

No 140: Feed Labelling Regulations 2010

New legislation impacts on all animal nutrition products

Many people will have attended the recent AIC seminar regarding Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 on the placing on the market and use of feed, effective from 1st September 2010. These regulations encompass the new requirements for marketing and labelling of feed materials, compound feeds, farm minerals, nutritional products (such as boluses, drenches and water treatment) and, in part at least, premixtures (whose specific requirements are detailed in the Feed Additive Regulation, 1831/2003). Where medicines and coccidiostats are incorporated, their labelling also requires adherence to the Veterinary Medicines Regulations.

The purpose of this Urgent News is not to detail the new legislation (although we can specifically advise on this having been closely involved with AIC, European trade bodies, FSA and LACORS in preparation of the legislation, the Code of Practice and example labels) but rather to highlight key points for specific attention. Many merchant businesses may not be aware of the pending enforced changes, particularly to farm mineral labels which, for example, will need to contain all trace element details.

This Urgent News could also be used by all recipients to advise staff and farm customers of the new legislation.

Overview

The objective of the new regulation is to simplify legislation by consolidating a number of regulations and directives into one, remove unwanted detail and ensure that the end user has sufficient information to safely feed animals and produce safe food without prejudicing the intellectual property of the manufacturer. It will be enacted in the UK by The

Animal Feed Regulations 2010, currently pending publication. Two key supporting documents are embedded in, but separate to, the regulation being:

1. The Community Catalogue of feed materials. Whilst this is not officially a list of the only ingredients which can be used in compound feeds, all feed materials should either be in the Catalogue or on a notified list pending its adoption therein. The names listed in the Catalogue should be used on the label, but reasonable abbreviations may be used providing they are not misleading. The compulsory labelling declarations for each feed material are also given in the Catalogue.
2. Community Code of good labelling practice. Two Codes have been produced, one for food producing animals (which includes horses and rabbits) and one for pet food, the intention of which are to give practical interpretation of the Regulation for manufacturers and end users. In practice, these will be the routine reference documents for guidance on labelling.

Use of both the Catalogue and the Codes is 'voluntary' providing there is compliance with the legislation.

It is also very important to note that the Regulations embrace the concept of **labelling which includes not only the label** that accompanies the load, **but also anything that can be attributed to the feed** such as leaflets, marketing information and literature such as data sheets, advertising, Internet sites and probably even verbal information. Careful consideration will need to be given to product claims.

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Key points

The detail of what information must appear on labels of various feed types and species is given in Annex VI of 767/2009.

Example labels of a compound feed and a mineral feed, as given in the Code of practice are attached for easy reference. Key points include:

1. The label is divided into sections with specific headings
2. One notable change is the removal of % inclusion (and % by band as applied in the UK) of feed materials. Feed materials only require listing in descending order of weight of inclusion under the 'Composition' section. However, the end user can request the % inclusion (+/-15%) of the feed materials in the product which must be given unless it can be proven to contravene intellectual property.
3. If the presence of a feed material is emphasised on **labelling**, its name and % inclusion in the feed must be given on the label.
4. GM statements as currently applied to labels remain unchanged (according to EC 1829/2003 and 1830/2003).
5. Analytical constituents include the major nutrients (eg protein, oil, etc). The inclusion of additives in this section is now voluntary (formerly vitamins A, D and E and copper were compulsory) but if listed, should be named as the element (eg copper) and the total amount present (to include background) in the feed.
6. However, an additional labelling burden arrives in the additives section. Additives with a maximum content set (which currently includes vitamins A and D as the only vitamins and as such vitamin E declaration becomes voluntary, and all trace elements), zootechnical additives, coccidiostats and

histomonostats and urea (and its functional group derivatives) must all be declared by category (eg nutritional additive) or functional group (eg trace element), giving its identification number (eg E4), specific authorised name (or abbreviation to enable exact identification from the Community List of Feed Additives eg Cu-cupric sulphate pentahydrate or cupric sulphate) and the elemental amount added (eg copper at 19 mg/kg). It is noteworthy that:

- Compound feed labels currently generally include the additional level present as background for additives such as vitamin E, copper and selenium. This will no longer apply within the new label additive section in which only the added amount is given. Also be aware that if these additives are also voluntarily applied into the analytical section, background levels should be added resulting in a different declaration of the same additive on the two sections of the label.
- **The current 'minimum' additive declaration applied to farm minerals (which excludes most trace elements) will no longer be possible under the new regulations** since only vitamin E and B vitamins will be voluntary declarations.
- To enable easy label preparation by compound feed manufacturers, FWTNI have developed a table of current additives by categories and functional group, listing the identification number, specific authorised name, trade name where appropriate and whether a permitted maximum has been assigned to the additives. This will be accessed through our website.

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7. Complementary feeds may only contain up to 100x the permitted maximum of an additive (eg copper to 3500 mg/kg and selenium to 50 mg/kg) or 5x for coccidiostats and histomonostats before they must be classified as premixtures. Since farmers are generally not approved to handle premixtures (requiring for example documented HACCP procedures), there is a need to ensure that high specification farm minerals in particular do not contravene this regulation.
8. Premixture labelling has extensive requirements of full ingredient listing and analyses. The industry is working with Officials to agree an approach which provides full product detail through data sheets, but abbreviated essential label details, to enable operatives in the feed mill to maximise feed and food safety by using the correct product, handled in appropriate manner.
9. Since many products such as boluses, pastes, drenches and water soluble additive mixtures (such as trace element and vitamin mixes) become classified as premixtures under the new regulation and hence could not be used on most farms, there is an allowance for these to obtain classification for use as feed intended for particular nutritional purpose. Manufacturers should be currently taking actions to maintain their market position for their products in this aspect.
10. **Claims** about products are specifically identified for legislation in the new Regulation. On the positive side, particular attention can be drawn to the presence or absence of a substance in the feed, a specific nutritional characteristic or process or to a specific function providing the claim can be verified by, for example, scientific research, appropriate farm studies or even proven history of use. Additives which deliver specific nutritional effects must be used at the proven rate of application to allow an appropriate claim to be made.

The exact detail of how claims will be reasonably policed is not yet clear. However, **we would recommend that you review any current labelling information and ensure that you have a library of evidence** appropriate to the claim.

Summary

Even though finalisation of some minor details and the EC ratification of the Catalogue and Code of Practice is outstanding, the principles of the new feeds marketing regulation are established. We would advise that you start to address the required changes, taking appropriate decisions on aspects such as which, if any, voluntary details to include, investigate any claims and prepare documentation and finally inform sales staff and farm customers of the new legislation. It may be difficult to complete all preparation by 1st September 2010 but attempting to comply is likely to be looked upon favourably by the authorities.

If you require any assistance with this, or indeed any other legislative issues, we would be happy to help.

Further information can be obtained from the Frank Wright Trow technical department on 01335 341102.

Receive these technical publications directly via e-mail link. Contact Sarah Brandrick to register your interest on 01335 341128 or at sarah.brandrick@frankwright.com.

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Example 1a: Label of a complete feed (with no voluntary labelling particulars)

The Bloggs Feed Company, Mill Lane, Anytown, Anywhere, AA1 1ZZ			
Product Code 4567		Bloggs Broiler Grower	
Complete feed for feeding to growing chickens of 14 to 24 days of age			
ANALYTICAL CONSTITUENTS			
Protein	21%	Methionine	0.6%
Fibre	3.5%	Calcium	1.0%
Oils and fats	8.5%	Sodium	0.15%
Ash	5.5%	Phosphorus	0.6%
Lysine	1.5%		
COMPOSITION			
Wheat, Dehulled soya (bean) meal (produced from GM soya), Toasted soya (beans), Rape seed, Soya oil (produced from GM soya), Dicalcium phosphate, Calcium carbonate, Sodium bicarbonate, Sodium chloride			
ADDITIVES (PER KG)			
<u>Vitamins:</u>			
E672 Vitamin A - 12500 IU, E671 Vitamin D3 - 2500 IU			
<u>Trace elements (Source in brackets):</u>			
E1 Iron (ferrous sulphate monohydrate) 50 mg, E2 Iodine (calcium iodate anhydrous) 2 mg, E3 Cobalt (cobaltous carbonate monohydrate) 0.5 mg, E4 Copper (cupric sulphate pentahydrate) 19 mg, E5 Manganese (manganous oxide) 105 mg, E6 Zinc (zinc oxide) 90 mg, E8 Selenium (sodium selenite) 0.2 mg			
<u>Digestibility enhancers:</u>			
E1618 Endo-1,4-beta-xylanase 560 TXU, 4a1600 3-phytase 500 FTU			
<u>Coccidiostats:</u>			
E772 Narasin 50 mg - Nicarbazin 50 mg (Maxiban G160)			
INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE			
This feed may only be fed to growing chickens broilers of minimum 14 days of age.			
Use for target animals only			
Use prohibited at least five days before slaughter			
Dangerous for equines			
This feedingstuff contains an ionophore: simultaneous use with certain medicinal substances (e.g. tiamulin) can be contraindicated			
Batch Number: 987654		Use before: DD/MM/YY	
Net weight: See delivery note/invoice		Establishment No: GB123456	

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Example 2a: Label of a complementary mineral feed (with no voluntary labelling particulars)

Bloggs Ltd, Mill Lane, Anytown, Anywhere, AA1 1ZZ	
Product Code 3579 Bloggs Dairy Mineral	
Complementary mineral feed for lactating dairy cows	
ANALYTICAL CONSTITUENTS	
Calcium	18.0%
Sodium	8.0%
Phosphorus	6.0%
Magnesium	8.0%
COMPOSITION	
Dicalcium phosphate, Calcium carbonate, Sodium chloride, Magnesium oxide, (Sugar) cane molasses	
ADDITIVES (PER KG)	
<u>Vitamins:</u>	
E672 Vitamin A - 500 000 IU, E671 Vitamin D3 - 100 000 IU	
<u>Trace elements (Source in brackets):</u>	
E2 Iodine (calcium iodate anhydrous) 250 mg, E3 Cobalt (cobaltous carbonate monohydrate) 60 mg, E4 Copper (cupric sulphate pentahydrate) 2000 mg, E4 Copper (cupric chelate of amino acids hydrate) 500 mg, E5 Manganese (manganous oxide) 2000 mg, E6 Zinc (zinc oxide) 4000 mg, E6 Zinc (zinc chelate of amino acids hydrate) 1000 mg, E8 Selenium (sodium selenite) 20 mg, 3b8.11 Selenium (Organic form of Selenised yeast inactivated) 10 mg	
INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE	
Feed 100 to 150 g per head per day or as detailed in the daily ration formulation, incorporated into the mixed ration.	
Do not feed to sheep	
Batch Number: 876543	Best before: MM/YY
Net weight: 25 kg	Establishment No: GB123456