

ID-feed: new electronic tool for feed classification

Wouldn't it be handy to base the classification of all feed products (compound feed and feed additives) on a limited series of simple questions? Fefana agrees and therefore developed a simple electronic tool - ID Feed - for feed companies to find the regulatory definition of feed products. It is not a substitute for current legislation but a tool for better streamlining and transparency.

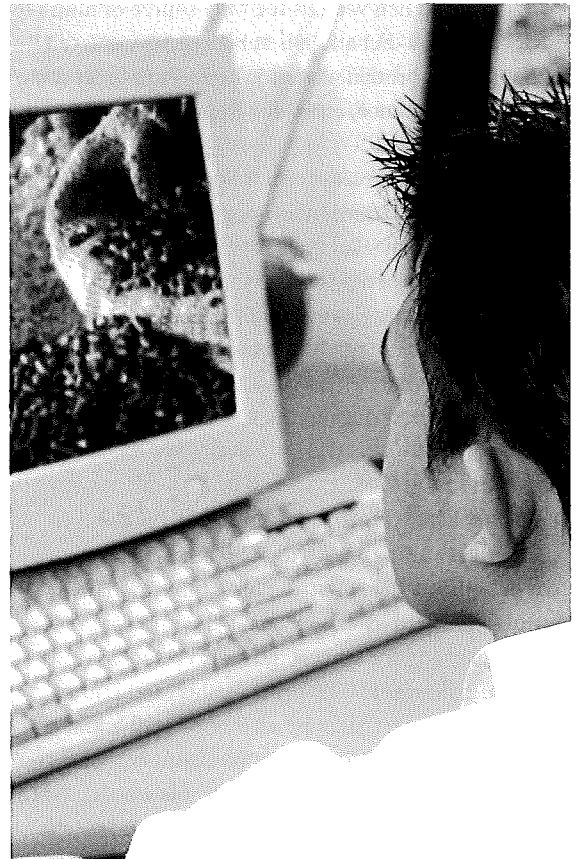
By Emmy Koeleman |

On a daily basis, the feed industry is confronted with questions regarding the classification of the substances and products which are placed on the market by the operators. Regulation No 1831/2003 distinguishes different products and substances (such as feed additive, compound feeding stuff, veterinary product or mineral feeding stuff). According to these definitions, the classification of a substance or product leads to different regulatory requirements, e.g. if a product is classified as a feed additive, it needs to be authorized after a pre-marketing evaluation, while if it is considered to be a feed material it can be sold without an authorization procedure. Furthermore, the labeling requirements are different. It is therefore an absolute necessity to support the operators and the authorities with clear criteria to define what a product is. A transparent, consistent and robust system needs to be provided to all the stakeholders in the feed chain.

Serie of simple questions

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 (the EU Feed Additives and Premixtures Association) 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



On a daily basis, the feed industry is confronted with questions regarding the classification of the substances and products which are placed on the market by the operators. Simple tools such as ID Feed can make this work easier, more transparent and more streamlined

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.

Code of Practice for classification

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.

User friendly tool

The above mentioned review and discussions from Fefana has led to the development of a user-friendly tool in order to support feed business operators and authorities in classifying feed products and mixtures. 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. 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 website (www.fefana.org/ID-feed/Start.htm).

Streamlining

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.

The ID-feed tool 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. |

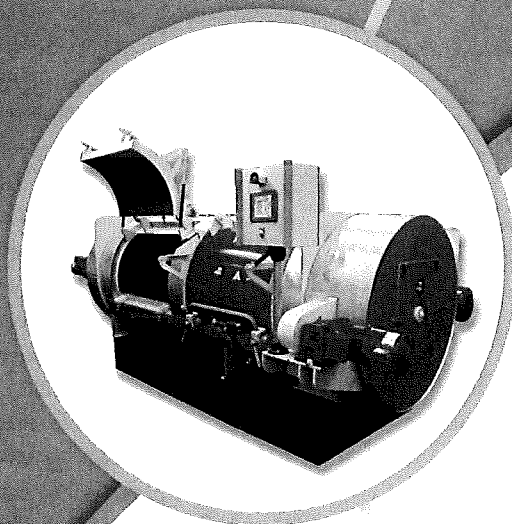
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Norel & Nature



Norel y Nature, a Spanish feed additives company has appointed Olga Lopez to join

the team as direction assistant and marketing assistant. She will deal with PR, event coordination and administrative tasks.

Jefo Nutrition



Mr. Ludovic Lahaye, M.Sc., Ph.D. is joining the research and development team of Jefo Nutrition Inc. as

assistant technical director.

He will collaborate to all aspects of research and technical support, both nationally and internationally. His office will be located at Jefo headquarters and main research station in St-Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada.

Novus International

Novus International has appointed Walinee Ngam-sa-nga as sales

specialist farm sector, in Thailand. Ngam-sa-nga will be responsible for expanding the swine business in the farm sector base while providing current clients with Novus support services.

BluePlanet

BluePlanet, an international company established in 2004 dedicated to develop the global aquaculture industry, has appointed Eivind Helland as their new general manager. Helland comes from G.O. Johnsen where he worked as market development manager.

In memoriam

Donald Rattenbury, commercial manager for Newmarket-based animal feed supplement manufacturer, Ufac (UK), died aged 61. He was a widely-known and popular figure in the feed industry, particularly within the trade. He joined Ufac in 1977 and held various posts, including sales development in the UK and Ireland.



20 Mar - 1 Apr, BSAS Annual Conference
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31 Mar - 3 April, Seminar Advances in Feed Evaluation Science
Wageningen, the Netherlands
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22-23 April, Distillers Grains Symposium
Des Moines, USA
Web: www.distillersgrains.org

27-29 April, AveSui
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5-7 May, The 17th International Agricultural Exhibition
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Web: www.Agritech.org.il

17-20 May, Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) 2009 Annual International Convention
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Email: info@bio.org

17-20 May, Alltech's 25th International Animal Health and Nutrition Symposium
(on invitation only)
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Email: symposium@alltech.com

26-28 May, VIV Russia
Moscow, Russia
Web: www.viv.net
Email: anneke.van.rooijen@vnuexhibitions.com

9 June, IGC Grains conference
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2-4 July, ILDEX India
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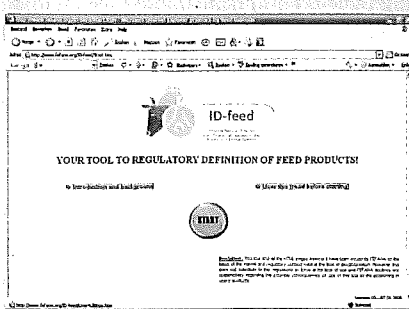
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Tips, tools and sites

www.fefana.org/ID-feed/start.htm



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