

FAMI-QS'S PROSPECTS OF FEED SAFETY MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

A short overview of FAMI-QS's development

During the first ten years of FAMI-QS's evolution, we identified three major development phases, linked to the placing on the market of specialty feed ingredients and their mixtures. Since 2000, national voluntary feed safety assurance schemes have experienced unprecedented growth. This has made the placing on the market of specialty feed ingredients and their mixtures more complex. Indeed, each national scheme imposes its own requirements, which the industry should follow. This has triggered concerns on whether the differentiation between different countries, within the EU's internal market, would start to be an obstacle to trade. The industry has therefore sought a way to harmonise the approach used to place specialty feed ingredients and their mixtures on the EU market. In 2003, given that our sector was facing obstacles to trade activities, FEFANA started to develop a harmonised feed safety assurance scheme. The intention was to overcome this issue, by starting a discussion at national level, so as to reinforce the mutual recognition between national schemes.

Phase 1: Trade Harmonisation within Europe

In 2004, the FAMI-QS certification system was launched with the aim of harmonising feed safety requirements, within the EU's internal market. This was the starting point for FAMI-QS's first phase of development. From 2004 to 2007, our sector mainly used FAMI-QS as a reference of what a harmonised EU standard is. Only EU feed business operators used the FAMI-QS certification during said stage.

Phase 2: Third Countries import to the EU

During FAMI-QS's second development

phase, there was a shift from the harmonisation of trade within the EU to third countries' placing of specialty feed ingredients and their mixtures on the EU market; the Feed Hygiene Regulation (FHR) came into force in 2005. At the time, the FHR's requirements were quite advanced, compared to the relevant feed regulations in other parts of the world. Feed business operators outside the EU then strived to achieve an understanding of said requirements so as to meet them; they realised that FAMI-QS was a solution for placing specialty feed ingredients and their mixtures within the EU. Indeed, because FAMI-QS speaks the industry's language, we were able to mould the regulatory requirements into a practicable industry code. As a result of this, two years later, the first FAMI-QS certificate outside the EU became a reality. However, the FHR wasn't the only one to "export" the use of FAMI-QS to third countries. Indeed, in parallel, the industry mainly sourced raw materials from third countries and sought a way to minimise the possible "risks" of raw materials entering the production process. FAMI-QS became a tool in the hands of the industry, both for "securing" its suppliers but also for educating them on how to produce in a safer way.

Phase 3: FAMI-QS as a global reference standard

FAMI-QS started as an European project that, after just seven years, has quite rapidly become not only the reference standard for the harmonisation of the EU internal market (first development phase), but also the tool to meet the legal requirements for placing specialty feed ingredients and their mixtures on the EU market (second phase of development). Furthermore, it has become the reference standard for facilitating the world trade of specialty feed ingredients and their mixtures. This constitutes the third development phase, during which the trade flows of the FAMI-QS certification have gone

beyond the EU. Indeed, feed business operators are certified against FAMI-QS, in order to place their products in third countries, rather than on the EU market.

Adjusting the FAMI-QS certification system to the latest standardisation and certification developments

FAMI-QS is now reviewing and revising the current certification system, with the aim to meet the latest standardisation and certification developments.

The revision process will include the alignment of the FAMI-QS Code to the new ISO High Level Structure for Management systems, as well as the alignment of the Rules for Certification Bodies and the Rules for Operators with the latest version of the applicable accreditation standards, ISO 17021 and ISO/TS 22003.



“The FAMI-QS Code’s alignment with the ISO High Level structure further eliminates conflicts, confusion and misunderstandings, which may arise from different cultural backgrounds, depending on the certified operator’s region. The Code will focus on minimising the risks/hazards by managing the process (production and/or trade) more efficiently.”

The Management Systems Standards’ (MSS) new structure

In April 2012, ISO updated its directives. In particular, there is a new annex, Annex SL, which defines the high level structure and has an identical core text for all new and revised management system standards (MSS). The revision is not just a reorganisation of the management system but reinforces the process approach and the risk thinking, in the implementation of a Management System.

A MSS provides requirements or guidelines for organisations to develop and systematically manage their policies, processes and procedures, so as to achieve specific objectives. In our case, the objective is the safety of specialty feed ingredients and their mixtures.

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different cultural backgrounds, depending on the certified operator’s region. The Code will focus on minimising the risks/hazards by managing the process (production and/or trade) more efficiently.

Furthermore, the FAMI-QS Code’s text will be improved in such a way that, apart from being an auditable document with requirements, it will also constitute an educational guide for the sector of Specialty Feed Ingredients and their Mixtures.

The value of the Management System Approach for FAMI-QS

If a product-oriented standard is to be used, for instance in a feed mill with 30 ingredients in a mixed feed and 3 suppliers for each ingredient, nearly 100 suppliers and raw materials would need to be controlled and analysed. This would make it extremely difficult to perform proper controls and to rely on test results.

By adopting a management system approach, rather than a product certification one, feed business operators use risk management, which allows identifying hazards at an early stage of product development, as well as of production. This ensures that there is sufficient time to manage or eliminate them. Not only does this procedure focus on the final products’ quality, but it also ensures that the entire process, from the sourcing of raw materials to the finished product, is controlled. Therefore, the added value that is generated is that the regulatory requirements are met, as well as those of customers and state-of-the-art production processes. Ultimately, safe feed may even reduce costs. Having identified this possibility at the very beginning of its development, FAMI-QS based the standard on a management system approach in 2003. This is also aligned with the spirit of the EU Feed Hygiene Regulation.



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The consequences of the Code’s alignment with the new High Level Structure

The clear Management System approach of the FAMI-QS Code shall be reflected in the FAMI-QS scope description. This is because the current scope-definition approach is product oriented, creating limitations to the products’ movement, as well as additional technical barriers to trade, due to the wording used in it.

The rewording of our scope-definition for international implementation will not change the range of ingredients eligible to be FAMI-QS certified. Instead, it will describe said eligible products by the process they result from. The new title of the scope will be Specialty Feed Ingredients and their Mixtures, which includes production and trade of single ingredients and their mixtures coming out of the following production processes or their combination:

- Chemical
- Bioprocessing
- Mining
- Extraction
- Refining
- Mixing
- Formulating

The management system approach allows FAMI-QS to use its industry’s knowledge in a better way, identifying risk per process, rather than per product. This will ensure the current production process’s improvement and even a better sharing of knowledge, at global level. Moreover, it will contribute to create a fair playing field.

Specific hazard assessments per process (chemical, bioprocessing, mining, extraction, refining, mixing and formulating) will be developed, with the view to provide specific guidelines for managing the hazards associated to each process. The so called ‘Mandatory

Process Document’ will act as an add-on of the FAMI-QS Code.

Additionally, switching to the process-definition will increase the management system’s consistency with our current accreditation (ISO 17021 and ISO/TS 22003).

Lastly, as far as the placing on the EU market is concerned, we will refine our Guidance Document. This will ensure that all the applicable EU Feed Related regulatory requirements will be fulfilled and respected.

The alignment’s impact

Over the course of the upcoming months, and as the review/revision will be under way, FAMI-QS will carry out an impact assessment for the certified members, the Certification Bodies and the Accreditation Bodies.

Managing the review/revision process

In order to manage the review/ revision process, FAMI-QS will create four regional working groups, in Brazil, China, Europe and the USA. Each regional working group will be constituted by the auditors based in the relevant region, the FAMI-QS certified organisations and any other interested body.

The creation of the regional working groups will not substitute the open consultation process, but will allow us to encompass local knowledge in the international context of FAMI-QS. Furthermore, the Regional Working Groups will act as an educational platform, which will ensure harmonisation in understanding the of the new Code’s requirements.

Furthermore, we will work very closely with our feed chain partners to ensure a

smooth transition for our mutual recognition arrangement.

Note:

FAMI-QS wants to contribute to the continuous improvement of the quality and feed safety aspects for specialty feed ingredients and their mixtures.

We are thus working to provide a solid, robust and transparent quality and feed safety management system, for the intended part of the animal feed industry, in order to meet our stakeholders' expectations.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION CORNER



[Feed additive authorisations \(by category\)](#)

Nutritional additives

Vitamins, provitamins and chemically well-defined substances having a similar effect:

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/722 of 5 May 2015 concerning the authorisation of taurine as a feed additive for *Canidae, Felidae, Mustelidae* and carnivorous fish (OJ L 115, 2015-05-06)

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/723 of 5 May 2015 concerning the authorisation of biotin as a feed additive for all animal species (OJ L 115, 2015-05-06)

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/724 of 5 May 2015 concerning the authorisation of retinyl acetate, retinyl palmitate and retinyl propionate as feed additives for all animal species (OJ L 115, 2015-05-06)

Corrigendum to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/724 of 5 May 2015 concerning the authorisation of retinyl acetate, retinyl palmitate and retinyl propionate as feed additives for all animal species (OJ L 130, 2015-05-28)

Compounds of trace elements:

Corrigendum to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1230/2014 of 17 November 2014 concerning the authorisation of copper bilysinate as a feed additive for all animal species (OJ L 134, 2015-05-30)

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/861 of 3 June 2015 concerning the authorisation of potassium iodide, calcium iodate anhydrous and coated granulated calcium iodate anhydrous as feed additives for all animal species (OJ L 134, 2015-06-04)

FVO Report**Safety of feed additives coming from China**

The Food and Veterinary Office carried out an audit in China from 19-30 June 2014 on feed additives and premixtures. The audit was carried out in the wake of a recent incident where a feed additive (choline chloride) imported from China was found to be contaminated with genetically modified rice (Bt63 rice), and this aspect was also considered by the audit team. The overall conclusion of the report is that the system for official controls in China provides satisfactory guarantees that feed additives and premixtures exported to the EU comply with requirements at least equivalent to those set out in the relevant EU legislation on feed. In particular, the official certification of exported products is an integral part of the system set up by the competent authorities which underpins these guarantees. **Read more...**

MISCELLANEOUS

Future Events

**IFIF-International Feed Industry Federation
9th International Feed Regulators Meeting (IFRM) to be held on 2016-04-21**



Invitation to the 9th International Feed Regulators Meeting (IFRM) to be held in Antalya, Turkey, on 21 April 2016 directly following the 5th Global Feed & Food Congress (GFFC).

IFIF invites regulators from around the world to Turkey, a country that is at the heart of a fast growing region for the feed and food sector.

About FAMI-QS

FAMI-QS Asbl is the management and coordination center for the FAMI-QS Code of practice. It is the only certifiable Code specifically aimed at Specialty Feed Ingredients and Their Mixtures (feed additives, functional feed ingredients, premixtures, specialty complementary feed, specialty complementary dietetic feed) for animal nutrition. The Code addresses safety, quality and regulatory compliance in order to minimise the risk that unsafe specialty feed ingredients enter the food and feed chain. It offers independent certification for all operators placing these products on the market. Based on partnership with international certification bodies and third countries institutional partners, it includes more than 850 certified sites spread across more than 52 countries. The current FAMI-QS President is Dr. Dieter Greissing, Evonik Industries AG.

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