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Food Safety Risk : POME in Palm acid oils

Whenever a potential hazard occurs for the Animal Feed Sector it is not only important to minimize, but also, in as much as possible, to limit its consequences as much as possible. It is therefore essential to respond quickly and to clearly notify the entire Feed Sector.

This is the reason why FCA certified Companies are required to report certain information and incidents to OVOCOM. From our side, we shall inform the sector if a certain risk occurs.

Recently, we have learned that Palm Acid Oils originating from Asia may contain what we call « *palm oil mill effluents (POME)* ».

What is POME ?

POME are palm oil mill effluents. They originate in the separation of waste water coming from such industry. The use of POME as 'acid oils' is not compliant with the definition included in the European Catalogue of Feed Materials.

These acid oils are obtained from the chemical refining of raw oils and fats (in this case Palm). The description of such feed material in the European Catalogue is the following:

« Product obtained during the deacidification of oils and fats of vegetable or animal origin by means of alkali, followed by an acidulation with subsequent separation of the aqueous phase, containing free fatty acids, oils or fats and natural components of seeds, fruits or animal tissues such as mono-, and diglycerides, lecithin and fibres. »

It is clear that POME, coming from the separation of wastewater, does not fall within this definition.



Why does POME contain a risk ?

Products such as POME are the result of a process which cannot be controlled via controlled risk measures. Therefore, the EU has prohibited the use of products derived from wastewater in animal feed, (Regulation EC 767/2009, Annex III, 1.1). This Regulation is applicable to all FCA certified companies. POME as well as oils and fats or by-products containing them must not be considered as acid oils, and therefore may not be labeled as such.

What is the role of OVOCOM ?

We collaborate with other feed safety systems such as QS, AIC, GMP+ International, EFISC, Coceral and SecureFeed. We endeavor, in as much as possible, to harmonize our approach in terms of risk control.

Together with those feed safety systems and with those companies belonging to the oils and fats sector, we work towards harmonized additional control measures in order to ensure the security and integrity of refinery products (including Palm Acid Oils).

What can I as an FCA certified company do ?

First of all, be particularly careful with Palm Acid Oils originating from Asia.

Make sure that when you buy Palm Acid Oils, you have purchased and received the (completely) correct product.

A few tips :

- Suppliers must provide a correct specification of the product. If a specification indicates deviations at the level of the nutritional value and feed safety of the product, additional monitoring is required.
- Compare the price with the normal market value. If the price significantly differs, this may be an indication that it concerns a product that is (partially) different.
- Make sure that the feed material corresponds to the data contained in the EU Catalogue, such as the product name, product description as well as the description of the production process.
- Perform an analysis of the product composition (nutritional value, contents of free fatty acids), and possible feed safety risks.

Finally, if you have data relating to Palm Acid Oils containing POME, kindly inform OVOCOM via info@ovocom.be.

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