



FEFANA statement on the use of Cobalt salts that will be subject to classification as carcinogenic by inhalation

Regulation (EC) N° 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of dangerous substances and mixtures (CLP Regulation) entered into force on January 2009¹. This Regulation will replace Directive 67/548 and Directive 1999/45.

Cobalt salts will be subject to classification as carcinogenic by inhalation according to Regulation (EC) n° 1272/2008/EC by 1st December 2010. Premixtures and preparations containing 100mg cobalt per kg or more have to be classified as carcinogenic by inhalation as well. The reference concentration is based on the element and not the salt².

This new classification has no impact on the current registration of cobalt salts as feed additive.

From a health and safety standpoint reduction or removal is to be envisaged for worker's safety. However, Cobalt is seen as an essential nutrient for animals and ruminant in particular and its removal would have potentially a significant impact on animal health, performance and profitability.

As prohibition for essential nutrients is not an option, the industry needs to find the right balance between the handling of these materials and the nutritional requirements of animals.

FEFANA proposes the following approach:

- Cobalt salts as well as other feed additives that are subject to the different hazardous classifications, must be handled according applicable guidelines and safety data sheet instructions.
- Optimal worker's protection is a key element in the handling of these feed additives.
- Application of products formulated in such a way as to reduce the risk of workers should be preferred.
- Risk assessment and evaluation on dust emission and exposure as well as management within manufacturing and handling sites.
- Review of addition levels, so review of product specifications with a preference to achieve a cobalt concentration below 100 mg/kg, depending on the type of use and application is recommended, as no labelling as carcinogenic by inhalation is required.

¹ OJEU L 353, 31.12.2008 p.1

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:353:0001:01:EN:PDF>

² A note of Regulation 1272/2008 (p.336) related to the classification and labelling of mixtures indicates that the concentration stated or, in the absence of such concentrations, the generic concentrations of this Regulation (Table 3.1) or the generic concentrations of Directive 1999/45/EC (Table 3.2), are the percentages by weight of the metallic element calculated with reference to the total weight of the mixture.