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

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**For all queries about this guidance — including if you require the information in an alternative format such as audio, large print or Braille — please use the number below.**

**Animal Feed and Animal By-Products Branch  
020 7276 8462**

## Summary

<b>Intended audience:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmers and growers</li> </ul>
<b>Which UK nations does this cover?</b>	All UK nations.
<b>Purpose:</b>	To provide guidance on the requirements of Regulation 183/2005 on feed hygiene as they apply to livestock farmers mixing additives on-farm.
<b>Legal status:</b>	This is regulatory guidance which specifies the procedures to be followed by feed business operators to comply with the requirements of Regulation 183/2005 on feed hygiene.
<b>Key words</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Additives and supplements</li> <li>• Animal feed</li> <li>• Food law, monitoring and controls</li> <li>• Hygiene and food safety</li> </ul>
<b>Review date</b>	This note is current. It will only need to be reviewed if the legislation to which it relates is itself amended.
<b>Sunset date</b>	The EU legislation in question has no sunset clause.

## REVISION HISTORY

This guidance follows the Government [Code of Practice on Guidance](#). If you believe this guidance breaches the Code for any reason, please let us know by emailing [betterregulation@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:betterregulation@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk). If you have any comments on the guidance itself, please call us using the contact number on page 2 or complete our ongoing [Guidance survey](#): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/55QQDCG>

Revision No.	Revision date	Purpose of revision and paragraph number	Revised by
1	March 2014	Updating of contact details	Joseph Nicholas

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## **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. (The form and content of the application to be made to EFSA is laid down in the Regulation.)

## **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. It will also be of use to enforcement authorities.

## **PURPOSE OF GUIDANCE**

4. This question-and-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. It has been compiled in response to (i) requests for such guidance from livestock farmers and those responsible for auditing farm assurance schemes, and (ii) comments by auditors from the EU's Food and Veterinary Office about compliance with the Feed Hygiene Regulation by farmers mixing additives on-farm.

## **LEGAL STATUS OF GUIDANCE**

5. This guidance note has been produced to explain 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 stakeholders may need to consider the legislation itself to see how it applies in their particular circumstances. If this guidance note is followed it will help stakeholders comply with the law. Livestock farmers with specific queries may wish to seek the advice of their local enforcement authority, which in Great Britain will usually be the trading standards department of the local authority and in Northern Ireland is the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

## **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. Further guidance on the range of authorised additives is set out in paragraphs 5 and 6 below. 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 and 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 at

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/animalnutrition/feedadditives/registeradditives\\_en.htm](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 for only 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 (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;
  - colorants;
  - 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 web site: <http://www.food.gov.uk/business-industry/farmingfood/animalfeed/animalfeedlegislation/animalfeedaddfaq/>

### **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 on the application of Annex I can be found in the *Code of Practice for On-Farm Feeding* -- see [http://assurance.redtractor.org.uk/resources/000/576/439/Industry\\_Feed\\_Code\\_of\\_practice\\_April\\_2010.pdf](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 homogeneous 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 trading standards departments of local authorities are 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 enforcement 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, email <[inspections@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:inspections@vmd.defra.gsi.gov.uk)> or visit [http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/mswd/feedingstuffs\\_guidance.aspx](http://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/mswd/feedingstuffs_guidance.aspx) In Northern Ireland, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Agri-Food Inspection Branch (AFIB) is responsible for both registration and approval -- contact DARD AFIB on 028 9052 5001 or email <[Afib.admin@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:Afib.admin@dardni.gov.uk)>.

20. Livestock farms also have to follow a code of animal feeding practice (Annex III of EC Regulation 183/2005). 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* mentioned in paragraph 10 above.

### Other points

21. Enforcement authorities maintain lists 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:

- R4 -- 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 ; and
- 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 (e.g. using silage or compound feeds without mixing); and
- 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. An application form may be found on the Food Standard Agency's website at <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/fhr-application-april-2012.pdf> To find your local Trading Standards Department, see <http://www.tradingstandards.gov.uk/products/publications-directories.cfm>

23. In Northern Ireland, an application form can be obtained from DARD AFIB at the contact details given in paragraph 14 above.

## NATIONAL LEGISLATION

24. 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 183/2005, 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.

25. 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) (W 265)
- The Feed (Hygiene and Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (S.S.I. 2005 No. 608)
- The Feed (Hygiene and Enforcement) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005 No. 546)
- The Animal Feed (England) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010 No. 2503)
- The Animal Feed (Wales) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010 No. 2652) (W 220)
- The Animal Feed (Scotland) Regulations 2010 (S.S.I. 2010 No. 373)
- The Animal Feed Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 (S.R. 2010 No. 355)

26. These Regulations can be found online at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/browse/uk> (enter the year and number of the measure in the search boxes at the top of the page and select the type of legislation from the drop-down box alongside). EC Regulations 1831/2003 and 183/2005 can be found online at (respectively) <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:2005R0183:20090420:EN:PDF> and <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CONSLEG:2003R1831:20050325:EN:PDF> Details of other animal feed legislation can be found on the Food Standards Agency's website at <http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/farmingfood/animalfeed/animalfeedlegislation>

## CONTACTS

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**Scotland** -- General Food and Feed Safety and Hygiene: Claire Moni, telephone 01224 285158, e-mail <[claire.moni@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:claire.moni@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)> or Feed Law Enforcement: Jacqui Angus, telephone 01224 285175, e-mail <[jacqui.angus@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:jacqui.angus@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)>.

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