

AC-04

Ver 1.3

Storage and Transshipment of Animal Feed





DOCUMENT HISTORY

| Version and date of approval | Reason for revision | Revision scope | Ultimate application date |
|------------------------------|--|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 0.0 03/07/2008 | Simplification of structure | Entire document | 01/01/2009 |
| 1.0 09/08/2012 | Approval of version 2 of the Auto-control Guide Animal feed G-001 | Entire documents | 09/11/2012 |
| 1.1 23/08/2013 | Reference to AC-02 included | Point 2 | 22/11/2013 |
| | Application of Commission Regulation (EU) No 225/2012 and Royal Decree of 21/02/2006 | Points 5.1 and 5.5 | |
| | Reference to the evaluation of suppliers | Point 3 | |
| 1.2 23/12/2015 | Publication of Regulation (EU) 2015/1905 (modification of Regulation (EC) 183/2005) | Point 5.5 | 23/12/2015 |
| 1.3 21/10/2016 | New lay-out | Entire document | 21/10/2016 |



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AC-04: Storage and Transshipment of Animal Feed

1. Introduction

This chapter deals with the specific food safety aspects related to storage and transshipment of animal feed, namely:

- Feed materials;
- Additives;
- Pre-mixtures;
- Compound feed.

2. Application scope

A company, storing or transshipping animal feed for account of third parties must respect the provisions included in this document 'AC-04: Storage and Transshipment of Animal Feed'.

The concept 'storage and transshipment' not only includes the actual storing and transshipping of products for third parties, but also includes other activities performed for account of third parties such as drying of cereals, packaging, cleaning/sorting, etc.

If this company also exercises other activities such as trade or production of feed, or activities such as storage and transshipment for own account, provisions included in documents 'AC-03: Trade in animal feed' and 'AC-02: production of animal feed', shall be applied. For the production of feed, for account of third parties, and for the drying of feed other than cereals, oilseeds or protein crops, the requirements included in document AC-02 must be observed.

Road transport activities performed by the company, shall take place in accordance with provisions from 'AC-05: Road transport of Animal Feed'.



Example: scope for a company storing and transshipping feed

A company, storing and transshipping feed, shall apply documents 'AC-00: Introduction', 'AC-01: General provisions' and 'AC-04: Storage and transshipment of animal feed'. For possible road transport activities, falling under the responsibility of the company, the provisions of document 'AC-05: Road transport of animal feed' shall be applied.

Companies exclusively engaged in transshipment activities for third parties, should also apply this document.

The company storing feed containing animal by-products, must also comply with requirements of document 'AT-11: Animal By-Products'.

A number of requirements included in documents of the 'AT' series should be considered within the organization of any company, and are applicable to certain activities such as transshipment and storage:

- 'AT-01: Legislation';
- 'AT-02: Notification requirement';
- 'AT-03: Table of standards, actions thresholds and notification limits';
- 'AT-04: Practical realization of the HACCP-Plan';

- 'AT-05: Monitoring'.

3. Purchase

Under European Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 laying down requirements for feed hygiene, the European establishments of service providers must be registered and possibly approved.

In Belgium there is an intermediate level between registration and approval as defined in the European Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003: Approval. This level is defined in the Royal Decree of 16 January 2006 laying down detailed rules for approvals, authorizations and registrations issued by the FASFC (see 'AT 01: Legislation').

If a company wishes to outsource storage and transshipment activities, or wishes to call upon a transport operator, must only call upon establishments which are approved, authorized or registered.

The evaluation of service providers (transport operators, storage companies as subcontractors, etc.) may be necessary to ensure food safety and quality of purchased products and services.

4. Reception

Upon receiving these products, one should verify whether they comply with the requirements. The accompanying documents and any analysis documents should be verified.

The products should always satisfy the requirements of the country of destination (e.g. labeling). If the country of destination is unknown, the products must satisfy the legal requirements of the country where they are stored.

All products present in a facility are deemed, unless evidence to the contrary, to be kept for the purpose of commercialization or use (possibly after processing) within the country.

Upon reception, the feed must undergo an entrance control (e.g. odor, color, structure, moisture level, temperature). Packaged products shall be checked for possible damage.

A procedure, describing what needs to be done with products not satisfying the requirements (e.g. refusal, conditional acceptance, to give another destination) should be in place and applied if necessary.

Upon receipt of feed materials, additives, pre-mixtures and compound feed, the following data must be kept:

- Name of product;
- Name and address of instructing party;
- Date of reception;
- Quantity;
- Batch number of the instructing party;
- Expiry date, if applicable.

5. Storage and other processes

5.1. Storage of animal feed

All products, whether bulk or bagged, should be stored in a way that:

- They are easily identifiable;

- They are physically separated from other products;
- Exclude any confusion with other products;
- Not exceed the expiry date;
- The storage conditions indicated on the label are respected.

The storage of products should be such that any risk of damage to packaging, flowing or leaking of products, are reduced to a minimum.

Animal feed should be stored in a way that they are easily identifiable, and excluding any confusion with other feed.

When a product in transit or intended for export outside the European Union is stored on the premises of the company, the product must bear a label that clearly indicates "Export". The owner or company storing the product must be able to prove its destination on the basis of substantiating documents, and this at the latest upon delivery.

In order to limit the extent of a possible recall, it is recommended to empty completely and regularly silos and areas storing dry products. Any emptying must be registered.

Containers which are to serve for storage and transport of products (mentioned below) intended for use in feed shall not be used for the transport or storage of products other than these unless these products comply with the applicable standards for the feed sector.

It shall apply to the following feed:

- Compound feed;
- Vegetable oils;
- Products derived from vegetable oils.

They shall be kept separate from any other cargo where there is a risk of contamination.

If separation is not an option, the containers shall be efficiently cleaned so as to remove any trace of product if those containers were previously used for products not meeting the requirements applicable to the feed sector.

The applicable procedure should be established in writing.

Animal fats of Category 3 material, as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009, intended for use in feed shall be stored and transported in line with that Regulation (cf. 'AT-11: Animal by-products').



Storage and fat blending

An establishment mixing crude oils, refined oils, animal fats, oils and/or products derived thereof to produce a blended fat or oil intended for feed, shall be considered a producer and must as such apply document 'AC-02: Production of animal feed'. This implies i.e. the obtaining of an approval and application of a monitoring of dioxin and dioxin-like PCBs.

Storage of consecutive batches in the same silo is not considered as fat blending. This implies that subsequent storage of batches induces a temporary separation from the different batches present in the silo. This means that only a residual presence of the previous batch may be accepted without it being considered as a « mixture ».

During storage, bulk feed for ruminants are stored in facilities, physically separated from those where animal proteins authorized in feed of non-ruminants (conforming annex IV to (EC) Regulation No 999/2001), and feed containing these proteins, are stored in bulk.

5.2. Equipment for measuring, dosing and control

There should be a list on the premises of the company indicating all equipment for measuring, dosing and control. These are, for example, equipment for weighing and dosing, thermometers and hygrometers.

Of the equipment, the following should be defined in a clear manner:

- a. The minimum and maximum authorized charge or measuring range;
- b. The accuracy of the equipment;
- c. The authorized deviation of the equipment.

If the accuracy of the equipment exceeds the authorized deviation, it should be calibrated or replaced.

The equipment should be easy to clean.

The weighing equipment must be adapted to the quantity to be weighed.

Equipment used for weighing goods which are to be sold (e.g. weighbridges, bagging installations) must be calibrated every 4 years. The calibration must be performed by an inspection body approved by the authorities. Companies established in Belgium will find a list of approved inspection bodies on the website of FPS Economy, Metrology Division.

Weighing equipment for internal use must be controlled and calibrated on a regular basis

The calibration and control frequency is to be defined by the company (e.g. based on a hazard analysis).

The requirements and frequencies should be included in procedures. The registrations must be kept.

5.3. Drying

The drying consists of a mechanical phase of pre-cleaning (facultative) and a drying phase. The air conveying the heat through the product must be clean. It is important, that it should not form a source of contamination for the animal feed.

Attention, through direct contact with combustion gases the products may, during the drying process, be contaminated with toxic substances.

By controlling the moisture level (humidity) of the outgoing product, as well as the temperature of the product, and of the air will allow this stage to be managed.

5.4. Cleaning and/or sorting

This stage allows the elimination of foreign bodies and/or the separation of animal feed among themselves.

It is essential to verify whether products resulting from these processes (sorting residues e.g.) are compliant with the intended specifications. Their possible use must be the subject of a specific evaluation.



Prevention systems as regards dust explosion

Fine particles of animal feed originating from equipment used for the prevention of dust explosion can be returned to the original batch.

In general animal feed must not contain toxic or harmful substances, harmful to health of humans or animals.

5.5. Packaging

The choice of packaging material depends on:

- The type of animal feed to be packaged;
- The contamination management of risks linked to a contamination whereby the packaging material is the source;
- The contamination management of risks transferred via packaging material.

In exceptional cases (e.g. liquid products), recipients can be reused. In this case, the company must implement a cleaning method for these recipients, thus guaranteeing food safety of products packaged therein.

During packaging and transporting bulk feed for ruminants, stored in facilities physically separated from those where animal proteins are authorized in feed for non-ruminants (subsequent to annex IV to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001), and feed containing these proteins, are stored in bulk.



Labeling and destination of product

The label on the products shall clearly indicate whether they are intended for feed or other purposes. It is mainly for this reason that the legislation imposes indications such as «additives», «premixtures», «feed materials», « compound feed », etc.

If a certain batch of a product is declared not intended for feed use, this declaration shall not be subsequently altered by an operator at a later stage of the chain.

6. Traceability

The company must take appropriate measures in order to ensure that animal feed, stored and transshipped, can be traced effectively. The company will keep a register with the following minimum data:

- Type of products per instructing party;
- Quantities;
- Copies of any accompanying documents (e.g. warranty statements, certificates);
- The coordinates of the purchasers of a service as regards storage and transshipment.

In the context of the auto-control system, the company is not under the obligation to take a sample for traceability as regards incoming and outgoing products.

Nevertheless, taking a sample is a measure in order to enforce traceability, therefore its application can be recommended.

7. Non-conforming products

Storage areas, where contaminated batches are stored, should be thoroughly cleansed in order to prevent a re-contamination of subsequent batches. To that end, a procedure must be established.



Dust

Dust, derived from sweeping floors or other areas, must not be re-incorporated in animal feed. Here, it relates to dust accumulating over time within the company, and not to occasional dust originating from mealy or powdery animal feed, e.g. during grinding or upon delivery. After discharging a dusty product in the collection tank, there usually remain some residues of the product behind in the truck or on the grid. It often relates to considerable amounts of the product, which can be swept into the bunker and thus returned to the original batch.