Update on Animal Nutrition and Veterinary Medicines Section of Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed

Meeting schedule

The next meeting was scheduled for 17-19 July 2017.

Feed additives

The Committee voted on two Commission proposals relating to feed additive legislation; as summarised in the table below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda item</th>
<th>Additive</th>
<th>Authorisation type</th>
<th>Vote</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B.01 SANTE_10260_2017</td>
<td>Name change of the EU representative of the holder of the authorisation of <em>Clostridium butyricum</em> FERM-BP 2789</td>
<td>Administrative Regulation</td>
<td>Unanimous In favour</td>
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<tr>
<td>B.02 SANTE_10163_2017</td>
<td>Amending the characterisation of selenomethionine produced by <em>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</em>NCYC R397</td>
<td>Administrative Regulation</td>
<td>Unanimous In favour</td>
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In addition, the vote scheduled (for B.03) on Amending Annex I of Directive 2002/32/EC regarding undesirable substances was deferred until the July meeting.

Fifteen other feed additive authorisations were only briefly discussed, including:

- **Levucell® SB** is an existing feed additive; but is further proposed under an innovative use to reduce microbiological contamination on poultry carcasses through a reduction of gut pathogens (e.g. *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*). Discussions concluded that as this product comprises a yeast preparation, it would not be defined as a veterinary medicine. Following discussion on the study trial outputs, a lower minimum effective dose was incorporated into the draft Regulation.

- Further discussion was held concerning EFSA assessment outputs, on *Lactobacillus acidophilus* as a gut flora stabiliser. Discussions focused on mortality rates and average weight gain (for a slow-growing poultry breed).

Regarding definitions of botanicals (as feed additives versus feed materials), the Commission has considered industry and Member State feedback, so a final text is to be finalised.
Discussion was held on each new and amended entry for dietetic feed (PARNUTS) within Directive 2008/38/EC (Annex I, Part A). Some concern was held over a single entry being too specific to the applicant that it essentially constituted a ‘quasi-authorisation’, rather than being achievable within the wider open-market.

Feed hygiene

An updated guideline document for the use of former foodstuffs in feed again attracted extensive discussion. Whilst significantly revised to incorporate animal by-products (ABPs) and to separate out from former foods not containing ABPs, it was acknowledged that further refinements are required; especially when cutting across feed, ABP and waste legislation.

Concerning Regulation (EC) No.767/2009, discussions were held on each amended Annex (II, IV, VI, VII & VIII). Text within Annex II maintains the position for materials not intended for feed to remain excluded; with an exception to accommodate (former) foodstuffs. Discussion on analytical tolerances within Annex IV reiterated that the legal upper limit remains the maximum permitted limit (MPL) even when applying the three times tolerance level, as proposed in the draft text.

Moving onto Annex VI on labelling declarations, provision exists for the option for (e.g.) vitamin A to only be declared within the analytical declaration (rather than the ‘added’ amount) due to production and shelf-life losses. Other changes to Annexes VI & VII related to legal refinements only. Finally, on the text within Annex VIII; regarding packaged former foods, concern was raised as to compliance when delivered directly to farmers. It was concluded that this activity would be disproportionate to prohibit and that national controls would come into force (e.g. Feed business operator Registration). Since the May meeting, the draft final documents have been uploaded onto the EU portal for public consultation (Feedback period 29 May - 26 June 2017) Amending the Annexes for the labelling of compound feed and pet food.

The Fediaf Code of Good Labelling Practice for Pet Food was presented for discussion and a final call made for feedback.

Undesirable substances

As stated above, the vote on the draft Regulation to Annex I of Directive 2002/32/EC to amend entries of undesirable substances was deferred until July. The previous annex entry for dioxins and PCBs to exempt MRLs applied to fresh fish used as fishing-bait has been removed on advice from Legal Services.

In parallel to the proposed removal of nitrites from Annex I of Directive 2002/32/EC, a draft Commission Recommendation has been developed to set guideline threshold limits for nitrites and nitrates. However, this Recommendation has raised significant industry concern; most notably, from the sugar, starch and alcohol production sectors, as no maximum residue limits (MRLs) previously existed within the Directive.

Following the partial suspension of ethoxyquin as an antioxidant at the April meeting; a proposal has been submitted for the co-impurity (p-phenetidine) to be entered into Annex I of Directive 2002/32/EC. However; prior to this proposal, a robust analytical method needs to be identified and validated by the European Reference Laboratory (EURL).

It was confirmed that EFSA would complete assessments on two detoxification processes in July 2017. Additional data had been requested on a further four process applications; which remain permitted for use until EFSA assessments are concluded.
More about SCoPAFF and its Animal Nutrition & Veterinary Medicines Section

SCoPAFF is a European Commission regulatory committee that was established by Regulation 178/2002, a regulation that includes the laying down of principles and requirements of feed law. Meetings of the committee are chaired by European Commission officials, and attended by member states' representatives. The Committee can give an opinion, that is to say a vote, on certain proposed measures, prior to their possible adoption by the Commission.

Read more business guidance on animal feed.