

FEFANA launches three consortia for the authorisation of Feed Additives on the EU market: FFAC, VITAC and AMAC EEIGs

Brussels, 25 July 2007 – FEFANA established so far three consortia in order to support the feed additive industry efforts to obtain EU authorisation for existing additives under the Feed Additives legislation 1831/2003. The three established consortia concern flavouring additives, vitamins and amino acids.

The EU Feed Additive Regulation 1831/2003 rules the access to the EU market for feed additives: this is a system of pre-market approval that applies to all additives on the market. It included provisions for the feed additives previously authorised, allowing them to stay on the market provided a sequence of conditions are successfully fulfilled (Article 10 of the Regulation):

- notification of placing on the market of the authorized additives by the parties concerned (deadline November 2004)
- check of the validity of the submission by EFSA (European Food Safety Authority)
- inclusion of the additives successfully notified in the EU Register of feed additives by the Commission (EU reference list of authorized additives initially established in November 2005 and regularly updated since then)
- tabling of a complete authorisation dossier to EFSA and European Commission by November 2010 in order to obtain regular 10 years authorisation.

Missing any of these four conditions practically means the ruling out of additives from the EU market. So far, the feed additive industry (producers, users, traders, and EU associations) managed all the steps of the procedure in order to keep the vast majority of commonly used feed additives authorised on the EU market. The Register gives transparency to the process: only the additives listed in it can be sold and used, for the functions and animal species covered in the authorisation. With the coming step, i.e. the complete authorisation dossier, a last but major step is ahead. The content of the dossier to table will be defined by a Guideline Regulation which the European Commission is about to finalise. FEFANA has actively been involved with the Commission and EFSA in the preparation of this pivotal document for several years, and felt that practical work needed to be immediately launched in order to meet the 2010 deadline, even before the publication of the guideline and if some aspects of the dossier requirement still need to be fine-tuned.

While the authorisation of feed additives subject to a holder-specific authorisation (zootechnical additives and GMO-derived ones) is generally well under control by the companies producing or placing them on the market, the situation of all additives subject to non-holder-specific authorisation (sometimes incorrectly referred to as "generic") is more delicate. The authorisation is indeed a shared responsibility of all the operators that produce, use or place a certain additive on the market. All operators aware of these developments realised that it would be very inappropriate to wait for somebody else to care alone about the authorisation, not only because it would be unfair to their competitors, but also because the specifications, purity criteria and manufacturing processes are to be part of the evaluation and final authorisation of each additive.

In order to help its membership, and industry in general, to establish the necessary coordination, FEFANA is progressively setting up authorisation consortia. They are established in the form of European Economic Interest Groupings (EEIGs), legally separate but closely related to FEFANA. Didier Jans, Secretary General of FEFANA, is responsible for managing these EEIGs. Each of these EEIGs is focusing on a specific group of feed additives, according to the need and priorities identified by the FEFANA members. The fact that a grouping is established does not mean that it will automatically take care of all the additives pertaining to it. Each grouping has defined objective criteria in order to bring (or not) specific additive under the scope of work of the grouping; the addition of additives to the work program is generally conducted under a blind procedure when

members enter the grouping. The established EEIGs are open to non-FEFANA members. So far three such groupings were established, focusing respectively on Sensory additives/Flavourings (FFAC EEIG), Nutritional additives/Vitamins (VITAC EEIG) and Nutritional additives/Amino acids (AMAC EEIG). More projects are in the pipe and will develop over the coming weeks and months.

Close cooperation is being established with EFSA in order to streamline the process as much as possible. Beside the access to the vast know-how established within FEFANA over the years, the reduction of individual burden, the sharing of cost, the legal framework it provides for companies to cooperate, the close relationship with EFSA can be seen as an important added value for these groupings. It is indeed of paramount importance for any applicant to avoid investing time and efforts leading to dead ends.

Information and application available from FEFANA Secretariat.

About FEFANA

FEFANA is the EU Feed Additives and Premixtures Association. It was established on October 13th, 2004 and is the new juridical form of the feed additives producers association that was founded in 1963. With over 77 members from 28 countries, the association is the interface between the feed additives industry and the European Union authorities, including Member States authorities, in order to promote, safeguard and defend common and general interests of the industry (in several topics like guidelines, register, labelling and definitions, analysis, feed hygiene and food chain safety or non-feed use of additives). FEFANA's chairperson is Dr. Georg Kau of DSM.

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