

BIOSECURITY ACT 2015

Stock Food Regulation

Stock health is important, from an animal welfare perspective and because stock are a source of food for humans. The food that can be fed to stock is regulated to protect the animals' health, to ensure contaminants are not passed through the food chain and to satisfy market access requirements.

The [Biosecurity Act 2015](#), the [Biosecurity Regulation 2017](#) and the [Biosecurity Order-Permitted Activities](#) regulate stock food in NSW. It should be noted that regulation of stock medicines continues under the *Stock Medicines Act 1989* but medicated stock foods must also comply with the Biosecurity Act. The *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Regulation 1995* also includes labelling requirements for excluded nutritional or digestive products and manufacturing requirements.

Restricted Animal Material (RAM)

Ruminant animals include cows, sheep, bison, deer and camels. There are bans on feeding RAM to ruminant animals to minimise the risk of diseases such as mad cows disease and other rare brain diseases being passed back through the animal and potentially to humans.

Restricted Animal Material (RAM) is any product or substance containing vertebrate animal material. However, gelatin, milk, milk products and rendered fat or oil treated to remove particulate matter, which complies with 2% maximum moisture, and insoluble impurities are exempt from the definition of RAM.

The Biosecurity Regulation requires all stock food products to carry a statement or attached label prominently displaying the following:

Stock food that contain restricted animal material require a warning statement informing the buyer that the stock food contains restricted animal material and must not be fed to cattle, sheep, goats, deer or other ruminants

Stock food that does not contain restricted animal material requires a label statement informing the buyer that the stock food does not contain restricted animal material.

Foreign Substances in Stock Foods

Things such as heavy metals can accumulate in the environment and be absorbed by grazing animals. These heavy metals can then be passed on to humans potentially resulting in adverse health impacts.

The Biosecurity Regulation prescribes maximum limits for substances that represent the highest risk to animal health, trade and the community.

Schedule 4 of the Biosecurity Regulation provides a list of substances and prescribed maximum limits, see table 1.

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Table 1. Foreign substances in stock foods

Ingredient	Stockfood	Limit
Clenbuterol	All stock foods	Nil
Cadmium	Stock food for cattle, sheep, goats or fish	1.0 g/tonne
Cadmium	Stock food for animals other than cattle, sheep, goats or fish	0.5 g/tonne
Lead	All stock foods	0.2 g/tonne
Mercury	Fish meal for pigs and poultry	0.4 g/tonne
Mercury	Stockfood other than fish meal for pigs or poultry	0.02 g/tonne
Aflatoxin B1	Grain and crushed grain	0.01 g/tonne
Aflatoxin B1	Manufactured stock foods for beef cattle and sheep	0.05 g/tonne
Aflatoxin B1	Manufactured stock foods for weaner or suckling pigs	0.01 g/tonne
Aflatoxin B1	Manufactured stock foods for pigs other than weaner or suckling pigs	0.05 g/tonne
Aflatoxin B1	Manufactured stock foods for dairy cows	0.02 g/tonne
Aflatoxin B1	Manufactured stock foods for ducks	0.001 g/tonne
Aflatoxin B1	Manufactured stock foods for layer chickens	0.02 g/tonne

Aflatoxin B1	Manufactured stock foods for poultry other than ducks or layer chickens	0.01 g/tonne
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<i>Echium plantagineum</i> (Paterson's Curse)	Grain	100 seeds/kg
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<i>Heliotropium europaeum</i> (Common heliotrope), and <i>Heliotropium amplexicaule</i> (Blue heliotrope)	Grain	20 seeds of either species, or of a combination of both species, per kilogram
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<i>Ricinus communis</i> (Castor-oil plant)	All stock foods	Nil seeds or plant parts
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The General Biosecurity Duty

The general biosecurity duty requires that everyone who knows or should know about a biosecurity risk must take action to prevent, eliminate or minimise biosecurity risks as far as reasonably practicable. This duty applies to the manufacture and use of stock food.

To satisfy the general biosecurity duty, the following actions could be taken:

- manufacturers ensure products are free of harmful contaminants such as ergots and weed seeds that carry toxic alkaloids
- manufacturers adopt procedures and guidelines that are publically available,

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such as industry standards, codes of practice, guidelines or other advisory material such as the Grain Trading Standards by Grain Trade Australia

- consumers being aware of the contents of stock foods and making informed purchase choices
- livestock producers not feeding obviously spoilt feed to animals.

Other Legislation and Issues that Affect Stock Food Manufacturing and Trade

Labelling Stock Food Products

The Biosecurity Regulation only requires labelling of stock food for RAM.

However, the *Commonwealth Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Regulation 1995* (Schedule 3AA, Part 3, Division 3.2 Section 7) (Agvet Code Regulation) requires specific labelling for all stock foods that are not registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA). This regulation requires that product labels provide a list of ingredients and instructions for appropriate use of products. Urea and salt are ingredients of many stock foods and are therefore included in the labelling requirement under the Agvet Code Regulation.

Under the Agvet Code Regulation, the following information must be included on labels:

- a. the name of the substance or mixture
- b. instructions for use of the substance or mixture for each species for which it is intended to be used including dosage rates and duration which it may be used for each species
- c. instruction for safe handling of the product
- d. nutrient analysis relating to claims made about the product
- e. a list of ingredients in the substance or mixture, ordered by decreasing quantity of ingredients
- f. the name of, and address and telephone number for the party producing the product
- g. a batch number
- h. an expiry date.

Specific details are available in the [*Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Regulation 1995*](#) (Schedule 3AA, Part 3, Division 3.2, clause 7 – Labelling requirements for excluded nutritional or digestive products and clause 8 – Manufacturing requirements for excluded nutritional or digestive products).

Medicated Stock Foods

Medicated stock foods are regulated under the *Stock Medicines Regulation 2010*, though medicated stock foods must also comply with the requirements for stock foods under the Biosecurity Regulation as outlined above.

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Industry Programs

Industry programs such as quality assurance programs, codes of practice, membership conditions of industry organisations and a range of other programs are not legislative instruments. However, many provide assurance of market access and compliance with legislative requirements.

The Stock Food Manufacturers Council of Australia (SFMCA) provides a quality assurance program [FeedSafe®](#) and the National code of [Good Manufacturing Practice for the Feed Milling Industry](#), available to all stock food manufacturers.

**For more information about the Act,
visit our website or contact us:**

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