

AAFCO Press Release

AAFCO, FDA Sign Agreement on Feed Ingredient Listing

The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) and the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that allows FDA to formally recognize the Association's list of feed ingredients and defines the role FDA can play in deciding on the suitability of feed ingredients offered for addition to the list.

AAFCO President Ricky Schroeder commented that "the MOU with FDA will further solidify the validity of the AAFCO ingredient definitions. This will also promote the recognition of AAFCO as an authority in this arena in the world market."

AAFCO is a voluntary organization of regulatory officials who have responsibility for enforcing their state's laws and regulations regarding aspects of animal feeds, including safety. AAFCO is made up of members from each state in the United States, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Canada, as well as FDA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

A basic goal of AAFCO is to provide the means for ensuring the development and implementation of equitable laws, regulations, standards, definitions, and enforcement policies for regulating animal feed. While AAFCO develops model regulations that can be adopted by states to help in enforcing their laws, the regulatory authority rests with the individual regulatory agencies.

AAFCO publishes an annual *Official Publication (OP)* that includes a list of all ingredients definitions that AAFCO has reviewed and found suitable for use in animal feeds. Prior to the signing of the MOU, FDA had informally cited the *OP's* ingredient list and had acted as AAFCO's scientific advisor in reviewing petitions for the addition of ingredients to the list or for changes in the ingredient definitions.

Ricky Schroeder notes that "the AAFCO OP is gaining world wide recognition and becoming more difficult to keep in stock. This publication sets a standard for definitions that cannot be found anywhere else".

FDA's formal recognition of the AAFCO ingredient definition list is one of the specific recommendations made in a "Framework Document" drafted by FDA's Animal Feed Safety System (AFSS) Team. FDA created the ad hoc AFSS Team four years ago to develop ways to modernize the feed safety system in the United States. The Team has identified "gaps" in the current animal feed

regulatory structure (including the fact that FDA has no formal list of suitable ingredients) and offers recommendations for closing the gaps.

AAFCO uses a “New and Modified Feed Ingredient Definitions Process” to determine the suitability of feed ingredients and to establish standard ingredient names. This memorandum allows FDA to recognize formally the AAFCO process and to have a clearly defined role in reviewing ingredients for the list.

Under the memorandum, CVM assigns scientists to work with AAFCO in reviewing petitions for new feed ingredients or for modifications to existing ingredient definitions. Also, before it adopts a new feed ingredient definition or amends an existing one, AAFCO will ask CVM for advice and a letter of concurrence. The memorandum also makes provision for AAFCO to remove a definition from its *OP* if FDA provides convincing scientific evidence that the ingredient is no longer suitable for its intended purpose.

The memorandum went into effect on August 30, 2007, and remains in effect until September 1, 2012.

For a copy of the AAFCO *OP*, you may go to the AAFCO web site (www.aafco.org) for an order form.