

ANIMAL HEALTH



FOOD & FEED HYGIENE

A guide for livestock farmers

Background

The **food** and **feed** regulations are intended to ensure that all those involved in food production at all levels take all appropriate steps to control potential food hazards at all stages of production. They introduce a **farm-to-fork** approach and thus extend basic hygiene requirements to primary production level.

“Primary Production” means the production of agricultural products including, in particular, growing, harvesting, milking and rearing of animals prior to their slaughter. It also includes hunting, fishing and the harvesting of wild products.

This leaflet summarises the key areas of the legislation as they apply to **livestock farmers**. Many of the requirements are common to both food and animal feed hygiene provisions, and in this guidance leaflet those requirements are combined where appropriate to avoid repetition. Many of the requirements of the regulations will already be standard practice for many farmers.

Food Hygiene

The regulations are intended to ensure that you and others involved in food production take all appropriate steps to control potential food hazards at every stage of production.

In summary, livestock farmers should:

- ◆ follow basic hygiene procedures
- ◆ keep certain records
- ◆ follow good practice



Food hygiene requirements apply not only to primary production, but also to the following associated operations:

- ◆ the transport, storage and handling of primary products at the place of production, provided that this does not substantially alter their nature.
- ◆ the transport of live animals
- ◆ the transport of products of plant origin, fishery products and wild game

Animal Feed Hygiene

The regulations apply to all feed businesses that make, use or market animal feed. This includes most livestock farmers, and all those who grow, use or sell crops for feed use. The feed hygiene regulations provide for controls on the safety and on the traceability of animal feed to be applied through the animal feed chain.

The requirements cover:

- ◆ the registration of all feed businesses
- ◆ hygiene provisions, such as to prevent contamination and spoilage of feed, and to ensure the cleanliness of equipment used for mixing, storing and for transportation



- ◆ record keeping
- ◆ good practice

Feed business operators must ensure that all stages of production, processing and distribution under their control are carried out in accordance with Community legislation, compatible national law, and good practice, and they must in particular satisfy the more detailed specific hygiene requirements.

Registration

All livestock farms involved in primary production must be registered for food hygiene and animal feed hygiene purposes with their Local Authority.

- ◆ livestock farms that are already registered with the Local Authority as Food Businesses do not need to re-register
- ◆ with the exception of On-farm mixers (which have needed to be registered for Feed Hygiene since 2006), livestock farms which are registered for Food Hygiene purposes are also deemed to be registered for Feed Hygiene
- ◆ On-farm mixers should ensure that they are registered for Food Hygiene even if they have been registered since 2006 for Feed Hygiene as the registration for feed hygiene does not automatically provide registration for food hygiene purposes
- ◆ livestock farms which are not registered should submit an application to the Animal Health Team. Forms are available on request or can be downloaded from the Animal Health Website

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/business/tradingstandards/animalhealth/homepage.aspx>

- ◆ when registered, farms must ensure that the animal health team are provided with up-to-date information, including details of any significant change in activities and closure of an establishment

Specific Requirements

Hygiene Provisions

Primary food products must be protected against contamination, having regard to any processing they will subsequently undergo

Producers must comply with appropriate **Community** and **National Legislative Provisions** relating to the **Control of Hazards** in primary production and associated operations including:

- ◆ measures to control contamination arising from the air, soil, water, feed, fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides, biocides, veterinary products and waste
- ◆ measures relating to plant health, animal health and welfare, and the environment, which all have implications for feed safety or human health, including programs for the monitoring and control of zoonoses and zoonotic agents

Producers must take adequate measures, in particular livestock farmers must:

- ◆ keep clean and, where necessary, disinfect any facilities, equipment, containers, crates, vehicles and vessels used in connection with primary production or animal feed
- ◆ ensure hygienic production, transport and storage conditions for, and the cleanliness of, animal feed
- ◆ use potable water or clean water to prevent hazardous contamination
- ◆ prevent animals and pests from causing contamination
- ◆ store and handle waste and hazardous substances to prevent contamination of feed
- ◆ take note of the results of any analysis carried out on samples taken from animals, plants or other samples as appropriate
- ◆ use feed additives and veterinary medical products correctly

Procedures employed in the primary production of feed must be carried out in an appropriate manner to prevent, eliminate or minimise hazards with the potential to compromise feed safety.

Primary feed products produced, prepared, cleaned, packed, stored and transported under the responsibility of the primary producer must be protected against contamination and spoilage.

Adequate measures as appropriate must be taken to:

- ◆ ensure the cleanliness of animals going to slaughter and, where necessary, production animals
- ◆ prevent the introduction and spread of contagious diseases transmissible to humans, by taking precautionary measures when introducing new animals, and reporting suspected outbreaks of diseases to APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency) 03000 200 301
- ◆ ensure that the staff handling foodstuffs are in good health and have adequate training on health risks

Records

Records relating to measures put in place to control hazards must be kept, in an appropriate manner and for an appropriate period, taking into account the size and nature of the farm. In particular records must be kept in respect of:

- ◆ the nature and origin of the feed fed to livestock
- ◆ any treatments, including veterinary products, date of administration and the withdrawal period
- ◆ results of any analysis carried out on samples taken from animals for diagnostic purposes

- ◆ any relevant reports on checks carried out on animals or products of animal origin
- ◆ the use of any plant protection and biocides
- ◆ genetically modified seeds used
- ◆ the occurrence of pests or diseases that may affect the safety of primary products
- ◆ the results of any relevant tests carried out on primary products or other samples for diagnostic purposes
- ◆ the source and quantity of each input of feed and the destination and quantity for each output of feed

Professional personnel (e.g. veterinarians, farm technicians, etc) may assist farmers with the keeping of records relevant to the activities they carry out on farms.

All of this information must be made available to Local Authority inspectors on request.

Assurance Schemes

A number of farm assurance schemes have been evaluated against the requirements of the legislation and the ones listed below are considered to meet those requirements. Membership of one of these schemes, and conformance with the scheme's standards, is considered to provide relevant evidence of compliance with the requirements of the food and hygiene regulations, and will be taken into account in the application of official controls.

The farm assurance schemes recognised for this purpose are:

- ◆ Assured British Meat (ABM)
- ◆ Assured British Pigs (ABP)
- ◆ Assured Chicken Production (ACP)
- ◆ Assured Combinable Crops Scheme (ACCS)
- ◆ Assured Produce (AP)
- ◆ Genesis Quality Assurance (GQA)
- ◆ Quality Meat Scotland (QMS)
- ◆ Farm Assured Welsh Livestock (FAWL)
- ◆ Northern Ireland Beef / Lamb Farm Quality Assured Scheme (NIBLFQAS)

Good Animal Feeding Practice

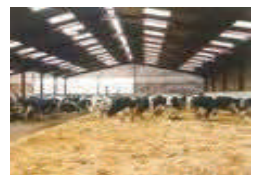


Pasture Grazing

The grazing of pastures and croplands must be managed in a manner which **minimises the contamination** of food of animal origin by physical, biological or chemical hazards. Where appropriate, an adequate rest period must be observed before allowing livestock to graze on pasture, crops, crop residues and between grazing rotations to minimise biological cross contamination from manure, where such a potential problem exists. Ensure that the **withholding periods** for agricultural chemical applications are observed.

Buildings and Feeding Equipment

- ◆ livestock buildings must be designed so that they can be adequately cleaned
- ◆ the animal production unit and feeding equipment must be cleaned thoroughly and regularly to prevent any build up of contamination e.g. manure
- ◆ chemicals used for cleaning and disinfecting must be used according to instructions and stored away from feed and feeding areas
- ◆ a pest control system must be put in place to control the access of pests to the animal production unit with a view to minimising the possibility of contamination of feed and bedding material
- ◆ buildings and feeding equipment must be kept clean. Systems must be put into place to regularly remove manure, waste material and other possible sources of feed contamination
- ◆ feed and bedding material used must be frequently changed and not allowed to become **mouldy**.



Feeding

1. Storage

- ◆ feed must be stored separately from any chemicals and other products prohibited from animal feed
- ◆ storage areas and containers must be kept clean and dry and appropriate pest control measures implemented where necessary
- ◆ storage areas and containers must be cleaned regularly to avoid unnecessary cross-contamination
- ◆ seed must be stored properly and must not be accessible to animals

- ◆ medicated feed and non-medicated feed must be stored to reduce the risk of feeding to non-targeted animals

2. Distribution

- ◆ feed must be handled appropriately to avoid contamination
- ◆ non-medicated feeds must be handled separately from medicated feeds to prevent any contamination
- ◆ farm vehicles used for transportation and feeding, must be **cleaned** periodically, particularly when used to deliver and distribute **medicated feed**



Feed and Water

Animals being produced on the farm should have an adequate supply of good quality water, where there is cause for concern regarding contamination, measures should be taken to minimise the hazards.

Feeding and watering equipment should be designed, constructed and positioned so as to minimise contamination

Watering systems must be cleaned and maintained regularly



Personnel

Those responsible for feeding and handling livestock, should have **good knowledge** and be **competent** in their work

Scope of Guidance

The guidance contained in this leaflet is aimed only at those involved in the production and rearing of livestock and does not therefore deal with the regulations as they apply to arable farming for food use.

Other more detailed requirements apply to farmers who mix feeds for their own animals using pre-mixtures or certain additives, and also the use of medicated feeds, which this guidance does not specifically cover.

Local Authorities are responsible for inspection visits under the food and feed hygiene regulations. The objective of inspection visits is to ensure compliance with the requirements of the regulations, to promote best practice and to help maintain and increase consumer confidence. Local Authorities are empowered to take enforcement action where necessary to secure compliance with the regulations. These include powers to issue improvement notices and prohibition notices.



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