislation.
- Raw materials of animal origin must be obtained from suppliers who comply with Council Decision 99/534/EC, to guarantee the control of pathogens according to the Directive 90/667/EEC for raw materials as appropriate during storage, handling and transport of raw materials of animal origin intended for inclusion into animal feedstuffs.
- The selection of suppliers will take into account the risk of salmonellae and undesirable substances or products in the raw material.
- Instructions relative to the safe use of additives and veterinary medicinal substances shall be laid down in writing, according to the instructions of the suppliers and the constraints imposed by the finished product's destination.

4.3 Delivery and intake

- A record shall be kept of the origin of each feed material and additive**.** Each feed material must have a written specification which is regularly updated. In addition to the nutritional and analytical characteristics of the feed material, this written specification should include a list of approved origins and sources, details of any processing that the material has undergone, types of feedstuffs in which its use is approved, notes on any hazards or limitations on its use and any special characteristics of the feed material.
- Only hygienic vehicles complying with a transport code shall be used for delivery and intake.
- Each batch of additives and veterinary medicinal substances and premixes delivered to the plant must be traceable according to the procedure in use in the company.
- Feed materials shall be stored in dry, hygienic conditions, free from vermin and birds.
- A system of silo allocation shall be put in place so as to ensure that additives and veterinary medicinal substances, as well as premixes, are safely stored, and:
  - are easily identified
  - cannot be mixed up with other additives, veterinary medicinal substances, animal feed premixes
  - comply with the first-in-first-out principle, using the ultimate date of incorporation as a criterion.
- Sampling and analyses plans must be established to cover all incoming materials.

5. Feed formulation

5.1 General principle

Feed materials have to be mixed to produce a safe, nutritionally well-balanced feed meeting the physiological requirements of the animal. Feed formulation must take into account the presence of indigestible substances and the impact on the environment due to the unused nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphor.

5.2 Product safety

- The matrix of the feed materials used in the system of optimisation, such as in linear programming, shall include the levels of critical undesirable substances and products when the MPL of undesirable substances and products laid down for finished feed could be exceeded. These values can be taken from an officially recognised databank, the manufacturer's own databank and/or analyses in the respective batches of feed materials. Alternatively, individual ingredients containing undesirable substances or products can be limited to ensure that the maximum levels are not exceeded in the finished feedingstuffs.
- MPL of undesirable substances and products must be programmed and function as maximum restrictions for formulation development in the linear programming system.
- When no linear programming system is available, the manufacturer must reliably demonstrate that the MPL of undesirable substances and products were not exceeded. The programme followed must be laid down in a standard procedure.
- The feed manufacturer shall not buy or use any kind of feed materials exceeding the MPL of undesirable substances or products, included in Annex II, part A of Directive 1999/29/EC.

5.3 Admixture of feed additives, premixes, veterinary medicinal substances

5.3.1 Product conception

The mixing of additives and veterinary medicinal substances or premixes into animal feeds must be specified in the formulation of the feed which is to be produced. The designated staff then incorporates the appropriate additives and veterinary substances in exact quantities, to the correct feed. These operations shall be subject to record keeping.

6. Production

6.1 General requirements

A qualified employee will be designated as the person responsible for the production process. The manufacturer must ensure that the different production stages are carried out according to pre-established written procedures and instructions. In order to obtain the desired quality of feedingstuffs, these procedures must define, control and master critical points of the manufacturing process listed below. Both technical and organisational measures shall be taken to eliminate as much as possible bacteriological contamination, cross-contamination and human errors to maintain the hygiene and safety standards.

6.2 Incorporation of additives into animal feeds

- The additives belonging to the categories of antibiotics (A), coccidiostats and other medicinal substances (D) and growth promoters (J) and veterinary medicinal substances must be incorporated only in animal feed in the form of premixes (liquid or solid) in a quantity assuring a homogenous mixing.
- The additives and veterinary medicinal substances or ready-to-us premixes will be stored near the weighing apparatus for a period as short as possible and shall be marked distinctly.
- The additives and veterinary medicinal substances (premixes) may be added by hand. In this case, the use of a locking and signalling system, which must be cut off after the use of these materials, is recommended.
- The additives and veterinary medicinal substances (premixes) may also be added to the appropriate feed by means of spraying. In this instance, all precautions must be taken to ensure that the exact dosage is administered. Hence, the spraying equipment shall be tested and inspected on a regular basis.
- The composition of a batch of animal feeds to which additives and veterinary medicinal substances are added must respect the fixed tolerances.
- Daily administrative records shall be kept of: (i) the types of feed manufactured (name), (ii) the quantity of additives (or premixes containing additives) of the category A, D and J mentioned in Annex I of the Additive Directive 70/524/EEC, (iii) all veterinary medicinal substances that have been incorporated into these feeds. The latter information shall be recorded chronologically.

6.3 Weighing

The accuracy of weighing and metering equipment both for bulk and hand tipped ingredients is critical to the assurance of the production of a quality product. A regular programme for calibration and testing to ensure this accuracy is essential. Guidance for manufacturers should be taken in developing written procedures for calibration and testing. There should also be a regular maintenance programme to ensure that weighing equipment is kept clean and that worn parts are replaced as necessary.

6.4 Grinding (size of particles)

The grinding of the feed materials may be essential in the production of feed in the correct physical form. The particle size of each type of diet should be specified in writing and regular checks should be carried out to ensure that specification is met. Worn hammers and screens lead to a variation in particle size, thus pre-defined written maintenance procedures, particularly in relation to the reversal of beaters to ensure even wear, is essential.

6.5 Mixing

Cleanliness of the mixer is essential. Written maintenance schedules should exist for examination of the mixer to ensure that wear of the equipment does not lead to the build-up of residues when the mixer is emptied. Mixers must operate for a pre-set time which tests have shown to be adequate to ensure an appropriate mixing of feedstuffs and additives. The efficiency of the mixing process must be regularly checked to ensure that additives are evenly dispersed throughout the mix.

6.6 Pelleting/Heat treatment

The pelleting process involves the hydrothermic treatment of the feed and constitutes a vital step in the hygienisation of the feed. To this end accurate temperature control is essential in order to avoid any part of the feed batch not being adequately heat-treated. The pelleting conditions shall be adapted to the stability of the incorporated additives and veterinary medicinal substances. The actual pelleting process shall be carried out in accordance with the instructions given by the supplier of the products concerned and shall take into account the quality control performed by the compounder.

6.7 Cooling

As warm moist feed enters this equipment following the pelleting process there is a danger that material will build up in the cooler and lead to multiplication of bacteria and other micro-organisms. A written procedure should therefore exist to ensure regular cleaning of the cooler. The air being drawn into the cooler is a potential source of bacterial contamination. It therefore should as far as possible be drawn from clean areas of the mill, most particularly NOT be drawn from areas where raw materials are being tipped at the point of delivery to the mill. Regular observation should be carried out to ensure that the cooler is working effectively and that feed coming out is no more than a few degrees above ambient temperature.

6.8 Storage

- Both products which meet the specifications and those which do not must be stored in suitable containers located in well designed areas. These products must be maintained in good hygienic storage places, only accessible to employees who are granted an authorisation by the manufacturer. Storage areas must be constructed to insure maximum prevention against the entrance of undesirable animals and vermin, such as pets, rodents, birds and insects. In order to reduce the chances of

contamination, trained personnel will carry out routine checks, eliminating, to the best of their ability, the presence of these undesirables.

- Products must be stored in such a way as to make them easily identifiable (product name, number, date and time of manufacture). Furthermore, the way in which products are stored must in no way lead to confusion or cross-contamination between different products, between products and medicinal substances or medicinal feedstuffs, between raw materials containing high levels of undesirable substances and products, between supplemented feedingstuffs and additives. Compound feedingstuffs intended to be put into circulation must comply with the provisions laid down in Directive 79/373/EEC on compound feed.
- Storage facilities must be cleared completely and cleaned on a regular basis. The cleaning procedures will follow a well-established cleaning programme.
- Storage areas must enable goods to be stored in clean, dry and orderly conditions.

6.9 Returns of safe products

- The production of compound feeds shall be organised, both on an internal and external level, with an eye to limit possible returns to a minimum.
- Returns (internal) must, whenever possible, be reincorporated into their original batch or "run". This re-incorporation process will take place in accordance with determined rules.
- If returns (internal) cannot be reincorporated into their original batch or run, the manufacturer shall clearly indicate in which section of the silo (internal or external) the returns of the feeds mentioned by name shall be stored.
- Procedural rules shall lay down in which feed formulation returned products may be incorporated and the maximum percentage of returned products in the respective feed type. In no case a product containing an ingredient subject to restrictions of use can be reprocessed into a batch designed for a species for which this ingredient is prohibited.
- The quantity of returned products which have been reprocessed shall be recorded on a daily basis. These administrative registers shall also indicate the batches of the respective feed type in which these returned products were reprocessed.

7. Transport and storage of finished products

7.1 Transport of finished product

- The compound feed manufacturer shall make sure that his customer receives the type of feed he ordered, that the feed is properly labelled in accordance with legal requirements and that all measures have been taken to ensure the safety of the feed delivered.

- No materials from previous loading must remain in the container (tank truck, boxes or big bags) before it is loaded with the feed. The container must be clean and dry.
- All vehicles used for the delivery of feed must be kept clean and operated according to a transport code. The transport code prescribes that all vehicles used for the transport of raw materials and finished products must be subjected to regular cleaning and sanitising programmes ensuring that these are in a clean state, with no accumulation of residual waste material. If these vehicles are used for the transport of other goods or materials presenting a health risk - as defined by the person in charge of quality control - the vehicles must be cleaned thoroughly, sanitised and dried before being used for the transport of raw materials and finished feed.
- Compound feed must be protected from contamination and kept dry during transport. Enclosed vehicles or containers must be used whenever possible for loose bulk, but where this is impracticable loads should be covered. The cover used must be maintained in a clean condition by being cleaned, sanitised and dried after each use.

7.2 Storage at the customer's premises

In order to avoid undesirable effects on the quality of the feed, the manufacturer should inform its customers about the storage conditions of the feed, if the nature of the compound feed delivered requires it.

8. Documents and records

8.1 Record keeping

All records referred to in 8.2 and 8.3 should be kept for period of at least two years (3 years for medicated feeds).

8.2 Documents relative to the manufacturing process and controls

The manufacturer must work with a system of documentation designed to ensure an adequate level of traceability which is the capability to identify the supplier of feed materials or additives to the feed plant and to whom these feed materials and additives have been supplied to in the form of compound feeds. The documentation system is also designed to define and ensure the mastery of critical points in the acquisition of raw materials and the manufacturing process. This system of documentation will also ensure the establishment of the quality control plan and help implement it efficiently. Results of relevant controls shall be recorded and kept by the manufacturer. This set of documents must be conserved so as to make it possible to trace raw materials and additives used, and record the manufacturing history of each batch produced. This accurate record will circumscribe the areas of responsibility in the event that complaints were to arise when the goods are put into circulation.

8.3 Registration of compound feedstuffs

The manufacturer must record the following information in order to ensure product traceability:

- the name and address of all feed material suppliers and the sources of these feed materials;
- the approval or registration number of suppliers of raw materials covered by an approval or registration procedure according to EU feed legislation;
- the name and address of premix manufacturers or intermediaries, including the batch number when needed, the quantity of the premix used;
- the nature and quantity of compound feed manufactured, along with the manufacturing date;
- the name and address of the site where each batch is delivered, if this is possible and appropriate.

9. Complaints and product recall

9.1 General requirements

The feed manufacturer must set a system in place for the registration and processing of complaints. A system for prompt recall of products in the distribution network must also be foreseen. Goods which were rejected, recalled or returned must be stored in a separate area until a decision on their future use is taken. This provision is designed to preclude contaminations of other products or materials. Further use and destination of recalled products must be laid down in written procedures. Before such products are put back in circulation they must undergo a quality-control reassessment.

9.2 Specific requirements

Where a feed manufacturer is aware of a contamination in raw material or compound feed that may endanger animal or human health, he must notify the case to its national competent authorities. The competent authorities together with the feed manufacturer establish the potential risk for human and animal health.

Whenever the potential source of contamination is identified, the feed compounder must identify the names and addresses of the sites where potential contaminated products have been delivered, referring to the information recorded as foreseen in item 8.3.

On the basis of the preliminary risk assessment, competent authorities together with the feed manufacturer establish an action plan. This action plan can include a product recall operation as foreseen in item 9.1.

In that case, the feed compounder must notify the results of the recall operation to its national authorities with the list of farms that are concerned. The batches of compound feed that have been recalled are consigned until their final destination is decided.

In agreement with competent authorities, the feed compounder can carry out analysis in order to identify the level of contamination. The results are transmitted to competent authorities.

10. Intermediaries

When the manufacturer delivers additives to a person other than a manufacturer or stock-breeder, or when the manufacturer delivers premixes to a person other than a manufacturer, this third person (or any intermediary wrapping, packaging or storing the goods) shall be equally bound by the provisions laid down in point 6.8, 7 and 8.3. In the case of wrapping, this third person shall be bound by the obligations laid down in point 4.

11. EU Directives

This Code is based upon the obligations imposed by the following EU Directives as amended:

- The Additives Directive 70/524/EEC
- The Marketing of Compound Feedingstuffs Directive 79/373/EEC
- The Undesirable Substances and Products Directive 1999/29/EEC
- The Directive on the Circulation of Feed Materials 96/25/EEC
- The Certain Constituents Directive 82/471/EEC
- The Medicated Feeds Directive 90/167/EEC
- The Dietetic Feeds Directive 93/74/EEC
- The Approval of Establishments Directive 95/69/EEC
- The Control of Feedingstuffs Directive 95/53/EEC

Any doubts should be resolved by reference to these Directives and their amendments.

The present Code goes beyond the current EU legislation as it requires the implementation of the HACCP principles at all stages of production, irrespective of the nature of the feed materials and additives that are used. This is to ensure that all operators in the feed chain meet the principle of full responsibility for the products they deliver as stipulated in the basic declaration in the framework of the White Paper on the new EU policy regarding food safety (COM (1999) 719) .

ANNEX 1 : Codes of Practice developed by European Suppliers Associations and provisionally recognised by FEFAC

Code of Good Trading Practices (transport, storage, handling of food and feedstuffs – COCERAL - October 2000)

Code of Good Practice for the production of co-products from the crushing industry designed for feed use (FEDIOL - under development)

Code of Good Practice for the production of animal fats for feed use (EFPRA – under development)

Code of Good Practice for the production of animal meals for feed use (EFPRA – under development)

Code of Good Practice for the production of fish oils & meals for feed use (IFOMA – under development)

Code of Good Practice for the production of co-products from the sugar industry designed for feed use (CEFS – under development)

Code of Good Practice for the production of co-products from the flour milling industry designed for feed use (GAM – under development)

ANNEX 2 : National Codes of Practice developed by FEFAC Members Associations

Código de boas práticas para o fabrico de prémisturas e de alimentos para animais (IACA - Portugal)

GMP-regeling diervoedersector (Productschap Diervoeder – The Netherlands)

Code GMP general pour le secteur de l'alimentation animale (BEMEFA/APFACA – Belgium)

Codice di buone pratiche per la produzione e la commercializzazione di alimenti composti per animali de reddito (ASSALZOO – Italy)

Code de bonnes pratiques pour la fabrication d'aliments médicamenteux – Guide de mise à niveau pour l'agrément des établissements fabricants des aliments pour animaux (SNIA – France)

Leitfaden für eine Gute Herstellungspraxis von Futtermitteln (DVT – Germany)

UKASTA Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS) - Code of Practice for the Manufacture of Safe Compound Animal Feedingstuffs (UKASTA - UK)

Code of practice and general operating standard for poultry feed processing (DAKOFO - Denmark)

Leitfaden für eine "Gute Herstellungspraxis von Futtermitteln", GHF (VSF - Switzerland)