Consultation on maximum levels for some contaminants in feed

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Draft Regulation as regards maximum levels and action thresholds for arsenic, cadmium, lead, nickel, rye ergot, delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, endosulfan, heptachlor, hexachlorbenzene, hexachlorohexane, dioxins and PCBs, *Datura* sp., certain coccidiostats and histomonostats and p-phenetidine in animal feed

Annexes

What is changing and why?

The EU is proposing to change the maximum permitted levels of some contaminants in animal feed, and certain action thresholds triggering investigations by Member States. The details of these changes are shown in the Tables below. This proposal is based on experience of contaminant levels under the current Regulations, and the results of evaluations conducted by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). It aims to ensure that the new levels are achievable, while preserving animal and human health.

Actions

Suppliers of feed materials to the EU market should check their compliance with the new proposed maximum levels of contaminants, and where necessary take steps to ensure compliance by July 2024.

Timeline

The Regulation is expected to apply 20 days following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

For more information see the full record on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest AGRINFO Update newsletters and search the database.

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Tables & Figures

Table 1
Proposed changes to maximum levels of inorganic contaminants and nitrogenous compounds (Annex I, Section I)

Undesirable substance	Products intended for animal feed	New wording	Maximum content[1]	
			Current	Proposed
Arsenic	– fish, other aquatic animals and products derived thereof		25	40
	Complementary feed	*Added feed material:* – complementary feed for fish	–	10
Cadmium	Feed additives belonging to the functional group of compounds of trace elements with the exception of: – cupric oxide, manganous oxide, zinc oxide and manganous sulphate monohydrate	*Added to the exceptions:* – copper (I) oxide	–	15
Lead	Feed materials with the exception of:	*Added to the exceptions:* – animal byproducts derived from game animals for use in the production of pet food	–	25
Nickel		*Feed materials* Fatty acids esterified with glycerol, mono di and triglycerides of fatty acids, salts of fatty acids, crude fatty acids, salt of lactylates of fatty acids, pure distilled fatty acids, crude glycerine and glycerine	–	20

[1] In mg/kg (ppm) relative to a feed with 12% moisture content.

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Table 2
Proposed changes to maximum levels of mycotoxins and inherent plant toxins (Annex I, Sections II and III)

Undesirable substance	Products intended for animal feed	New wording	Maximum content[1]	
			Current	Proposed
Mycotoxins: Rye ergot (*Claviceps purpurea*)	Feed materials and compound feed containing unground cereals		1,000	500
	with the exception of:	*Added to the exceptions:* – feed materials and compound feed containing unground rye	–	750
Inherent plant toxins: Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (Δ^9-THC)		Feed materials – hemp seed	–	3
		– hemp expeller	–	3
		– hemp seed oil	–	7.5
		– hemp flour	–	7.5
		– hemp fibre	–	7.5
		Complete feed	–	0.5

[1] In mg/kg (ppm) relative to a feed with 12% moisture content.

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Table 3
Proposed changes to maximum levels of organochlorine compounds (except dioxins and PCBs) (Annex I, Section IV)

Undesirable substance	Products intended for animal feed	New wording	Maximum content[1]	
			Current	Proposed
Endosulfan[2]	Feed materials and compound feed with the exception of:	–	0.1	0.05
	– complete feed for Salmonids	–	0.05	0.02
Heptachlor[3]	Feed materials and compound feed with the exception of:	–		
	– fats and oils	–	0.2	0.1
Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)	Feed materials and compound feed with the exception of:	–		
	– fats and oils	–	0.2	0.1
Hexachlorocyclo-hexane (HCH)–gamma isomers	Feed materials and compound feed with the exception of:	–	0.2	0.01
	– fats and oils	–	2.0	0.1

[1] In mg/kg (ppm) relative to a feed with 12% moisture content.
[2] Sum of alpha and beta isomers and of endosulfan sulphate expressed as endosulfan.
[3] Sum of heptachlor and of heptachlor epoxide expressed as heptachlor.

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Table 4
Proposed changes to maximum levels of dioxins and PCBs
(Annex I, Section V)

Undesirable substance	Products intended for animal feed	New wording	Maximum content[1]	
			Current	Proposed
Dioxins[2]	Feed materials of animal origin: – Animal fat, including milk fat and egg fat		1.50	1.0
	– Fish oil		5.0	3.5
	– Hydrolysed fish protein containing more than 20% fat; crustacea meal		1.75	1.5
	Feed additives belonging to the functional group of compounds of trace elements Compound feed with the exception of: – compound feed for pet animals and fish	Compound feed with the exception of: – compound feed for fish	1.75	1.0
		– compound feed for pet animals	1.75	1.75
Sum of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs[3]	Compound feed with the exception of: – compound feed for pet animals and fish	Compound feed with the exception of: – compound feed for fish	5.5	2.0
		– compound feed for pet animals	5.5	5.5

[1] In ng WHO-PCDD/F-TEQ/kg (ppt) relative to a feed with a moisture content of 12%.
[WHO-PCDD/F-TEQ is the sum of the toxic equivalencies of the 17 most toxicologically significant dioxins and furans. WHO, World Health Organization; PCDD, polychlorinated dibenzo-para-dioxin; TEQ, toxic equivalent.]
[2] Sum of PCDDs and polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs) expressed in WHO toxic equivalents, using the WHO-toxic equivalency factors (TEFs) 2005.
[3] Sum of PCDDs, PCDFs, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) expressed in WHO toxic equivalents, using the WHO-TEFs 2005.

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Table 5
Proposed changes to maximum levels of harmful botanical impurities (Annex I, Section VI)

Undesirable substance	Products intended for animal feed	New wording	Maximum content, mg/kg (ppm)	
			Current	Proposed
Harmful botanical impurities (Section VI)				
Weed seeds and unground and uncrushed fruits containing alkaloids, glucosides or other toxic substances separately or in combination, including	Feed materials and compound feed	–		
– *Datura* sp.			1,000	500

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Table 6
Proposed changes to maximum residue levels of authorised feed additives in feed for nontarget animals, and other undesirable substances (Annex I, Sections VII and VIII)

[New title wording:] Section VII: Residues of authorised feed additives in feed for nontarget animal species (2) (3) following unavoidable carry-over

(2) Coccidiostats (substances) which are authorised as feed additive according to Regulation (EC) 1831/2003 either alone or in combination with other coccidiostats

(3) Without prejudice to the authorised levels in the frame of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003

[Old title wording:] Section VII: Authorised feed additives in non-target feed following unavoidable carryover

Undesirable substance	Products intended for animal feed	New wording	Maximum content[1]	
			Current	Proposed
Lasalocid sodium	Feed materials		1.25	0.9
	Compound feed for – dogs, calves, rabbits, equine species, dairy animals, laying birds, turkeys (>16 weeks) and chickens reared for laying (>16 weeks)	Compound feed for – dogs, calves, rabbits, equine species, dairy animals, laying birds, turkeys (>16 weeks) and chickens reared for laying	1.25	0.9
	– chickens for fattening, chickens reared for laying (<16 weeks) and turkeys (<16 weeks) for the period before slaughter in which the use of lasalocid A sodium is prohibited (withdrawal feed)	– chickens for fattening and turkeys (>16 weeks) for the period before slaughter in which the use of lasalocid sodium is prohibited (withdrawal feed)	1.25	0.9
	– pheasants, guinea fowl, quails and partridges (except laying birds) for the period before slaughter in which the use of lasalocid A sodium is prohibited (withdrawal feed)	– pheasants, guinea fowl, quails and partridges (except laying birds) for the period before slaughter in which the use of lasalocid sodium A is prohibited (withdrawal feed)	1.25	0.9
	– other animal species	– other animal species for which the use of lasalocid sodium is not authorised	3.75	2.7
Nicarbazin	Feed materials Compound feed for	Feed materials Compound feed for (is added) - chickens for fattening for the period before slaughter in which the use is prohibited (withdrawal feed)	–	1.25
Other undesirable substances (new Section VIII)				
p-phenetidine		Feed materials, feed additives, premixtures and compound feed	–	125

[1] In mg/kg (ppm) relative to a feed with 12% moisture content.

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Table 7
Proposed changes to action thresholds triggering investigations by Member States (Annex II)

Undesirable substance	Products intended for animal feed	New wording	Action threshold[1,2]	
			Current	Proposed
Dioxins	Feed materials of animal origin: – Animal fat, including milk fat and egg fat	Feed materials of animal origin: – Animal fat, including milk fat and egg fat	0.75	0.5
		– Fish oil	4.0	2.5
		– Hydrolysed fish protein containing more than 20% fat; crustacea meal	1.25	1.0
Dioxins (sum of PCDDs and PCDFs)[3]	Compound feed with the exception of: – compound feed for pet animals and fish	Compound feed with the exception of: – compound feed for fish	1.25	0.75
		– compound feed for pet animals	1.25	1.25
Dioxin-like PCBs[4]	Feed materials of animal origin: – Fish oil	Feed materials of animal origin: – Fish oil	11.0	8.0
	– Fish, other aquatic animals and products derived thereof with the exception of fish oil and fish protein, hydrolysed, containing more than 20% fat	– Fish, other aquatic animals, and products derived thereof with the exception of fish oil, hydrolysed fish protein containing more than 20% fat and crustacea meal	2.0	1.5
	– Fish protein, hydrolysed, containing more than 20% fat	– Hydrolysed fish protein containing more than 20% fat; crustacea meal	5.0	4.0
	Compound feed with the exception of: – compound feed for pet animals and fish	Compound feed with the exception of: – compound feed for fish	2.5	1.25
		– compound feed for pet animals	2.5	2.5

[1] Action thresholds are levels of detection that trigger an investigation by the EU competent authorities, in coordination with the operator, to identify the sources of the contaminant. This includes cases where the maximum levels are exceeded, also where an upward trend in the levels is detected. The thresholds are set to ensure a uniform approach among competent authorities.
[2] In ng WHO-PCDDFTEQ/kg (ppt) relative to a feed with a moisture content of 12%.
[WHO-PCDD/F-TEQ is the sum of the toxic equivalencies of the 17 most toxicologically significant dioxins and furans. WHO, World Health Organization; PCDD, polychlorinated dibenzo-para-dioxin; TEQ, toxic equivalent.]
[3] Sum of PCDDs and polychlorinated dibenzofurans (PCDFs) expressed in WHO toxic equivalents, using the WHO-toxic equivalency factors (TEFs) 2005.
[4] Sum of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) expressed in WHO toxic equivalents, using the WHO-TEFs 2005.

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