codex alimentarius commission

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

JOINT OFFICE: Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 ROME Tel: 39 06 57051 www.codexalimentarius.net Email: codex@fao.org Facsimile: 39 06 5705 4593

ALINORM 03/38A

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Twenty-sixth Session
Rome, Italy, 30 June – 7 July 2003

REPORT OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE *AD HOC* INTERGOVERNMENTAL CODEX TASK FORCE ON ANIMAL FEEDING

Copenhagen, Denmark

25 – 28 March 2003

Note: *This report includes Codex Circular Letter CL 2003/14-AF*

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CX 4/90.1 CL 2003/14-AF

April 2003

TO: Codex Contact Points
Interested International Organizations

FROM: Secretary, Codex Alimentarius Commission, Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
FAO, 00100 Rome, Italy

SUBJECT: **DISTRIBUTION OF THE REPORT OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE *AD HOC* INTERGOVERNMENTAL CODEX TASK FORCE ON ANIMAL FEEDING (ALINORM 03/38A)**

The report of the Fourth Session of the *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding will be considered by the 26th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Rome, 30 June – 5 July 2003).

PART A: MATTERS FOR ADOPTION BY THE 26TH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

Proposed Draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding, advanced to Step 5/8 (with the omission of Steps 6 and 7) of the Codex Procedure (ALINORM 03/38A - Appendix II). See also paras. 21 through 65 of this report.

Governments and interested international organizations are invited to comment on the above text and should do so in conformity with Procedures for the Elaboration of Codex Standards and Related Texts (see *Procedural Manual of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Twelfth Edition, pages 20-21*. Comments should be forwarded to the Secretary of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, FAO - Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00100 Rome, Italy. Fax:+39 06 5705 4593, e-mail: codex@fao.org; **not later than 30 May 2003**.

PART B: MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE TWENTY SIXTH SESSION OF THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION

This report of the Fourth Session of the *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding will be considered along the report of the 3rd Session (June 2002) by the 26th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission as part of the full report from the Task Force in fulfilling its terms of reference.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The Fourth Session of the *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding reached the following conclusions:

- Agreed to advance the proposed draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding to Step 5/8 (with the omission of Steps 6 and 7) for adoption by the 26th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.) (para. 65 and Appendix II);
- Noted some proposals for future work concerning animal feeding and agreed that these suggestions would be brought to the attention of the Commission in the Chairperson's report to be presented at the 26th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (paras. 73 – 75).

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CAC/RCP	Codex Alimentarius Commission Recommended Code of Practice
CCFH	Codex Committee on Food Hygiene
CCGP	Codex Committee on General Principles
CCRVDF	Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods
CL	Circular Letter
CRD	Conference Room Document
EC	European Community
EMBRAPA	Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária
EMRLs	Extraneous Maximum Residue Limits
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAPs	Good agriculture practices
GCP	Government Contribution Programme
GMOs	Genetically modified organisms
GMPs	Good manufacturing practices
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
MRLs	Maximum Residue Limits
NGOs	Non Governmental Organizations
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health (formerly called Office International des Epizooties / International Office of Epizootics)
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

REPORT OF THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE *AD HOC* INTERGOVERNMENTAL CODEX TASK FORCE ON ANIMAL FEEDING

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The Fourth Session of the *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 25 to 28 March 2003, at the kind invitation of the Government of Denmark. The session was chaired by Mr Mogens Nagel Larsen, Director of the Danish Plant Directorate. The session was attended by 119 participants from 41 Member Countries and 14 international organizations. A complete list of participants is attached as Appendix I to this report.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (Agenda item 1)[1]

2. The Task Force noted that the current session was its last meeting and therefore deleted Agenda item 5 "Date and Place of the Next Session".

3. The Task Force also agreed to consider under Agenda item 4 Other Business and Future Work" the following:

- Discussion paper of ″The Development of an Annex on Application of HACCP Principles in Feed Production″[2]; and,
- European Community Proposals for Future Work[3].

4. With this change, the Task Force adopted the Provisional Agenda as the Agenda of the Session.

MATTERS REFERRED TO THE TASK FORCE FROM THE CODEX ALIMENTARIUS COMMISSION AND OTHER CODEX COMMITTEES (Agenda item 2a)[4]

5. The Task Force noted matters arising from the 50th Session (June 2002) of the Executive Committee and other Codex Committees related to the Draft Medium-Term Plan 2003-2007; the Third Session of the *ad hoc* Intergovernmental Codex Task Force on Animal Feeding; the discussion concerning Traceability/Product Tracing in other Codex Committees and Coordinating Committees; and on Antimicrobial Resistant Bacteria in Foods.

REPORT ON FAO, WHO AND OIE ACTIVITIES (Agenda item 2b)[5]

6. The Task Force noted the following reports of FAO, WHO and OIE activities related to animal feeding.

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1 CX/AF 03/1

2 CRD 4 prepared by the International Dairy Federation (IDF), in consultation with Comité du Commerce des Céréales, Aliments du Bétail, Oléagineux, Huiles et Graisses et Agrofournitures de l´Union Européenne (COCERAL), Consumers International (CI), the European Feed Manufacturers´ Federation (FEFAC), the Grain and Feed Trade Association (GAFTA), and the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF)

3 CRD 10, submitted by the European Community

4 CX/AF 03/2

5 CX/AF 03/3

FAO

7. FAO (Animal Production and Health Division) continues to provide extensive information on different issues of animal feeds and feeding through its Animal Feed Resources Information System (AFRIS)[6] and through its Food and Feed Safety Gateway[7]. This is being further developed as the Veterinary Public Health web-site as a focal point for information for veterinarians and public health professionals.

8. The Report and Proceedings of the Expert Consultation and Workshop on Alternative Protein Sources for the Animal Feed Industry (Bangkok, Thailand, 29 April - 3 May 2002)[8], with support from the International Feed Industry Federation, are in course of publication. The proceedings are available on-line at the web-site.

9. FAO organized jointly with OIE, WHO and the World Bank, an International Workshop on Food Safety Issues in connection with the 27th World Veterinary Congress. The workshop (Tunis, Tunisia, 25 - 28 September 2002) covered also topics such as safety of animal feed and lessons learnt from the BSE crisis, antimicrobial resistance and use of antimicrobials as growth promoters.

10. FAO is developing guidelines on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) along the food-chain. These have been discussed with major stakeholder groups (non governmental and civil society organizations) and will be considered by Member Nations at the forthcoming FAO Committee on Agriculture (Rome, Italy, 31 March - 4 April 2003). There has been a joint initiative with EMBRAPA, Brazil, to define GAPs for a number of animal production systems within selected agro-ecosystems which will be published shortly.

11. FAO continues to work with countries world-wide through its Technical Cooperation Programmes (TCP) and Governments Cooperation Programmes (GCP). It provides comprehensive technical assistance to improve feed safety and particularly to address risk management for such issues as BSE, feed-borne infections and feed contamination. FAO also continues assisting with the development of the feed industry, feed information and utilization of locally available feed resources. Projects are being implemented for capacity building for surveillance and prevention of BSE and other zoonotic diseases. They include elements of risk analysis, surveillance and diagnosis, as well as training in the feed and meat industries.

12. FAO is responsible for the development of guidelines, other publications and activities (manuals, training material and training modules) for the implementation of the proposed Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding, when adopted by the Codex Alimentarius Commission. The guidelines and publications will also cover such issues as feed traceability and the application of HACCP in the feed industry.

13. FAO is revising its 1995 publication entitled Worldwide Regulations for Mycotoxin in Food and Feed. The revised publication will cover the mycotoxin regulations in over 120 countries and will be published in May 2003.

WHO

WHO activities in relation to animal feeding, antimicrobial usage and resistance

14. In conjunction to an International Symposium “Beyond Antimicrobial Growth Promoters” (Foulum, Denmark, 6- 7 November, 2002) WHO has organized an international review panel for the evaluation of the termination of the use of antimicrobial growth promoters in Denmark. The consequences to consumers’ health, animal health, animal welfare, animal production, national economy and environmental impact were assessed, particularly in relation to swine and broiler chicken.

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6 http://www.fao.org/ag/AGA/AGAP/FRG/afris/default.htm

7 http://www.fao.org/livestock/AGAP/FRG/Feedsafety/feedsafety.htm

8 http://www.fao.org/livestock/workshop/feed/faoec2002.htm

15. Denmark's program to discontinue use of antimicrobial growth promoters has been very beneficial in reducing the total quantity of antimicrobials administered to food animals. This represents a general change in Denmark from continuous use of antimicrobials for growth promotion to exclusive use of targeted treatment of specific animals for therapy under veterinary prescription. The program has also been beneficial in reducing antimicrobial resistance in important food animal reservoirs. This reduces the threat of resistance to public health. It was concluded that under conditions similar to those found in Denmark, the use of antimicrobials for the sole purpose of growth promotion can be discontinued.

16. The final full report of the review will be published soon. It will be intended to develop a strategy for further improvement of national implementation strategies for the containment of antimicrobial resistance and for the implementation of the WHO Global Principles, and to support other countries in their endeavours to establish programmes towards prudent use of antimicrobials in food animals.

OIE

17. The OIE is committed to actively participating in the development of the Code Practice on Good Animal Feeding which primarily focuses on the Codex mandate to consumer protection, thereby only addressing food safety. While recognizing that a feed safety system addresses several other aspects, such as animal health and environmental issues not directly related to food safety, the OIE considers that these should be referenced or links should be made to where these issues are more adequately addressed.

18. The OIE addresses several issues relating to animal feeding, providing specific recommendations on animal health, zoonotic diseases and animal welfare.

OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety

19. The primary objective of the OIE Working Group on Animal Production Food Safety is of complementing the work of Codex Alimentarius, by reducing food borne risks to consumers' health through the prevention, elimination or control of hazards arising from animals prior to primary processing of animals and animal products. The OIE Working Group recognised that OIE needed to work closely with the Codex Alimentarius Commission by strengthening both their formal and informal relationships in order to minimise duplication, avoid gaps and ensure the most effective utilisation of available expertise. This cooperation may comprise technical input into the development or revision of a standard of the other organisation or, when appropriate, the joint development of standards and related texts through expert *ad hoc* Groups and Joint Task Forces.

OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare

20. On the subject of animal welfare, the OIE Working Group on Animal Welfare has held two meetings. Recognising the sensitive issues involved in the development of animal welfare standards but also that OIE will need to make progress in that direction, the Working Group recommended that *ad hoc* Groups initially develop guidelines on broader policies and principles, prior to the development of specific animal welfare standards in the future. For the 2003–2004 work program the Working Group identified the establishment of *ad hoc* Groups on land and sea transport, humane slaughter (including a subgroup for religious slaughter) and killing for disease control purposes. It also proposed a Global Conference on Animal Welfare scheduled to take place in Paris in February 2004 and aimed at explaining OIE's strategy and work on animal welfare, and to seek the input of NGOs as well as industry on how they could organise themselves into areas of interest to more directly participate in the process within the OIE.

CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE ON GOOD ANIMAL FEEDING (Agenda item 3)[9]

21. The Third Session of the Task Force agreed to retain the proposed draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding at Step 3. It further agreed that a Drafting Group[10] should reorganize Section 5 and revise Sections 6 and 7 on the basis of the discussion and written comments, for circulation and consideration at its next session. [11]

22. The Fourth Session of the Task Force agreed to give priority to the detailed revision of Sections 6 and 7 and to the reorganization of Section 5, prior to considering the other sections of the Code, with the understanding that these sections would be substituted from the relevant parts of Appendix II of ALINORM 03/38.

23. The Task Force noted that the Drafting Group had revised Sections 6 and 7 on the basis of the work done during its previous session and that the two sections had been drafted in order not to be too prescriptive.

24. The Task Force considered in detail Sections 6 and 7 and, in addition to editorial amendments, agreed to the following changes:

Section 6 – On-Farm Production and Use of Feed and Feed Ingredients

25. In recognising that "good agricultural practices" was not a well defined term, the Task Force agreed to remove the capital letters from this term in paragraph 54 and to add a footnote referring to the FAO work on the development of guidelines for GAP. It also added a third bullet point on physical hazards as they could create problems in feed and feed ingredients; consequential changes were made throughout the Code to reflect this decision.

Section 6.1 – Agricultural Production of Feed

26. In the fifth sentence on bedding materials, the text "in the same manner" was added for clarity.

Section 6.1.1 – Site selection

27. The Task Force agreed to change the last sentence to 'Contaminants present in runoff from adjacent land and irrigation water should be below levels that present a food safety risk' in order to reflect that there were no levels set for contamination of runoff from adjacent land and irrigation water.

Section 6.1.2 – Manure fertilizer and Section 6.1.3 – Chemical fertilizer

28. The two sections were merged into one section, 6.1.2 – Fertilizers, as both were dealing with the similar matters. The second sentence of paragraph 57 was amended by adding 'or forage harvesting (silage and hay making)' for clarity. In paragraph 59, the example of cadmium was deleted for consistency with previous decision to delete specific examples throughout the Code.

Section 6.1.4 – Pesticides

29. The title of the section was amended to read "Pesticides and Other Agriculture Chemicals" in order to reflect the content of this section. The first sentence of paragraph 60 was amended to clarify that pesticides and agricultural chemicals should be obtained from safe sources. The nature of storage, use and disposal of pesticides and agricultural chemicals was clarified in paragraphs 61 and 62. The reference to the Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual was moved to a footnote.

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9 ALINORM 03/38, Appendix II; CX/AF 03/5 and comments from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United States, European Community, IUMS-ICFMS, IDF and OIE in response to CL 2002/26-AF (CX/AF 03/4). Comments to CX/AF 03/5 from Australia, Colombia, Egypt, Switzerland; United States, European Community, FEFAC and IFIF (CX/AF 03/5, Add. 1), Thailand (CRD 7), Indonesia (CRD 8), The Philippines (CRD 9) and Japan (CRD 11)

10 Led by Canada with the assistance of Australia, Norway, United Kingdom, ALA and Consumers International

11 ALINORM 03/38, para. 73

Section 6.2.2 - Mixing

30. The two last sentences from paragraph 66 regarding manufacturing procedures were deleted as they were already addressed in Section 5.5 – Manufacturing Control.

Section 6.3.1 - Water

31. The specific reference to fish was removed from this section with the understanding that fish was covered by the term of "animals".

Section 6.3.2 – Pasture Grazing

32. The first sentence of paragraph 71 was amended to clarify that only avoidable contamination could be minimized in grazing of pasture or in crop land.

Section 6.3.3 - Feeding

33. The Task Force inserted an additional sentence at the end of paragraph 74 to emphasize the importance of having information regarding animal feeding available in order to ensure the management of food safety risks. The first sentence of paragraph 75 regarding animals receiving medicated feed was amended to clarify that such animals should be "identified and managed appropriately".

Section 6.4 – Stable Feeding and Lot/Intensive Feeding Units

34. The specific example of facilities with lead-based paint was removed for consistency with previous decision to delete specific examples throughout the Code.

Section 6.4.1 - Hygiene

35. The Task Force amended the last sentence of paragraph 77 by clarifying that chemicals should also be stored away from feed storage areas. In order to be not too prescriptive, the Task Force deleted the reference to feed and bedding materials or culture units from paragraph 78.

Section 6.5 – On-Farm Production and Use of Feed in Aquaculture

36. The Task Force amended the heading of this section as it covered matters related to aquaculture and moved the text of paragraph 82 as a footnote to the title of the section.

37. The Task Force amended the first sentence of paragraph 81 to clarify that minimizing contamination was aimed at reducing food hazards and deleted the last sentence regarding the quality of water as it was already covered in Section 5 of the Code.

38. The Task Force noted that the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products was developing a Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products, which included quality and safety provisions. The Code also contained a section on Aquaculture which was at an early stage of development. It was noted that the sub-section "Feed Supply" of the section on Aquaculture of that Code had reference to the Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding.

Section 7 – Methods of Analysis and Sampling

39. The Task Force amended the title to "Methods of Sampling and Analysis" to reflect the order of the sub-sections.

40. As suggested by an *ad hoc* working group[12] the text of the entire Section 7.1 – Methods, was replaced by a more general one stating: "Sampling protocols should meet scientifically recognized principles and procedures" and in Section 7.2 – Analysis, the first four lines were deleted and two footnotes were added referring to relevant work of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling, and to the use of quality assurance systems.

Section 5 – Production, Processing, Storage, Transport and Distribution of Feed and Feed Ingredients

41. The Task Force noted that the Drafting Group had added three new paragraphs[13] and had changed the wording of some paragraphs to take into consideration decisions of its Third Session and written comments[14]. The Task Force agreed on the way Section 5 was reorganized and also agreed to the following changes.

42. In paragraph 30, the Task Force amended the sentence related to GMPs and/or HACCP to clarify the application of HACCP and with the understanding that HACCP should not be used as an alternative to GMPs.

Section 5.1 - Premises

43. The second sentence in paragraph 33 was replaced by a new sentence to clarify that conduits and equipment used to store and convey water should be of appropriate material that do not produce unsafe levels of contamination.

44. In paragraph 34, the term 'facilities' was deleted as it was not always possible to avoid contamination of all parts of the premises.

Section 5.2 – Receiving, Storage and Transportation

45. The Task Force added a sentence at the end of paragraph 36, to clarify that feed and feed ingredients should be received and transported in such a way so as to minimize the potential for any cross-contamination at a level likely to have a negative impact on food safety. In paragraph 39 the term "aquaculture" was deleted as the provision applied to moist and semi-moist feeds for all animals. In paragraph 40 the term "unsafe levels of" was added before undesirable substance for consistency with the wording used in paragraph 33. The paragraph 41 was deleted as the matter was already covered in Section 4.

Section 5.3 – Personnel Training

46. The section was modified to emphasize that all personnel involved in the manufacture, storage and handling of feed and feed ingredients should be adequately trained and aware of their role and responsibility in protecting food safety.

Section 5.5 – Equipment Performance and Maintenance

47. In paragraph 48 the term 'tested' was replaced with 'monitored' as more appropriate.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

48. The Task Force recalled that some parts of the earlier sections of the proposed draft Code were left in square brackets and that, at its last session, it had decided that these issues should be considered in detail at the current meeting. The Task Force discussed these issues and, in addition to editorial changes, agreed to the following amendments.

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12 Brazil, New Zealand, Sweden, United States, GAFTA, IFIF and IFAH

13 Paras. 40, 45 and 48

14 CX/AF 03/4

Section 3 – Definitions

Feed Additives

49. The Task Force had a lengthy debate regarding the definition of feed additives. Some delegations pointed out that the wording contained in square brackets "or is intended to improve animal performance" was already covered by the definition of *Medicated Feeds,* which referred to the Codex definition of *Veterinary Drugs* contained in the Codex Procedural Manual. These delegations indicated that there was no need to have different definitions as it might lead to inconsistency inside the Code, and therefore they suggested that the above wording be deleted.

50. Many Delegations, including Greece speaking on behalf of the European Community Member States present at the current session, stated that any definition of feed additives had to be interpreted as to encompass a range of products such as microorganisms, enzymes, organic acids, some trace elements or vitamins, which had an effect on animal performance and were normally fed to healthy animals. They therefore argued that the Codex definition of *Veterinary Drugs* was too broad for the use in this Code of Practice. They emphasized that these products needed to be explicitly included in the definition of feed additives and insisted in keeping the current wording and removing the square brackets. As a compromise, they suggested to use the wording "…or may be intended to improve animal performance" be used instead of the text in square brackets.

51. The Task Force noted that the definitions, regulations and use of veterinary drugs and feed additives varied among member countries and it was not always possible to draw a clear borderline between them. It was suggested that the there might be a need to revise the Codex definition of *Veterinary Drugs.*

52. The Task Force also noted that at its previous session it had agreed to use the Codex definition of *Veterinary Drugs* and that it was not possible to get consensus on the definition of feed additives to encompass also ingredients intended to "improve animal performance". Therefore the Task Force deleted the text in square brackets and retained the rest of the definition unchanged. The Delegation of The Netherlands expressed its objection that the specific reference to improve animal performance" was taken out from this paragraph.

53. The Delegation of Greece, speaking on behalf of the Member States of the European Community present at the current session, while not opposing that this Code of Practice could later be advanced to Steps 5/8, expressed their reservation on the decision taken and indicated that they would bring this issue to the attention of the Commission in their written comments.

Section 4.1 Feed Ingredients

54. Different views were expressed and proposals put forward regarding the origin and evaluation of feed ingredients. Some delegations were of the view that ingredients derived from "new technologies" should be explicitly mentioned in the text; and that risk assessment for these materials be carried out. It was suggested that regulatory authorities should have the possibility to intervene regarding the pre-market approval and post market monitoring. Other delegations were in favour of limiting the text to a broader statement indicating that feed ingredients should be obtained from safe sources.

55. The Task Force amended the first sentence of this section in order to emphasize that ingredients derived from processes or technologies not previously evaluated be subject to a risk analysis from a food safety point of view as described in the Codex Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius[15].

Section 4.2 Labelling

56. The Task Force had a substantive debate on the necessity of labelling genetically modified organisms and derived products. It was noted that that the Codex Alimentarius Commission had established the *ad hoc* Task Force on Foods Derived from Biotechnology to address this matter and that the mandate of the Codex Committee on Food Labelling was limited to the consideration of labelling issues related to food.

[15] ALINORM 03/33, Appendix II

57. Some delegations pointed out that labelling of foods derived from GMOs had not been decided at the relevant Commission bodies yet and that there was no need to single out the labelling of individual technologies in this Code of Practice.

58. Other delegations were in favour of labelling of feed and feed ingredients derived from "new technologies" as it was an important risk management measure[16] and it allowed consumers to make an informed choice.

59. After a lengthy debate and based on the view of the vast majority, the Task Force substituted the wording in square brackets with "Competent authorities may decide that feed and feed ingredients consisting, containing or produced from GMOs should be labelled with references to the genetic modification as a risk management measure" and noted that the Delegations of the United States, Australia, Canada and New Zealand were opposing to this decision.

60. The delegation of the United States, with the concurrence of the delegations of New Zealand, Australia and Canada, interpreted this statement as meaning that a risk assessment was conducted as justification for taking any such risk management measures and that this interpretation was consistent with the Codex Principles for Risk Analysis.

Section 4.3 - Traceability/Product Tracing and Record Keeping of Feed and Feed Ingredients

61. The Task Force, noting that the text in square brackets in the first sentence of paragraph 12 allowed for flexibility, deleted the square brackets and clarified the last part of the sentence by adding that representative samples should be kept for a suitable period of time and noted that the discussion on "Traceability / Product Tracing" was ongoing in other Codex Committees.

Section 4.3.1 - Special Conditions Applicable to Emergency Situations

62. The Task Force noted that some form of notification arrangement was necessary in order to warn and work together with authorities in international co-operation to combat potential threats to the ultimate consumer via feed and food chain. Therefore it agreed to substitute the original wording with the one proposed by the European Community[17], with the following amendments:

- A "description of the nature of the problem" was added as very relevant information;
- "Lot number" was changed to "lot identifier";
- The reference to the processing methods was deleted; and
- "Country of origin" was changed to "place of origin".

Section 4.4 - Inspection and Control Procedures

63. The Task Force inserted the wording "risk-based" before official regulatory programs in paragraph 16 to emphasize the nature and orientation of regulatory programs.

Section 4.5.3 -Undesirable substances

64. The Task Force deleted the reference to the BSE agent in paragraph 26 as it was not appropriate to sight this as an example of minimization of contamination. Recognizing the importance of protecting public health from the BSE agent, it added a new sentence to emphasize that "animal products which could be a source of the BSE agent should not be used directly for feeding to, or for feed manufacturing for, ruminants".

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16 See definition of Risk Management in Codex Procedural Manual

17 CX/AF 03/4, page 10

Status of the Proposed Draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding

65. The Task Force forwarded the proposed draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding (see Appendix II) to the 26th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission for final adoption at Steps 5/8 (with the omission of Steps 6 and 7).

OTHER BUSINESS AND FUTURE WORK (Agenda item 4)

Proposals for Future Work

Application of HACCP Principles in Feed Production[18]

66. The Observer of the International Dairy Federation (IDF) informed the Task Force that CRD 4 had been prepared in consultation with several other NGOs working in the feed sector. Although the HACCP Principles had been designed for use in all segments of the food chain, guidelines and supporting materials for its implementation had been focussed almost entirely on their use in food processing. The implementation of HACCP had offered several advantages to the food sector that could also prevail when introduced in the feed sector.

67. The Observer highlighted the main differences between the feed and food sectors with an impact to the application of HACCP and stressed the fundamental role of good manufacturing practice and good agricultural practices for ensuring food safety.

68. The Observer of IDF suggested that Codex should encourage the application of HACCP in the feed sector by developing guidelines on HACCP with a view to annexing them to the Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding. It informed the Task Force that a first draft for such Guidelines was attached to the IDF paper and drew the attention to the two alternative approaches contained therein: i) for the application of the HACCP principles in the industrial feed manufacturing and handling operations; and, ii) for the application of a HACCP-based approach through the development of specifically targeted Codes of Practices, for use in farm production of feed and feed ingredients.

69. The Representative of FAO while congratulating the IDF for the very useful work that addressed the important aspect of the implementation of the Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding, reiterated that FAO had the responsibility for assisting member countries in the implementation of the Codex Codes of Practice and informed the Task Force of the ongoing work with IDF, IFIF and other organizations in this sector.

70. Some delegations noted the value of the IDF proposal; however they indicated that they had not enough time to consider the matter in detail.

European Community Proposals for Future Work[19]

71. The Delegation of Greece, speaking on behalf of the European Community Member States present at the current session, while congratulating the Task Force for the excellent work done in the limited time frame, drew the attention of the Task Force that some fundamental aspects of food safety were not fully addressed in the Code and suggested that future work in feed area should focus on the following areas:

- Application of HACCP system in the processing of feed and feed ingredients;
- Developing of negative list of feed ingredients that were not acceptable in animal feeding;
- Development of detailed rules for rapid alert systems in feeds;

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[18] CRD 4 - prepared by the International Dairy Federation (IDF), in consultation with Comité du Commerce des Céréales, Aliments du Bétail, Oléagineux, Huiles et Graisses et Agrofournitures de l´Union Européenne (COCERAL), Consumers International (CI), the European Feed Manufacturers´ Federation (FEFAC), the Grain and Feed Trade Association (GAFTA), and the International Feed Industry Federation (IFIF)

[19] CRD 10 – prepared by the European Community

- Aspects of traceability/products tracing in the area of feeds; and
- Undesirable substances such as heavy and toxic metals, mycotoxins, dioxins, furans and dioxin like PCBs, pesticides and zoonotic pathogenic agents.

72. The Secretariat informed the Task Force that some areas of future work suggested by the EC, such as the establishment of Maximum Residue Limits or Extraneous Maximum Residue Levels for pesticide in feed were already taken care by the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and that proposed work should fit in the Codex Medium - Term Plan. The Secretariat also informed the meeting that only the Commission had a mandate to decide on future work and to which Codex body assign new work. It was noted that MRLs/EMRLs for Veterinary Drugs and Contaminants did not refer to feed and feed ingredients.

Final Consideration

73. Some delegations noted that work done by this Task Force has great impact on facilitation of drafting legislation in developing countries and that the timeframe of the Task Force should be extended to assist these countries.

74. It was noted that there might be a need to revise the Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding in the light of new development and as new data become available and it was suggested that future work might also include the development of guidelines for the conduct of safety assessment of feed produced by DNA-recombinant techniques. Some Delegations supported the EC proposals while others indicated that they had no time to consider these proposals as they were circulated as Conference Room Documents at the session and therefore they could not agree on a list of specific proposals for new work.

75. It was agreed that these suggestions could be brought to the attention of the Commission in the Chairperson's report to be presented at the 26th Session of the Commission.

76. The meeting concluded by thanking the Danish authorities warmly for the efficient and hard working in organizing four meetings of the Task Force, and for the kind hospitality shown. The Chairperson was congratulated for guiding this work to a satisfactory conclusion.

SUMMARY STATUS OF WORK

Subject Matter	Step	Action by:	Document Reference (ALINORM 03/16A)
Proposed Draft Code of Practice on Good Animal Feeding	5/8	Governments 26th CAC	paras. 21 - 65, Appendix II

ALINORM 03/38 A
Appendix I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS
LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES

CHAIRPERSON/PRESIDENT/PRESIDENTE

Mr. Mogens Nagel Larsen
Director
Danish Plant Directorate
Skovbrynet 20
2800 Kgs. Lyngby
Denmark
Phone: +45 45 26 36 00
Fax: +45 45 26 36 10
Email: mnl@pdir.dk

ALGERIA
ALGERIE
ARGELIA

Mr. Mohamed Abeud
Chef de département
E.P.E. ONAB
4 chemins de Kouba Gué de Constantine ALGER
Algeria
Phone: +213 21 28 32 32
Fax: +213 21 28 36 32

ARGENTINE
ARGENTINA

Mr. Luis Martino
Counsellor
Embassy of Argentina
Borgergade16, 1.
1300 Copenhagen K
Denmark
Phone: +45 33 15 80 82
Fax: +45 33 15 55 74
Email: embardin@vip.cybercity.dk

AUSTRALIA
AUSTRALIE
AUSTRALIA

Mr. Steve McCutcheon
Head of Delegation
General Manager
Product Safety and Integrity Branch
Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia
Phone: +61 2 6272 4316
Fax: +61 2 6272 5697
Email: steve.mccutcheon@affa.gov.au

Mr. Ed Klim
Manager, Food Safety Systems and Support
Product Safety and Integrity Branch
Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia
Phone: +61 2 6272 5507
Fax: +61 2 6272 5697
Email: ed.klim@affa.gov.au

Mr. Bill Matthews
Principal Veterinary Officer
Australian Quarantine Inspection Service
Dept. of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia
Phone: +61 2 6272 5042
Fax: +61 2 6271 6522
Email: **bill.matthews@affa.gov.au**

Mr. Bill Spooncer
Industry Specialist
Food Science Australia
11 Julius Avenue
Riverside Corporate Park
North Ryde NSW 2113
Australia
Phone: +61 2 4567 7952
Fax: +61 2 4567 8952
Email:
bill.spooncer@foodscience.afisc.csiro.au

AUSTRIA
AUTRICHE
Dipl. Ing. Dr. Werner Brüller
Federal Ministry of Social Security
and Generations
Radetzkystrasse 2
1031 Vienna
Austria
Phone: +43 1 71100 4861
Fax: +43 1 710 4151
Email: werner.brueller@bmsg.gv.at

Mag. Stephan Hintenaus
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry,
Environment and Water Management
Stubenring 1
1010 Vienna
Austria
Phone: +43 1 711 00 2791
Fax: +43 1 711 00 6901
Email: stephan.hintenaus@bmlfuw.gv.at

BELGIUM
BELGIQUE
BÉLGICA

Mr. Christophe Keppens, Engineer
Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain
(FAVV)
WTC III, 8th Floor, S. Bolivarlaan, 30
1000 Brussels
Belgium
Phone: +32 2 208 3929
Fax: +32 2 208 3866
Email: christophe.keppens@favv.be

BRASIL
BRÉSIL
BRAZIL

Mr. César de Paiva Leite Filho
Head of Delegation
Embassy of Brasil
Ryvangs Alle 24
2100 Copenhagen Ø
Denmark
Phone: +45 39 20 64 78
Email: embaixada@brazil.dk

Mr. Ezio Gomes da Mota
Zootechnist
Federal Officer in Charge of Feed Control
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and
Food Supply
Esplanada dos Ministérios
Bloco D – Anexo B – Sala 110
70043 900 Brasília-DF
Brazil
Phone: +55 61 323 6248/218 2307
Fax: +55 61 218 2727
Email: ezio@agricultura.gov.br

Dr. Paulo Ricardo Campani
Veterinarian
Federal Officer in Charge of Animal
Products Inspection
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and
Food Supply
Esplanada dos Ministérios
Bloco D – Anexo A – Sala 422
70043-900 Brasília-DF
Brazil
Phone: +55 61 321 6798
Fax: +55 61 218 2672
Email: campani@agricultura.gov.br

Mr. Claudio Bellaver
Veterinarian
Senior Researcher EMBRAPA
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock
and Food Supply
CX Postal, 21
89700-000 Concordia – SC
Brazil
Phone: +55 49 442 8555
Email: bellaver@cnpsa.embrapa.br

Mr. Nelson Chachamovitz
Director
Sindicato Nacional da Indústria de
Alimentação Animal
Rua Cláudio Soares, 160 – Pinheiros
05422-030 São Paulo – SP
Brazil
Phone: +55 11 3031 3933
Fax: +55 11 3032 6216
Email: sindiracoes@uol.com.br

Ms. Rosemary Bichara
Coordinator of Good Manufacturing Practice
Sindicato Nacional da Indústria de
Alimentação Animal
Rua Cláudio Soares, 160 – Pinheiros
05422-030 São Paulo – SP
Brazil
Phone: +55 11 3031 3933
Fax: +55 11 3032 6216
Email: sindiracoes@uol.com.br

CANADA
CANADÀ

Ms. Judy Thompson
Head of Delegation
Feed Evaluation Coordinator
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
59 Camelot Drive
Nepean, Ontario
Canada K1A OY9
Phone: +1 613 228 6696/ext. 4370
Fax: +1 613 228 6614
Email: jthompson@inspection.gc.ca

CHINA
CHINE

Mr. Chen Xizhao
Deputy Director
National Veterinary Diagnostic Center
Ministry of Agriculture
11 Nongzhanguan Nanli
Beijing 100026
P. R. China
Phone: +86 10 64193156
Fax: +86 10 64192468

Mr. Yang Mingsheng
Master
Development Center of Science and Technology
Ministry of Agriculture
11 Nongzhanguan Nanli
Beijing 100026
P. R. China
Phone: +86 10 64193156
Fax: +86 10 64192468

Dr. Shirley Veronica Chuk
Veterinary Officer
Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
of Hong Kong
P. R. China
Phone: +852 2867 5421
Fax: +852 2521 8067

COLOMBIA
COLOMBIE

Mr. Mc Allister Tafur Garzón
Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario ICA
Ministerio de Agricultura
Calle 37 8-43, piso. 4º
7948 Bogota
Colombia
Phone: +57 1 2325315
Fax: +57 1 2324695
Email: mctafur@hotmail.com

CZECH REPUBLIC
RÉPUBLIQUE TCHÉQUE
REPÚBLICA CHECA

Ing. Jan Obadálek, CSc.
Central Institute for Supervising and
Testing in Agriculture
ZA opravnou 4
156 00 Prague 5 – Motol
Czech Republic
Phone: +420 2 5729 4231
Fax: +420 2 5729 4239
Email: jan.obadalek@ukzuz.cz

DENMARK
DANEMARK
DINAMARCA

Mr. Gorm Lunn
Head of Delegation
Head of Division of Feedingstuffs and Fertilizers
Danish Plant Directorate
Skovbrynet 20
2800 Kgs. Lyngby
Denmark
Phone: +45 45 26 36 00
Fax: +45 45 26 36 10
Email: gl@pdir.dk

Ms. Gitte Rasmussen
Expert
Danish Plant Directorate
Skovbrynet 20
2800 Kgs. Lyngby
Denmark
Phone: +45 45 26 36 00
Fax: +45 45 26 36 10
Email: gir@pdir.dk

Ms. Jytte Kjærgaard
Consultant
Danish Veterinary and Food Administration
Mørkhøj Bygade 19
2860 Søborg
Denmark
Phone: +45 33 95 62 33
Fax: +45 33 95 62 99
Email: jk@fdir.dk

Ms. Christina Nygaard
Head of Section
The Danish Agricultural Council
Axelborg
Axeltorv 3
1609 Copenhagen V
Denmark
Phone: +45 33 39 40 00
Fax: +45 33 39 41 41
Email: chn@agriculture.dk

EGYPT
ÉGYPTE
EGIPTO

Prof. Dr. Maryam Ahmed Moustafa Moussa
Minister Plenipotentiary for Agricultural Affairs
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Arab
Republic of Egypt to U.N. Agencies in Rome
Via Salaria 267
00199 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 6 854 8956
Fax: +39 6 854 2603
Email: agrioff.egypt@mclink.it

FINLAND
FINLANDE
FINLANDIA

Dr. Päivi Mannerkorpi
Head of Delegation
Agricultural Counsellor
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
P.O. Box 30
00023 Government
Finland
Phone: +358 9 160 52692
Fax: +358 9 160 52443
Email: paivi.mannerkorpi@mmm.fi

Ms. Marita Aalto
Senior Officer
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
P.O. Box 30
00023 Government
Finland
Phone: +358 9 160 53346
Fax: +358 9 160 52443
Email: marita.aalto@mmm.fi

Ms. Tarja Root
Plant Production Inspection Centre
Dep. of Agricultural Chemistry
P. O. Box 83
01301 Vantaa
Finland
Phone: +358 9 5765 2667
Fax: +358 9 823 1198
Email: tarja.root@kttk.fi

FRANCE
FRANCIA

Ms. Caroline Cognault
Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation,
de la Pêche et des Affaires Rurales
DGAL
251, rue de Vaugirard
75015 Paris
France
Phone: +33 1 49 55 83 11
Fax: +33 1 49 55 40 22
Email:
caroline.cognault@agriculture.gouv.fr

Mr. Philippe Guion
Regulatory Affairs Manager
Ajinomoto-Eurolysine
153, rue de Courcelles
75817 Paris Cedex 17
France
Phone: +33 1 44 40 12 29
Fax: +33 1 44 40 12 15
Email: guion_philippe@eli.ajinomoto.com

Ms. Céline Thomas
Ministère de l'Economie, des Finances et de
l'Industrie
DGCCRF
59, boulevard Vincent Auriol
75013 Paris
France
Phone: +33 1 44 97 29 11
Fax: +33 1 44 97 30 48
Email:
celine.thomas@dgccrf.finances.gouv.fr

GERMANY
ALLEMAGNE
ALEMANIA

Dr. Uwe Petersen, MR
Head of Delegation
Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection,
Food and Agriculture
Rochusstrasse 1
53123 Bonn
Germany
Phone: +49 228 529 3624
Fax: +49 228 529 4221
Email: uwe.petersen@bmvel.bund.de

Dr. Sabine Kruse
Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection,
Food and Agriculture
Rochusstrasse 1
53123 Bonn
Germany
Phone: +49 228 529 4186
Fax: +49 228 529 4221
Email: sabine.kruse@bmvel.bund.de

Dr. Monika Lahrssen
Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung
Diedersdorfer Weg 1
12277 Berlin
Germany
Phone: +49 30 8412 2362
Fax: +49 30 8412 2955
Email: m.lahrssen@bfr.bund.de

Dipl. Ing. Agr. Peter Radewahn
Deutscher Verband Tiernahrung e.V. (DVT)
Beueler Bahnhofsplatz 18
53225 Bonn
Germany
Phone: +49 228 975 680
Fax: +49 228 975 6868
Email: info@tiernahrung.de

GREECE
GRÉCE
GRECIA

Professor Pantelis Zoiopoulos
Head of Delegation
Ministry of Agriculture
The University of Ioannina
Kapnokoptiriou 6
101 76 Athens
Greece
Phone: +30 2108824610
Fax: +30 2108253056
Email: ka6uoo1@minagric.gr

Ms. Eugenia Kamarinou
Head of the Feed Sector
Ministry of Agriculture
Kapnokoptiriou 6
101 76 Athens
Greece
Phone: +30 2108824610
Fax: +30 2108253056
Email: ka6uoo1@minagric.gr

HUNGARY
HONGRIE
HUNGRIA

Mr. Aurél Salamon
Head of Delegation
Senior Counsellor
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Kossuth Lajos Tér 11
1054 Budapest
Hungary
Phone: +36 1 301 4364
Fax: +36 1 302 0408
Email: takkodex@ommi.hu

Mr. Peter Grünfelder
Counsellor
National Institute for Agricultural Quality Control
Head of Department for Feeding
Keleti Károly u. 24
1024 Budapest
Hungary
Phone: +36 1 212 2696/ext. 2347
Fax: +36 1 212 5062
Email: takkodex@ommi.hu

ICELAND
ISLANDE
ISLANDIA

Dr. Olafur Gudmundsson
Director
Feed, Seed and Fertilizer Inspectorate
Aðfangaeftirlit
Rala Building, Keldnaholt
112 Reykjavik
Iceland
Phone: +354 577 1010
Fax: +354 577 1020
Email: oli@adfangaeftirlit.is

INDIA
L'INDIE
LA INDIA

Ms. Neerja Rajkumar
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture & Cooperation
Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying
Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi 110011
India
Dr. Mangat Ram Garg
Senior Scientist
National Dairy Development Board
Anand 388 001
India
Phone: +91 2692 26265
Fax: +91 2692 60158
Email: mrgarg@nddb.coop

INDONESIA
L'INDONÉSIE

Mr. Syukur Iwantoro
Head of Delegation
Ministry of Agriculture
Jakarta
Republic of Indonesia
Email: syukur@deptan.go.id

Mr. Ple Priatna
Embassy of Indonesia
Ørehøj Alle 1
2900 Hellerup
Denmark
Phone: +45 39 62 44 22
Fax: +45 49 62 44 83
Email: ple.priatna@hotmail.com / ekonomi@indon.dk

Dr. Sunggul Sinaga
Alternate Permanent Representative of
Indonesia to FAO, IFAD, WFP
Via Campania 53-55
00817 Rome
Italy
Phone: 39 6 420 09134
Fax: +39 6 488 0280
Email: dr-sunggulsinaga@yahoo.com

IRAN (Islamic Republic of)

Mr. Hassan Fazaeli
Animal Science Research Institute of Iran
Department of Animal Nutrition
P. O. Box 1483
Karaj 31585|
Iran
Phone: +98 261 4430010-14
Fax: +98 261 4413258
Email: Fazaeli2000@yahoo.com

IRELAND
IRLANDE
IRLANDA

Dr. Tom Keating
Head of Delegation
Department of Agriculture and Food
Backweston, Leixlip
Co. Kildare
Ireland
Phone: +353 1 630 2918
Fax: +353 1 628 0634
Email: tom.keating@agriculture.gov.ie

Mr. Tim Camon
Agricultural Officer
Food Safety Authority of Ireland
Abbey Court, Lower Abbey St.
Dublin 1
Ireland
Phone: +353 1 817 1300
Fax: +353 1 817 1301
Email: tcamon@fsai.ie

ITALY
ITALIE
ITALIA

Professor Gianfranco Piva
Director
ISAN – Institute of Food Science and Nutrition
Faculty of Agriculture
Via Emilia Parmense, 84
29100 Piacenza
Italy
Phone: +39 523 599 258/285
Fax: +39 523 599 259
Email: gianfranco.piva@unicatt.it

Dr. Ciro Impagnatiello
Ministero delle Politiche Agricole e Forestali
Via Venti Settembre 20
00187 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 6 4665 6511
Fax: +39 6 4880 273
Email: ciroimpa@tiscalinet.it

Dr. Rosalba Matassa
Medico Veterinario
Ministero Della Salute
Piazzale Marconi No. 25
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 6 5994 6231
Fax: +39 6 5994 6152
Email: r.matassa@sanita.it

JAPAN
JAPON
JAPÓN

Mr. Satoshi Motomura
Deputy Director
Feed Division, Livestock Industry Department,
Agricultural Production Bureau, MAFF
Kasumigaseki 1-2-1, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
100-8950 Japan
Phone: +81 3 3501 3779
Fax: +81 3 3580 0078

Mr. Toshiaki Yamata
Section Chief
Feed Division, Livestock Industry Department,
Agricultural Production Bureau, MAFF
Kasumigaseki 1-2-1, Chiyoda-ku
Tokyo
100-8950 Japan
Phone: +81 3 3501 3779
Fax: +81 3 3580 0078

Mr. Kazuhiro Watanabe
Technical Adviser
Japan Feed Manufacturers Association
2-1, 2-chome, Azabudai, Minato-ku
Tokyo
106-0041 Japan
Phone: +81 3 3583 8031
Fax: +81 3 3583 8020

Mr. Yuzuru Inoue
Technical Advisor
National Federation of Agricultural
Co-Operative Association
1708-2 Tsukuriya, Tsukuba-shi
Ibaraki-ken
300-4204 Japan
Phone: +81 298 69 0173
Fax: +81 298 69 1052

KOREA, REPUBLIC OF

Cho, Byung Lim
Deputy Director
Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry
Livestock Products Sanitation Division
1, Joongang-Dong, Kwacheon-City
Kyunggi-Do, 427-719
Korea
Phone: +82 2 500 1927
Fax: +82 2 503 0020
Email: bicho@maf.go.kr

Byung-gyu, Jung
FTA Manager
Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry
Bilateral Cooperation Division
Kwacheon-City
Kyunggi-Do, 427-719
Korea
Phone: +82 2 500 1730
Fax: +82 2 503 6659
Email: jung@maf.go.kr

LATVIA
LETTONIE
LETONIA

Ms. Zanda Auce
Deputy Head
Veterinary and Feed Dept.
Ministry of Agriculture
Republikas Laukums 2
1981 Riga
Latvia
Phone: +371 702 7297
Fax: +371 702 7205
Email: zanda.auce@zm.gov.lv

MALAYSIA
MALAISIE
MALAISIA

Mr. Thin Sue Tang
Principal Research Officer
Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB)
No. 6, Persiaran Institusi
43000 Bandar Baru Bangi
Selangor Darul Ehsan
43000 Kajang
Malaysia
Phone: +603 8925 9155 ext. 2485
Fax: +603 8925 9446
Email: tstang@mpob.gov.my

MOROCCO
ROYAUME DU MAROC
MARRUECOS

Dr. Abdelghani Azzi
Chef du Bureau du lait et produits laitiers
La Direction de l'Elevage
Ministère de l'Agriculture, du Développement rural
et des Eaux et Forêts
Rabat
Morocco
Phone: +212 377 64294
Fax: +212 377 64404
Email: madedvha@iam.net.ma

NETHERLANDS
PAYS-BAS
PAÍSES-BAJOS

Ing. León Arnts
Head of Delegation
Ministry of Agriculture
Bezuidenhoutseweg 73
The Hague
Netherlands
Phone: +31 70 378 5281
Fax: +31 70 378 6161
Email: l.r.arnts@dl.agro.nl

Dr. Liebe Vellenga, Ph.D.
Head of Quality Dept.
Stadhoudersplantsoen 12
P. O. Box 29739
2502 The Hague
Netherlands
Phone: +31 70 370 82 49
Fax: +31 70 370 84 44
Email: l.vellenga@hpa.agro.nl

Mr. Rik Herbes
Food-Non-Food Authority
PB 16108
2500 BC The Hague
Netherlands
Phone: +31 70 340 5003
Fax: +31 70 340 6016
Email: rik.herbes@kvn.nl

Ms. Elisabeth Oosterom
VWA-RVV
Burg. Feithplein 1
Voorburg
Netherlands
Phone: +31 70 357 8346
Email: e.w.oosterom@rvv.agro.nl

NEW ZEALAND
NOUVELLE-ZÉLANDE
NUEVA ZELANDIA

Dr. Bill Jolly
New Zealand Veterinary Counsellor
European Region
1, Square de Meeus
1000 Brussels
Belgium
Phone: +32 2 550 1219
Fax: +32 2 513 4856
Email: bill.jolly@mfat.govt.nz

NORWAY
NORVÉGE
NORUEGA

Mr. Knut Flatlandsmo
Head of Delegation
Senior Adviser
Norwegian Agricultural Inspection Service
PO Box 3
1430 Ås
Norway
Email:
flatlandsmo@landbrukstilsynet.dep.no

Mr. Hans Birger Glende
Assistant Director General
Norwegian Agricultural Inspection Service
PO Box 3
1430 Ås
Norway
Phone: +47 64 94 43 80
Fax: +47 64 94 44 10
Email: hans-birger.glende@slt.dep.no

Ms. Cècile Blom
Adviser
Norwegian Food Control Authority
PO Box 8187 Dep.
0034 Oslo
Norway
Email: cecile.blom@snt.no

Mr. Henrik Stenwig
Managing Director Fishfeed
Norwegian Seafood Federation
P. O. Box 5471 Majorstuen
Oslo
0305 Norway
Phone: +47 23 08 87 42
Fax: +47 23 08 87 31
Email: henrik.stenwig@fhl.no

Mr. Bjørn Arne Næss
Adviser
The Directorate of Fisheries
Division of Quality and Environment
Section for Surveillance of Feed and Seafood
P. B. 185 Sentrum
5804 Bergen
Norway
Email: bjorn-arne.naess@th.fiskeridir.dep.no

PHILIPPINES
FILIPINAS

Dr. Alicia C. Arjona-Layson
D.V.M.
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Animal Industry
Visayas Avenue, Diliman,
1101 Quezon City
Philippines
Phone: +63 2 9282837
Fax: +63 2 9247954
Email: dr_als@yahoo.com

POLAND
POLOGNE
POLONIA

Professor Maciej Gajęcki
University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn
13 Oczapowskiego Street
10-718 Olsztyn
Poland
Phone: +48 602 69 30 25
Fax: +48 895 23 36 18
Email: gajecki@uwm.edu.pl

Professor Krzysztof Kwiatek
D. Sci., Ph.D., MVD.
National Veterinary Research Institute
Al. Partyzantów 57
24 100 Pulawy
Poland
Phone: +48 81 886 30 51 ext. 178
Fax: +48 81 886 25 95
Email: Kwiatekk@piwet.pulawy.pl

Dr. Justyna Wasilewko
Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection
30 Wspólna Street
00 930 Warzaw
Poland
Phone: +48 22 621 64 21 ext. 387
Fax: +48 22 621 48 58
Email: justynawasilewko@poczta.onet.pl

PORTUGAL

Prof. Dr. João Manuel de Carvalho Ramalho Ribeiro
Head of Delegation
Investigador Coordenador
Direcção Geral de Veterinária
Largo da Academia das Belas Artes No. 2
1294-105 Lisboa
Portugal
Phone: +351 21 323 9500
Fax: +351 21 346 3518

Mr. Jaime Piçarra
Eng. Agrónomo
IACA – Associação Portuguesa dos Industriais de Alimentos Compostos para Animais
Av. 5. de Outubro 21 - 2° Esq
1050-047 Lisboa
Portugal
Phone: +351 21 351 1770
Fax: +351 21 353 0387
Email: iaca@mail.telefac.pt

SLOVENIA
SLOVÉNIE
ESLOVENIA

Ms. Stanislava Gorenc
Senior Consultant
Food Industries Ass., CCI Slovenia
Chamber of Commerce and Industry
of Slovenia, Food Industries Association
Dimičeva 9
1504 Ljubljana
Slovenia
Phone: +386 15898292
Fax: +386 15686704
Email: stanislava.gorenc@gzs.si

SPAIN
ESPAGNE
ESPANA

Dr. Ana Rodriguez Castaño
Técnico Superior|
S. G. de Alimentación Animal y Zootecnia
D. G. de Ganaderia
Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación
José Abascal 4 – 7 planta
28003 Madrid
Spain
Phone: +34 91 347 6979
Fax: +34 91 347 6671
Email: arodrigc@mapya.es

SWEDEN
SUÉDE
SUECIA

Mr. Torbjörn Malm
Senior Principal Administrative Officer
Swedish Ministry of Agriculture
551 82 Jönköping
Sweden
Phone: +46 36 15 58 13
Fax: +46 36 30 81 82
Email: torbjorn.malm@sjv.se

SWITZERLAND
SUISSE
SUIZA

Dr. Daniel Guidon
Swiss Federal Research Station for Animal Production RAP
Feed Inspection Service
1725 Posieux
Switzerland
Phone: +41 26 407 72 45
Fax: +41 26 407 73 00
Email: daniel.guidon@rap.admin.ch

Dr. Joerg Hempel
SSCI
Roche Vitamins Ltd.
4070 Basle
Switzerland
Phone: +41 61 687 34 57
Fax: +41 61 488 16 35
Email: joerg.hempel@roche.com

THAILAND
THAILANDE
TAILANDIA

Dr. Sakchai Sriboonsue
Head of Delegation
Deputy Director-General
Department of Livestock Development
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Phaya Thai Road
10400 Bangkok
Thailand
Phone: +662 653 4402
Fax: +662 653 4902
Email: sakchasi@dld.go.th

Mr. Surayuth Songsumud
Veterinarian Officer
National Bureau of Agricultural Commodity and Food Standards
Raidamnern Nok Avenue
10200 Bangkok
Thailand
Phone: +662 281 5955 ext. 146
Fax: +662 280 1542
Email: surayut@health.moph.go.th

Ms. Cherdchai Thiratinrat
Scientist Officer
The Office of Agricultural Product Quality Control
District of Bangadee, Phatomtani Province
Department of Livestock Development
Phatomtani
Thailand
Phone: +662 963201-10
Fax: +662 9639212

Mr. Manop Potchanakorn, Ph.D.
Representative
Thai Feed Mill Association|
889 Thai C. C. Tower Satontai Avenue
Yanava, Sathon
Bangkok
Thailand
Phone: +662 638 2119
Email: m_potchanakorn@cpf.co.th

Ms. Pornsi Laurujisawat
Manager
Thai Boriler Processing Exporters' Association
The Federation of Thai Industries
Bangkok
Thailand
Phone: +662 638 2881
Fax: +662 638 2536
Email: pornsril@yahoo.com

UGANDA
OUGANDA

Dr. Stephen Kajura
Principal Veterinary Officer, Dairy and Meat
Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and
Fisheries of Uganda
P. O. Box 102 Entebbe
Uganda
Phone: +256 41320864/320980
Fax: +256 41320864/321010
Email: eddapm@utlonline.com

UNITED KINGDOM
ROYAUME-UNI
REINO UNIDO

Mr. Bill Knock
Head of Delegation
Food Standards Agency
Chemical Contaminants and Animal
Feed Division (CCAFD)
Aviation House, 125 Kingsway
London WC2B 6NH
United Kingdom
Phone: +44 207 276 8482
Fax: +44 207 276 8478
Email:
Bill.Knock@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

Ms. Karen Dell
Food Standards Agency
Chemical Contaminants and Animal
Feed Division (CCAFD)
Aviation House, 125 Kingsway
London WC2B 6NH
United Kingdom
Phone: +44 207 276 8468
Fax: +44 207 276 8478
Email:
Karen.Dell@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA

Dr. Stephen Sundlof
Head of Delegation
Director
Center for Veterinary Medicine
Food and Drug Administration
7529 Standish Place
Rockville, MD 20855
USA
Phone: +1 301 827 2950
Fax: +1 301 827 4401
Email: ssundlof@cvm.fda.gov

Dr. Lawrence E. Miller
Acting Assistant Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
1400 Indepence Avenue, SW
Room 317E-JW Building (Ag Box 3491)
Washington, DC 20250
USA
Phone: +1 202 720 5193
Fax: +1 202 690 4171
Email: Lawrence.E.Miller@usda.gov

Dr. Daniel G. McChesney
Deputy Director
Office of Surveillance and Compliance
Center for Veterinary Medicine
Food and Drug Administration
7500 Standish Place
Rockville, MD 20855
USA
Phone: +1 301 827 6648
Fax: +1 301 594 4512
Email: DMcchesn@cvm.fda.gov

Ms. Edith E. Kennard
Staff Officer
U.S. Codex Office
Food Safety and Inspection Service
U.S Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 4861 – South Building
Washington, DC 20250
USA
Phone: +1 202 720 5261
Fax: +1 202 720 3157
Email: Edith.kennard@usda.gov

Mr. Kyd Brenner
Partner
dtb associates, llp
1001 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Sixth Floor
Washington, DC 20004
USA
Phone: +1 202 661 7098
Fax: +1 202 661 7093
Email: KBrenner@dtbassociates.com

Dr. Charles Hofacre
Associate Professor of Avian Medicine
University of Georgia
PDRC
953 College Station Road
30602-4875 Athens, GA
USA
Phone: +1 706 542 5653
Fax: +1 706 542 5630
Email: Chofacre@uga.edu

Mr. Jim Rydell
Director of Quality & International Issues
American Feed Industry Association (AFIA)
1501 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 1100
Arlington, VA 22209
USA
Phone: +1 703 558 3568
Fax: +1 703 524 1921
Email: JRydell@afia.org

Ms. Jane Early, LLC
CSC (Corn, Soy, Cotton Coalition)
1104 King Street, Suite 444
Alexandria, VA 22314
USA
Phone: +1 703 838 0602
Fax: +1 703 790 9098
Email: JEarley@promarinternational.com

Mr. Hasse Kristensen
Agricultural Specialist
U.S. Embassy Copenhagen
Dag Hammerskjolds Alle 24
2100 Copenhagen Ø
Denmark
Phone: +45 3526 1081
Fax: +45 3543 0278
Email: KristensenH@fas.usda.gov

INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

Dr. Andrew W. Speedy
Senior Officer
(Feed and animal nutrition)
FAO
Via delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 6 570 52425
Fax: +39 6 570 55749
Email: Andrew.Speedy@fao.org

Ms. Daniela A. Battaglia
Animal Production Officer
(Feed safety and feed utilization)
FAO
Via delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 6 570 56773
Fax: +39 6 570 55749
Email: Daniela.Battaglia@fao.org

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO)

Dr. Peter Braam
Scientist
World Health Organization
20, Avenue Appia
1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 791 3882
Fax: +41 22 791 4893
Email: braamp@who.int

OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DES EPIZOOTIES (OIE)

Dr. Alex Thiermann
President, Code Commission
World Organization for Animal Health
12, rue de Prony
75017 Paris
France
Phone: +33 1 44 15 18 69
Email: a.thiermann@oie.int

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Ms. Almudena Rodriguez Sánches-Beato
Commission Official
European Commission
Rue Froissart 101 0/58
1040 Brussels
Belgium
Phone: +32 2 296 1068
Fax: +32 2 296 3615
Email: almudena.rodriguez@cec.eu.int

Mr. Alfons Vázquez Obiols
Commission Official
European Commission
Rue Froissart 101 0/42
1040 Brussels
Belgium
Phone: +32 2 296 6410
Fax: +32 2 296 3615
Email: alfons.vazquez-obiols@cec.eu.int

Mr. Andreas Lernhart
Council of the EU, General Secretariat
Rue de la Loi 175
1048 Brussels
Belgium
Phone: +32 2 285 6241
Fax: +32 2 285 6198
Email: andreas.lernhart@consilium.eu.int

INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERN-MENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

ASSOCIATION LATINOAMERICANA DE AVICULTURA (ALA)

Ing. Clovis Puperi
Political Assessor
Latin American Poultry Ass. - A.L.A.
Av. Bridgadeiro Faria Lima, 1912 – Conj. 12-A
12º Andar Jardim Paulistano
CEP 01452-922, São Paulo SP
Brasil
Phone: +55 11 3812-7666
Fax: +55 11 3815-5964
Email: clovis@uba.org.br

COMITÉ EUROPÉEN DES FABRICANTS DE SUCRE (C.E.F.S.)

Ms. Nathalie Henin
Scientific Counsellor
Comité Européen des Fabricants de Sucre
Avenue de Tervuren 182
1150 Brussels
Belgium
Phone: +32 2 762 0760
Fax: +32 2 771 0026
Email: nathalie.henin@cefs.org

Mr. Bengt Stehn
Senior Adviser Regulatory Affairs
Danisco Sugar AB
205 04 Malmö
Sweden
Phone: +46 40 53 70 00
Fax: +46 40 43 67 17
Email: bengt.stehn@danisco.com

Mr. George Perrott
Market Development Manager
ABNA
Oundle Road
PE2 9QX Peterborough
United Kingdom
Phone: +44 1733 422 221
Fax: +44 1733 890 182
Email: gperrott@abn.co.uk

COMITÉ DU COMMERCE DES CÉRÉALES, ALIMENTS DU BÉTAIL, OLÉAGINEUX, HUILES ET GRAISSES ET AGROFOURNITURES DE l'UNION EUROPÉENNE (COCERAL)

Mr. Bernd Gruner
Deputy Secretary General
COCERAL
Square de Meeus 18
1050 Brussels
Belgium
Phone: +32 2 502 0808
Fax: +32 2 502 6030
Email: secretariat@coceral.com

CONSUMERS INTERNATIONAL

Dr. Michael Hansen
Head of Delegation
Senior Research Associate
Consumers Union
101 Truman Avenue, Yonkers
New York 10703-1057
USA
Phone: +1 914 378 2452
Fax: +1 914 378 2928
Email: hansmi@consumer.org

Mr. Allan Pedersen
Danmarks Aktive Forbrugere/Consumers International
Rosenoerns Alle 41
1970 Frederiksberg C
Denmark
Phone: +45 35 37 20 30
Fax: +45 35 37 20 38
Email: daf@aktiveforbrugere.dk

Mr. Jeppe Juul
Danmarks Aktive Forbrugere/Consumers International
Rosenoerns Alle 41
1970 Frederiksberg C
Denmark
Phone: +45 35 37 20 30
Fax: +45 35 37 20 38
Email: daf@aktiveforbrugere.dk

EUROPEAN FAT PROCESSORS AND RENDERERS ASSOCIATION (EFPRA)

Mr. Karl Rappold
Head of Delegation
Vice President
EFPRA
Boulevard Boudouin 18
1000 Bruxelles
Belgium
Phone: +49 69 2556-1736
Fax: +49 69 2556-1738
Email: karl.rappold@gelatine.de

Mr. Niels Chr. Leth Nielsen
Director - Vice President
EFPRA
Boulevard Boudouin 18
1000 Bruxelles
Belgium
Phone: +32 2 203 5141
Fax: +32 2 203 3244
Email: ln@daka.dk

EUROPEAN FEED MANUFACTURERS' FEDERATION (FEFAC)

Mr. Arnaud Bouxin
Deputy Secretary General
FEFAC
223 Rue de la Loi, Box 3
1040 Brussels
Belgium
Phone: +32 2 285 0050
Fax: +32 2 230 5722
Email: fefac@fefac.org

Mr. Brian Cooke
Expert
FEFAC
223 Rue de la Loi, Box 3
1040 Brussels
Belgium
Phone: +32 2 285 0050
Fax: +32 2 230 5722
Email: fefac@fefac.org

INTERNATIONAL DAIRY FEDERATION (IDF)

Mr. Claus Heggum
Head of Delegation
Head of Department
Danish Dairy Board
Frederiks Allé 22
8000 Aarhus C
Denmark
Phone: +45 87 31 21 98
Fax: +45 87 31 20 01
Email: ch@mejeri.dk

Dr. Nils Kühlsen
Referent für Ernährung & Gesundheit
Verband der Deutschen Milchwirtschaft
Meckenheimer Allee 137
53115 Bonn
Germany
Phone: +49 228 982 4316
Fax: +49 228 982 4320
Email: n.kuehlsen@vdm-deutschland.de

Mr. Joerg Seifert
Technical Manager
International Dairy Federation
Diamant Building
80, Boulevard Auguste Reyers
1030 Brussels
Belgium
Phone: +32 2 706 8643
Fax: +32 2 733 0413
Email: JSeifert@fil-idf.org

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (IFAH)

Dr. Robert C. Livingston
Head of Delegation
Director, Int. Affairs and Regulatory Policy
Animal Health Institute
1325 G Street, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005-3104
USA
Phone: +1 202 662 4126
Fax: +1 202 393 1667
Email: rlivingston@ahi.org

Ms. Sondra Flick
Director, Government & Industry Affairs
ALPHARMA INC.
Animal Health Division
One Executive Drive
Fort Lee, NJ 07024
USA
Phone: +1 201 228 5074
Fax: +1 201 947 0912
Email: sandy.flick@alpharma.com

INTERNATIONAL FEED INDUSTRY FEDERATION (IFIF)

Mr. Roger Gilbert
Head of Delegation
Secretary General
International Feed Industry Federation
214 Prestbury Road
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
GL52 3ER
United Kingdom
Phone: +44 1242 267 702
Fax: +44 1242 267 701
Email: roger.gilbert@ifif.org

Mr. Steve Auman
International Feed Industry Federation
214 Prestbury Road
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
GL52 3ER
United Kingdom
Phone: +44 1242 267 702
Fax: +44 1242 267 701

Mr. David Bossman
President
American Feed Industry Association
1501 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1100
Arlington, VA 22209
USA
Phone: +1 703 524 0810
Fax: +1 703 524 1921
Email: dbossman@afia.org

Mr. Ben Courtin
Tessenderlo Chemie
130 Rue du Trone
1050 Brussels
Belgium
Phone: +32 2 639 1880
Fax: +32 2 639 1940
Email: benoit.courtin@tessenderlo.com

Mr. Freddy Ib
International Feed Industry Federation
Filippavej 9
7100 Vejle
Denmark
Phone: +45 75 82 68 28
Fax: +45 75 82 68 91
Email fib@tdcspace.dk

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOOD MICROBIOLOGY AND HYGIENE (ICFMH)/INTERNATIONAL UNION OF MICROBIOLOGICAL SOCIETIES (IUMS)

Prof. Niels Peder Skovgaard
ICFMH/IUMS
Jakob Knudsensvej 18
3460 Birkeroed
Denmark
Phone: +45 45 81 39 36
Fax: +45 45 81 39 36
Email: niels-skovgaard@mail.tele.dk

SECRETARIATS

JOINT FAO/WHO FOOD STANDARDS PROGRAMME SECRETARIAT

Ms. Annamaria Bruno
Codex Secretariat
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 6 570 56254
Fax: +39 6 570 54593
Email: annamaria.bruno@fao.org

Mr. Jeronimas Maskeliunas
Food Standards Officer
Codex Secretariat
Joint FAO/WHO Food Standards Programme
FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00100 Rome
Italy
Phone: +39 6 570 53967
Fax: +39 6 570 54593
Email: Jeronimas.Maskeliunas@fao.org

DANISH SECRETARIAT/ SECRÉTARIAT DANOIS

Ms. Birgitte Broesbol-Jensen
Expert
Danish Plant Directorate
Skovbrynet 20
2800 Kgs. Lyngby
Denmark
Phone: +45 45 26 36 00
Fax: +45 45 26 36 10
Email: bbj@pdir.dk

Ms. Patricia Damkjær
Executive Secretary
Danish Plant Directorate
Skovbrynet 20
2800 Kgs. Lyngby
Denmark
Phone: +45 45 26 36 00
Fax: +45 45 26 36 10
Email: pda@pdir.dk

Ms. Annie Gall
Secretary
Danish Plant Directorate
Skovbrynet 20
2800 Kgs. Lyngby
Denmark
Phone: +45 45 26 36 00
Fax: +45 45 26 36 10
Email: ag@pdir.dk

Ms. Judith Nielsen
Secretary
Danish Plant Directorate
Skovbrynet 20
2800 Kgs. Lyngby
Denmark
Phone: +45 45 26 36 00
Fax: +45 45 26 36 10
Email: jni@pdir.dk

ALINORM 03/38A
Appendix II

PROPOSED DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE ON GOOD ANIMAL FEEDING

(at Step 5/8 of the Codex Procedure)

TABLE OF CONTENT

PROPOSED DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE ON GOOD ANIMAL FEEDING

(at Step 5/8 of the Codex Procedure)

SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

1. This Code is to establish a feed safety system for food producing animals which covers the whole food chain, taking into account relevant aspects of animal health and the environment in order to minimize risks to the health of consumers. This code applies in addition to the principles of food hygiene already established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission[1], taking into account the special aspects of animal feeding.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

2. The objective of this Code is to help ensure the safety of food for human consumption through adherence to good animal feeding practice at the farm level and good manufacturing practices (GMPs) during the procurement, handling, storage, processing, and distribution of animal feed and feed ingredients for food producing animals.

3. This Code of Practice applies to the production and use of all materials destined for animal feed and feed ingredients at all levels whether produced industrially or on farm. It also includes grazing or free-range feeding, forage crop production and aquaculture.

4. Those issues of animal welfare other than food safety related animal health are not covered. Environmental contaminants should be considered where the level of such substances in the feed and feed ingredients could present a risk to consumers' health from the consumption of foods of animal origin.

5. While recognizing that, in its totality, a feed safety system would address animal health and environmental issues, in addition to consumers' health, this Code of Practice, in fulfilling the Codex mandate of consumer protection, only addresses food safety. Notwithstanding this, best efforts have been made to ensure that the recommendations and practices in this Code of Practice will not be detrimental to the more general animal health and environmental aspects of animal feeding.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS

6. For the purpose of this Code ;

Feed (Feedingstuff): Any single or multiple material whether processed, semi-processed or raw, which is intended to be fed directly to food producing animals.

Feed Ingredient: A component part or constituent of any combination or mixture making up a feed, whether or not it has a nutritional value in the animal's diet, including feed additives. Ingredients are of plant, animal or aquatic origin, or other organic or inorganic substances.

Feed Additives: Any intentionally added ingredient not normally consumed as feed by itself, whether or not it has a nutritional value, which affects the characteristics of feed or animal products

Medicated Feed: Any feed which contains veterinary drugs as defined in the Codex Alimentarius Commission Procedural Manual.

Undesirable Substances: Contaminants and other substances which are present in and/or on feed and feed ingredients and which constitute a risk to the health of consumer, including food safety related animal health issues.

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[1] Recommended International Code of Practice - General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1- 1969, Rev. 3-1997, Amended 1999)

SECTION 4. GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND REQUIREMENTS

7. Feed and feed ingredients should be obtained and maintained in a stable condition so as to protect feed and feed ingredients from contamination by pests, or by chemical, physical or microbiological contaminants or other objectionable substances during production, handling, storage and transport. Feeds should be in good condition and meet generally accepted quality standards. Where appropriate, good agricultural practices, good manufacturing practices (GMPs) and, where applicable, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) principles[2] should be followed to control hazards that may occur in food. Potential sources of contamination from the environment should be considered.

8. Parties that produce feed or feed ingredients, those that rear animals for use as food and those that produce such animal products need to collaborate to identify potential hazards and their levels of risk to consumers' health. Such collaboration will enable the development and maintenance of appropriate risk management options and safe feeding practices.

4.1 FEED INGREDIENTS

9. Feed ingredients should be obtained from safe sources and be subject to a risk analysis where the ingredients are derived from processes or technologies not hitherto evaluated from a food safety point of view. The procedure used should be consistent with the Working Principles for Risk Analysis for Application in the Framework of the Codex Alimentarius[3]. Manufacturers of feed additives in particular should provide clear information to the user to permit correct and safe use. Monitoring of feed ingredients should include inspection and sampling and analysis for undesirable substances using risk-based protocols. Feed ingredients should meet acceptable and, if applicable, statutory standards for levels of pathogens, mycotoxins, pesticides and undesirable substances that may give rise to consumers' health hazards.

4.2 LABELLING

10. Labelling should be clear and informative as to how the user should handle, store and use feed and feed ingredients. Labelling should be consistent with any statutory requirements and should describe the feed and provide instructions for use. Labelling or the accompanying documents should contain, where appropriate:

- information about the species or category of animals for which the feed is intended;
- the purpose for which the feed is intended;
- a list of feed ingredients, including appropriate reference to additives, in descending order of proportion;
- contact information of manufacturer or registrant;
- registration number if available;
- directions and precautions for use;
- lot identification;
- manufacturing date; and
- use before or expiry date.

11. Competent authorities may decide that feed and feed ingredients consisting, containing or produced from GMOs should be labelled with references to the genetic modification as a risk management measure.

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2 Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point, as defined in the Annex to the Recommended International Code of Practice on General Principles of Food Hygiene (CAC/RCP 1-1969, Rev. 3-1997, Amended 1999)

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4.3 TRACEABILITY/PRODUCT TRACING AND RECORD KEEPING OF FEED AND FEED INGREDIENTS

12. Traceability/product tracing of feed and feed ingredients, including additives, should be enabled by proper labelling and record keeping at all stages of production and distribution. This should facilitate the prompt trace-back or trace-forward of materials and products if any actual or potential health risks are identified, and prompt and complete withdrawal or recall of products where necessary. Records should be maintained and readily available regarding the production, distribution and use of feed and feed ingredients for as long as appropriate to enable trace-back should a safety problem emerge, and representative samples of feed and feed ingredients should be kept where applicable for a suitable period of time.

13. Feed manufacturers should keep records containing full details of the supplier and date of receipt of feed ingredients, of the manufacturing process and the destination of all feed. These records could include:

- inventory records (including labels and invoices on received goods), actual formulae, mixing sheets, daily production logs, files of complaints, files on manufacturing errors and corrective actions taken, analytical results and investigations of out-of-tolerance sample results, records respecting the disposition of returned and recalled feeds and feed ingredients, records of the disposition of flushed or recovered material, records of mixer validation and scale/metering device verification, etc.

4.3.1 Special Conditions Applicable to Emergency Situations

14. Operators should as soon as reasonable inform the competent authorities in the member country if they consider that a feed or feed ingredient does not satisfy the feed safety requirements established in this Code. The information should be as detailed as possible and should at least contain a description of the nature of the problem, a description of the feed or feed ingredients, the species for which it is intended, the lot identifier, the name of the manufacturer and the place of origin. The competent authorities and operators should immediately take effective measures to ensure that those feed or feed ingredients do not pose any danger to consumers' health.

15. As soon as it becomes likely that a particular feed or feed ingredient is traded internationally and may pose a danger to consumers' health, the competent authorities of the exporting member countries should notify, at least, the competent authorities of the relevant importing countries. The notification should be as detailed as possible and should at least contain the particulars indicated in the previous paragraph.

4.4 INSPECTION AND CONTROL PROCEDURES

16. Feed and feed ingredients manufacturers and other relevant parts of industry should practice self-regulation/auto-control to secure compliance with required standards for production, storage and transport. It will also be necessary for risk-based official regulatory programmes to be established to check that feed and feed ingredients are produced, distributed and used in such a way that foods of animal origin for human consumption are both safe and suitable. Inspection and control procedures should be used to verify that feed and feed ingredients meet requirements in order to protect consumers against food-borne hazards[4]. Inspection system should be designed and operated on the basis of objective risk assessment appropriate to the circumstances[5]. Preferably the risk assessment methodology employed should be consistent with internationally accepted approaches. Risk assessment should be based on current available scientific evidence.

17. Monitoring of feed and feed ingredients, whether by industry or official inspection bodies, should include inspection and sampling and analysis to detect unacceptable levels of undesirable substances.

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4 Principles for Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification (CAC/GL 20-1995)

5 Guidelines for the Design, Operation, Assessment and Accreditation of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems (CAC/GL 26-1997)

4.5 HEALTH HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH ANIMAL FEED

18. All feed and feed ingredients should meet minimum safety standards. It is essential that levels of undesirable substances are sufficiently low in feed and feed ingredients that their concentration in food for human consumption is consistently below the level of concern. Codex Maximum Residue Limits and Extraneous Maximum Residue Levels set for feed should be applied. Maximum residue limits set for food, such as those established by the Codex Alimentarius Commission, may be useful in determining minimum safety standards for feed.

4.5.1 Feed Additives and Veterinary Drugs Used in Medicated Feed

19. Feed additives and veterinary drugs used in medicated feed should be assessed for safety and used under stated conditions of use as pre-approved by the competent authorities.

20. Veterinary drugs used in medicated feed should comply with the provisions of the Codex Recommended International Code of Practice for the Control of the Use of Veterinary Drugs[6].

21. Borderlines between feed additives and veterinary drugs used in medicated feed may be set to avoid misuse.

22. Feed additives should be received, handled and stored to maintain their integrity and to minimise misuse or unsafe contamination. Feed containing them should be used in strict accordance with clearly defined instructions for use.

23. Antibiotics should not be used in feed for growth promoting purposes in the absence of public health safety assessment[7].

4.5.2 Feed and Feed Ingredients

24. Feed and feed ingredients should only be produced, marketed, stored and used if they are safe and suitable, and, when used as intended, should not represent in any way an unacceptable risk to the health of consumer. In particular, feed and feed ingredients contaminated with unacceptable levels of undesirable substances should be clearly identified as unsuitable for animal feed and not be marketed or used.

25. Feed and feed ingredients should not be presented or marketed in a manner liable to mislead the user.

4.5.3 Undesirable Substances

26. The presence in feed and feed ingredients of undesirable substances such as industrial and environmental contaminants, pesticides, radionuclides, persistent organic pollutants, pathogenic agents and toxins such as mycotoxins should be identified, controlled and minimised. Animal products which could be a source of the BSE agent[8] should not be used for feeding directly to, or for feed manufacturing for, ruminants. Control measures applied to reduce unacceptable level of undesirable substances should be assessed in terms of their impact on food safety.

27. The risks of each undesirable substance to the health of the consumers should be assessed and such assessment may lead to the setting of maximum limits for feed and feed ingredients or the prohibition of certain materials from animal feeding.

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6 CAC/RCP 38-1993

7 WHO Global Principles for the Containment of Antimicrobial Resistance in Animals Intended for Food, June 2000, Geneva, Switzerland

8 Joint WHO/FAO/OIE Technical Consultation on BSE: public health, animal health and trade, OIE Headquarters, Paris, 11-14 June 2001

SECTION 5. PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, STORAGE, TRANSPORT AND DISTRIBUTION OF FEED AND FEED INGREDIENTS

28. The production, processing, storage, transport and distribution of safe and suitable feed and feed ingredients is the responsibility of all participants in the feed chain, including farmers, feed ingredient manufacturers, feed compounders, truckers, etc. Each participant in the feed chain is responsible for all activities which are under their direct control including compliance with any applicable statutory requirements.

29. Feed and feed ingredients should not be produced, processed, stored, transported or distributed in facilities or using equipment where incompatible operations may affect their safety and lead to adverse effects on the health of the consumers. Due to the unique characteristics of aquaculture, the application of these general principles must consider the differences between aquaculture and terrestrial-based production.

30. Where appropriate, operators should follow GMPs and, where applicable, HACCP principles to control hazards that may affect food safety. The aim is to ensure feed safety and in particular to prevent contamination of animal feed and food of animal origin as far as this is reasonably achievable, recognising that total elimination of hazards is often not possible.

31. The effective implementation of GMPs and, where applicable, HACCP-based approaches should ensure, in particular, that the following areas are addressed.

5.1 PREMISES

32. Buildings and equipment used to process feed and feed ingredients should be constructed in a manner that permits ease of operation, maintenance and cleaning and minimises feed contamination. Process flow within the manufacturing facility should also be designed to minimise feed contamination.

33. Water used in feed manufacture should meet hygienic standards and be of suitable quality for animals. Tanks, pipes and other equipment used to store and convey water should be of appropriate materials which do not produce unsafe levels of contamination.

34. Sewage, waste and rain water should be disposed of in a manner which avoids contamination of equipment, feed and feed ingredients.

5.2 RECEIVING, STORAGE AND TRANSPORTATION

35. Chemical fertilizers, pesticides and other materials not intended for use in feed and feed ingredients should be stored separately from feed and feed ingredients to avoid the potential for manufacturing errors and contamination of feeds and feed ingredients.

36. Processed feed and feed ingredients should be stored separately from unprocessed feed ingredients and appropriate packaging materials should be used. Feed and feed ingredients should be received, stored and transported in such a way so as to minimize the potential for any cross-contamination to occur at a level likely to have a negative impact on food safety.

37. The presence of undesirable substances in feed and feed ingredients should be monitored and controlled.

38. Feed and feed ingredients should be delivered and used as soon as possible. All feed and feed ingredients should be stored and transported in a manner which minimises deterioration and contamination and enables the correct feed to be sent to the right animal group.

39. Care should be taken to minimise deterioration and spoilage at all stages of handling, storage and transport of feed and feed ingredients. Special precautions should be taken to limit fungal and bacterial growth in moist and semi-moist feeds. Condensation should be minimised in feed and feed ingredient manufacturing and processing facilities. Dry feed and feed ingredients should be kept dry in order to limit fungal and bacterial growth.

40. Waste feed and feed ingredients and other material containing unsafe levels of undesirable substances or any other hazards should not be used as feed, but, should be disposed of in an appropriate manner including compliance with any applicable statutory requirements.

5.3 PERSONNEL TRAINING

41. All personnel involved in the manufacture, storage and handling of feed and feed ingredients should be adequately trained and aware of their role and responsibility in protecting food safety.

5.4 SANITATION AND PEST CONTROL

42. Feed and feed ingredients, processing plants, storage facilities and their immediate surroundings should be kept clean and effective pest control programs should be implemented.

43. Containers and equipment used for manufacturing, processing, transport, storage, conveying, handling and weighing should be kept clean. Cleaning programs should be effective and minimise residues of detergents and disinfectants.

44. Machinery coming into contact with dry feed or feed ingredients should be dried following any wet cleaning process.

45. Special precautions should be taken when cleaning machinery used for moist and semi-moist feed and feed ingredients to avoid fungal and bacterial growth.

5.5 EQUIPMENT PERFORMANCE AND MAINTENANCE

46. All scales and metering devices used in the manufacture of feed and feed ingredients should be appropriate for the range of weights and volumes to be measured, and be tested regularly for accuracy.

47. All mixers used in the manufacture of feed and feed ingredients should be appropriate for the range of weights or volumes being mixed and be capable of manufacturing suitable homogeneous mixtures and homogeneous dilutions, and be tested regularly to verify their performance.

48. All other equipment used in the manufacture of feed and feed ingredients should be appropriate for the range of weights or volumes being processed, and be monitored regularly.

5.6 MANUFACTURING CONTROLS

49. Manufacturing procedures should be used to avoid cross-contamination (for example flushing, sequencing and physical clean-out) between batches of feed and feed ingredients containing restricted or otherwise potentially harmful materials (such as certain animal by-product meals, veterinary drugs). These procedures should also be used to minimise cross-contamination between medicated and non-medicated feed and other incompatible feeds. In cases where the food safety risk associated with cross-contamination is high and the use of proper flushing and cleaning methods is deemed insufficient, consideration should be given to the use of completely separate production lines, transfer, storage and delivery equipment.

50. Pathogen control procedures, such as heat treatment or the addition of authorised chemicals, should be used where appropriate, and monitored at the applicable steps in the manufacturing process.

5.7 RECALLS

51. Records and other information should be maintained as indicated at 4.3 of this Code to include the identity and distribution of feed and feed ingredients so that any feed or feed ingredient considered to pose a threat to consumers' health can be rapidly removed from the market and that animals exposed to the relevant feed can be identified.

SECTION 6. ON–FARM PRODUCTION AND USE OF FEED AND FEED INGREDIENTS

52. This section provides guidance on the cultivation, manufacture, management and use of feed and feed ingredients on farms and in aquaculture.

53. This section should be used in conjunction with the applicable requirements of Sections 4 and 5 of this Code.

54. To help ensure the safety of food used for human consumption, good agricultural practices[9] - should be applied during all stages of on-farm production of pastures, cereal grain and forage crops used as feed or feed ingredients for food producing animals. For aquaculture the same principles should apply, where applicable. Three types of contamination represent hazards at most stages of on-farm production of feed and feed ingredients, namely :

- Biological, such as bacteria, fungi and other microbial pathogens;
- Chemical, such as residues of medication, pesticides, fertilizer or other agricultural substances; and
- Physical, such as broken needles, machinery and other foreign material.

6.1 AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION OF FEED

55. Adherence to good agricultural practices is encouraged in the production of natural, improved and cultivated pastures, forage and cereal grain crops used as feed or feed ingredients for food producing animals. Following good agricultural practice standards will minimise the risk of biological, chemical and physical contaminants entering the food chain. If crop residuals and stubbles are grazed after harvest, or otherwise enter the food chain, they should also be considered as livestock feed. Most livestock will consume a portion of their bedding. Crops that produce bedding material or bedding materials such as straw or wood shavings should also be managed in the same manner as animal feed ingredients. Good pasture management practices, such as rotational grazing and dispersion of manure droppings, should be used to reduce cross-contamination between groups of animals.

6.1.1 Site selection

56. Land used for production of animal feed and feed ingredients should not be located in close proximity to industrial operations where industrial pollutants from air, ground water or runoff from adjacent land would be expected to result in the production of foods of animal origin that may present a food safety risk. Contaminants present in runoff from adjacent land and irrigation water should be below levels that present a food safety risk.

6.1.2 Fertilizers

57. Where manure fertilisation of crops or pastures is practised, an appropriate handling and storage system should be in place and maintained to minimise environmental contamination, which could negatively impact on the safety of foods of animal origin. There should be adequate time between applying the manure and grazing or forage harvesting (silage and hay making) to allow the manure to decompose and to minimize contamination.

58. Manure, compost and other plant nutrients should be properly used and applied to minimise biological, chemical and physical contamination of foods of animal origin which could adversely affect food safety.

59. Chemical fertilizers should be handled, stored and applied in a manner such that they do not have a negative impact on the safety of foods of animal origin.

6.1.3 Pesticides and Other Agricultural Chemicals

60. Pesticides and other agricultural chemicals should be obtained from safe sources. Where a regulatory system is in place, any chemical used must comply with the requirements of that system.

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[9] Guidelines on this definition are under development by FAO

61. Pesticides should be stored according to the manufacturer's instructions and used in accordance with Good Agricultural Practice in the Use of Pesticides (GAP)[10]. It is important that farmers carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions for use for all agricultural chemicals.

62. Pesticides and other agricultural chemicals should be disposed of responsibly in a manner that will not lead to contamination of any body of water, soil, feed or feed ingredients that may lead to the contamination of foods of animal origin which could adversely affect food safety.

6.2 MANUFACTURING OF FEED ON-FARM

6.2.1 Feed ingredients

63. On-farm feed manufacturers should follow the applicable guidelines established in sub-section 4.1 of this code when sourcing feed ingredients off the farm.

64. Feed ingredients produced on the farm should meet the requirements established for feed ingredients sourced off the farm. For example, seed treated for planting should not be fed.

6.2.2 Mixing

65. On-farm feed manufacturers should follow the applicable guidelines established in Section 5 of this Code. Particular attention should be given to sub-section 5.6 of this Code.

66. In particular, feed should be mixed in a manner that will minimise the potential for cross-contamination between feed or feed ingredients that may have an effect on the safety or withholding period for the feed or feed ingredients.

6.2.3 Monitoring records

67. Appropriate records of feed manufacturing procedures followed by on-farm feed manufacturers should be maintained to assist in the investigations of possible feed-related contamination or disease events.

68. Records should be kept of incoming feed ingredients, date of receipt and batches of feed produced in addition to other applicable records set out in sub-section 4.3.

6.3 GOOD ANIMAL FEEDING PRACTICE

69. Good animal feeding practices include those practices which help to ensure the proper use of feed and feed ingredients on-farm while minimising biological, chemical and physical risks to consumers of foods of animal origin.

6.3.1 Water

70. Water for drinking or for aquaculture should be of appropriate quality for the animals being produced. Where there is reason to be concerned about contamination of animals from the water, measures should be taken to evaluate and minimise the hazards.

6.3.2 Pasture grazing

71. The grazing of pastures and crop lands should be managed in a way that minimises the avoidable contamination of foods of animal origin by biological, chemical and physical food safety hazards.

72. Where appropriate, an adequate period should be observed before allowing livestock to graze on pasture, crops and crop residuals and between grazing rotations to minimise biological cross-contamination from manure.

73. Where agricultural chemicals are used, operators should ensure that the required withholding periods are observed.

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[10] See Codex Alimentarius Procedural Manual, 12th Edition, Rome, 2001

6.3.3 Feeding

74. It is important that the correct feed is fed to the right animal group and that directions for use are followed. Contamination should be minimised during feeding. Information should be available of what is fed to animals and when, to ensure that food safety risks are managed.

75. Animals receiving medicated feed should be identified and managed appropriately until the correct withholding period (if any) has been reached and records of these procedures must be maintained. Procedures to ensure that medicated feed are transported to the correct location and are fed to animals that require the medication should be followed. Feed transport vehicles and feeding equipment used to deliver and distribute medicated feed should be cleaned after use, if a different medicated feed or non-medicated feed or feed ingredient is to be transported next.

6.4 STABLE FEEDING AND LOT/INTENSIVE FEEDING UNITS

76. The animal production unit should be located in an area that does not result in the production of food of animal origin that poses a risk to food safety. Care should be taken to avoid animal access to contaminated land, and to facilities with potential sources of toxicity.

6.4.1 Hygiene

77. The animal production unit should be designed so that it can be adequately cleaned. The animal production unit and feeding equipment should be thoroughly cleaned regularly to prevent potential hazards to food safety. Chemicals used should be appropriate for cleaning and sanitising feed manufacturing equipment and should be used according to instructions. These products should be properly labelled and stored away from feed manufacturing, feed storage and feeding areas.

78. A pest control system should be put in place to control the access of pests to the animal production unit to minimise potential hazards to food safety.

79. Operators and employees working in the animal production unit should observe appropriate hygiene requirements to minimise potential hazards to food safety from feed.

6.5 AQUACULTURE[11]

80. Aquaculture includes a wide range of species of finfish, molluscs, crustaceans, cephalopods etc. The complexity of aquaculture is reflected in the wide range of culturing methods ranging from huge cages in open seas to culturing in small freshwater ponds. The diversity is further reflected by the range of stages from larvae to full grown size, requiring different feeds as well as different culture methods. Nutritional approaches range from feeding only naturally occurring nutrients in the water to the use of sophisticated equipment and scientifically formulated compound feeds.

81. To ensure food safety, necessary precautions should be taken regarding culturing methods, culturing sites, technologies, materials and feed used to minimize contamination in order to reduce food hazards.

SECTION 7 METHODS OF SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS

7.1. SAMPLING

82. Sampling protocols should meet scientifically recognized principles and procedures.

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[11] At the time of drafting a Code of Practice for Fish and Fishery Products was being developed by the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products. Aquaculture producers should refer to relevant sections of that Code for additional information

7.2 ANALYSIS

83. Laboratory methods developed and validated using scientifically recognized principles and procedures should be used[12]. When selecting methods, consideration should also be given to practicability, with preference given to those methods which are reliable and applicable for routine use. Laboratories conducting routine analyses of feed and feed ingredients should ensure their analytical competency with each method used and maintain appropriate documentation[13].

[12] General Criteria for the Selection of Methods of Analysis Using the Criteria Approach, ALINORM 03/23, Appendix II

[13] Eg. Through quality assurance systems such as ISO 17025