



PRESS RELEASE

***ID-feed*: a new tool to classify and identify regulatory status of any individual product or mixture in animal nutrition in Europe**

Brussels, 06 February 2009 – FEFANA (the EU Feed Additives and Premixtures Association) has developed a user-friendly tool in order to support feed business operators and authorities in classifying feed products and mixtures, a permanent system for EU operators and importers in order to identify regulatory obligations. Based on very simple questions, the web tool, called *ID-feed*, allows any single component or feed mixture to be allocated the proper regulatory classification status. Such a tool will prove helpful not only for operators to ensure compliance of their products with regulatory frameworks but hopefully also for the authorities to ensure a consistent regulatory management of such products on the market.

On a daily basis, feed business operators are faced with questions related to the regulatory requirements of products they plan to or are placing on the EU market. Depending on which category a product will be placed, it will have to meet different regulatory requirements. Although the current set of definitions in the European feed regulatory framework is clear and comprehensive, the interpretation of different categories is sometimes ambiguous and can lead to uncertainties for operators as well as authorities. The European regulatory framework defines five main groups of products: feed materials, compound feedingstuffs, premixtures, feed additives and veterinary medicinal products.

In order to get more clarity, FEFANA has carried out an extensive review of the situation on the market and the different kinds of products that are available. Through inputs from its members and close scrutiny of the reality of the market, this work came to the conclusion that the classification of all products (single products and mixtures) relevant to the overall feed business could be based on a limited series of simple questions; even the difficult distinction between premixtures and complementary feed can be managed through this tool. The selected set of questions takes the following aspects into account: the needs for simple wording and questions, the predictability of the choice (i.e. the same result is obtained by different operators for the same product) and the possibility to justify the choice made by the business operators in front of the control authorities.

On the basis of what has been done, FEFANA has therefore created a Code of Practice for the classification of products and substances in accordance with the European regulatory framework. This document was discussed with authorities at European and Member State levels as well as with other Industry Associations, and their feedback was taken into account. The classification of a feed product is determined according to the nature of both the product and its use. For instance, a given substance can be classified as a feed additive or ingredient, depending on the way and the purpose for which it is

used. The same apply to mixtures. The questions used are a combination of substance-related and use aspects. The flexibility embedded in the approach creates much more transparency and stability, rather than trying once and for all to put a given substance in a particular box.

ID-feed, the electronic tool recently developed on the basis of the Code of Practice should offer support to any business operator and authority for the classification of the product they aim to place on the market. This then aims at helping the business operators to take the proper decision and ensure that their products comply with the European regulatory framework. It is freely available for feed business operators and authorities via the FEFANA web site:



<http://www.fefana.org/ID-feed/Start.htm>

Before using the tool, it is suggested to prepare or have a complete description of the product: composition, general manufacturing information, how it is used and for what purpose it is used. After clicking on the '*Start*' button, simply answer questions with '*Yes*' or '*No*'. At any time in the process, by clicking on the '*Tracking*' link, a summary of the possible answers combinations you have given so far will appear on screen. You can always return to the previous stage by hitting the '*Back to question*' or '*Back to conclusion*' link. When reaching the conclusion stage (page with a smiley face), you can obtain general regulatory obligations for the defined product by clicking on the button '*Regulatory summary*'.

The *ID-feed* tool and all the HTML pages linked to it have been issued by FEFANA on the basis of the market and regulatory context valid at the time of design/creation. It is a help that does not substitute to regulations in force but is expected to bring streamlining and transparency. Several Member States are also taking initiative to translate *ID-feed* and make it available for national operators. More information on the translated versions will be released in due time.

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 100 members from 28 countries, the Association is the interface between the feed additives industry and the European Union authorities, including Member State 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. Hadden Graham of AB Vista.

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