Health control of feedingstuffs of non-animal origin

If you want to export feedingstuffs of non-animal origin to the EU, it must comply with the EU rules on:

1. EU Food Law (CELEX 32002R0178);
2. Feed hygiene;
3. Substances and pesticide residues in and on feed.
4. Marketing and labelling requirements for feed materials, compound feedingstuffs and feedingstuffs intended for particular nutritional purposes.
5. Rules for the authorisation of the use of certain products in feed: bioproteins, Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and additives.
6. Control of feedingstuffs.

It must also come from establishments having a representative established in the EU.

EU Food Law

Some food requirements applying to all food and feed exported to the EU

- **Compliance or equivalence**: your feed must comply with the EU food law or conditions recognized by the EU to be equivalent.
- **Traceability**: It is the ability to trace and follow food and feed and ingredients through all stages of production, processing and distribution. You are affected as your importer must identify from whom the product was imported. Unless specific provisions exist, you are limited to identify your immediate supplier and the immediate recipient (one step back-one step forward).
- **Responsibilities of feed importers**: You, as any feed business operator at any stage of production, processing or distribution, should ensure that feeds satisfy the EU requirements of food law and shall verify that such requirements are met while feed is under your responsability.

EU feed hygiene

EU hygiene requirements (CELEX 32005R0183) ensure feed safety throughout the food chain, starting with primary production of feed, up to and including, the feeding of food-producing animals. You should:

- monitor the feed safety under his responsibility;
- monitor hygiene at all stages of production, processing and distribution of food;
- control microbiological contaminantion;
- monitor the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP);
- register as feed business operator
- be approuved by the EU, in case of dealing with sensitive substances.

Pesticide residues in and on feed

EU countries may restrict the placing on the market within their territories of animal feed containing pesticides residues or undesirable substances in a quantity exceeding the maximum levels permitted. The limits depend on the toxicity of the substances in question.

EU legislation (CELEX 32002L0032) includes maximum limits for heavy metals such as arsenic, lead, mercury and cadmium as well as for dioxin, aflatoxin, certain pesticides and botanical impurities. It also foresees the prohibition of the dilution of contaminated feed materials.

Feed marketing and labelling

Feed materials (raw or processed materials intended for use as animal feed or for manufacturing compound feedingstuffs), **compound feedingstuffs** (mixtures of feed materials which may contain additives for use as animal feed as complete or complementary feedingstuffs) and **dietetic feedingstuffs** may only be placed on the market if they are "sound, genuine and of merchantable quality". They must not represent any danger to human or animal health or to the environment.
EU legislation establishes the lists of materials and ingredients whose circulation or use in animal nutrition is prohibited and the positive lists of the intended uses of certain animal feedingstuffs.
The products must also comply with specific labelling, packaging and marking provisions, such as: list of materials and ingredients and their designations that need to be identified on the label, restrictions in connection with the type of packages or containers for compound feedingstuffs.

EU legislation (**CELEX 32009R0767**) lays down rules on the placing on the market and use of feed for both food-producing and non food-producing animals within the Community, including requirements for labelling, packaging and presentation. This Regulation also provides for the creation of a catalogue of feed materials, which has been established by EU legislation (**CELEX 32010R0242**).
EU legislation (**CELEX 32003R1829**) establishes that no person shall place on the market, use or process feedingstuffs consisting of and containing **GMOs** and produced from GMOs unless they are covered by an authorisation and comply with the provisions on labelling.
Feed **additives** are products used in animal nutrition for purposes of improving the quality of feedingstuffs or to improve the animals' performance and health (e.g. providing enhanced digestibility of the feed materials). They may not be placed on the market unless an authorisation has been given following a scientific evaluation demonstrating that the additive has no harmful effects on human and animal health and on the environment.
Authorisations are granted for specific animal species, specific conditions of use and for ten years. They can be withdrawn for administrative reasons.
This legislation also contains certain provisions regarding labelling and packaging, such as: declaration of the amount and name of the bioproteins and additives contained in the feedingstuffs, list of ingredients, instructions for use, etc.

Control of feedingstuffs

EU legislation (**CELEX 32004R0882**) explains the EU control procedures for feedingstuffs.
The EU national authorities will carry out regular controls on imported feedingstuffs to ensure they comply with the EU general health rules designed to designed to prevent risk to human and animal health and protect the environment.
The control may apply to any stage of the feed chain (manufacture, processing, storage, transport, distribution and trade) and may include a systematic documentary check, a random identity check and, as appropriate, a physical check.
Besides, EU legislation (**CELEX 32009R0669**) establishes that imports of certain feed products shall be subject to an increased level of official controls at the designated point of entry on the basis of a known or emerging risk. The release for free circulation of these products is subject to the presentation of a Common Entry Document (CED) according to the provisions of this Regulation.
Products intended for animal nutrition imported from non-EU countries shall go through an inspection that may consist in documentary, identity and/or physical checks. Therefore, the importer or his representative must give advance notice to the competent officials before the arrival of goods to the **point of entry**.
The product can only be released for consumption after a favorable result will be reflected in the **EU harmonised document**, indicating the specific type of checks that have been carried out.
Besides, the inspection document is required for the free circulation of the goods within the EU and any other accompanying documents must contain the reference to this document.
If in your country appears or spreads a problem that could pose a serious risk to human or animal health or the environment, the EU may suspend imports from all or part of your country or take interim **protective measures** on the products concerned

Further information
European Commission, DG Health and Consumers website:

- Feed Hygiene
- Undesirable substances
- Pesticide Residues
- Feed material
- Prohibited materials
- Compound feedingstuffs
- Feedingstuffs intended for particular nutritional purposes
- Bioproteins in animal nutrition
- Genetically Modified (GM) feed
- Feed additives
- Feed control
- Food control
- European Feed Materials Register
- Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) - Online searchable database
- Marketing of Feed

Last update on: January 2013. Please check the Export Helpdesk fur updated information