

Manufactured stock food requirements

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Animal Biosecurity and Welfare, NSW DPI

General requirements

Registration

Registration is not required for stock foods in New South Wales.

Legislation

Mandatory measures under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and Biosecurity Regulation 2017 (the Regulation) must be complied with by anyone who: *'manufactures or supplies any manufactured animal food material for use as a stock food or any food which is represented as being suitable for use as stock food.'*

These requirements apply to all manufactured stock foods, at both the wholesale and retail level.

As well as applying to feed manufacturers, the regulations apply to retailers and any primary producers who sell any manufactured stock food to other persons.

The legislation applies only to animals which belong to food producing species including horses.

The labelling provisions apply only to manufactured stock foods prepared for feeding food producing animals and horses.

Labelling requirements

The following basic labelling is required for all products. It is dealt with in detail on the following pages.

Manufactured stock foods are stock foods that have undergone any manufacturing process. This includes premixes, licks and blocks.

Labelling requirements	Comment
Name of person / business marketing the product Place of business Net weight / volume in container	All are required by the <i>Trade Measurement Act 1989</i> . Physical address (not a PO Box) . Quantity.
Statement indicating the particular class of stock, and the age or stage of production of such stock, which the stock food will maintain or for which it will promote the growth or productive capacity (e.g. weaner pigs, layer hens, lactating cows, all ruminant animals)	The statement should identify the intended purpose of the food, both by animal and class of animal. For some products such as protein meals or grains 'suitable for all xxx' may be appropriate (where xxx is the species name e.g. 'cattle'). Note: A product NAME is not required but may be used in addition to the required statement.
Urea levels (if added) Salt levels (if added) A warning statement and directions for use are required for urea above 0.5%.	Urea or salt levels must be given only if urea is more than 30g/kg (3%) and/or salt is more than 5g/kg (0.5%). Note. Other details regarding nutrient levels are no longer required by the legislation but may be supplied.
Contaminants Contaminants (includes residues) must not exceed levels specified in the Regulation. Limited chemical residue standards are adopted from Table 4 of the MRL Standard: see the web site of the APVMA at	Levels are specified in the Regulation for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted animal material (meat meals) • weed seeds / plants in grain, • toxic compounds including certain chemicals, toxic metals or moulds.

'Commodity' ingredients – such as whole grains, seeds or tallow – are not stock foods unless they are labelled or represented for sale as stock foods.

Cracked or rolled grains or seeds are included as stock foods, as they have been processed specifically for feeding to stock.

Milk powders with any added ingredients are stock foods. All meals made from restricted animal materials such as tissues or feathers are also stock foods. Hay, straw and chaff are specifically excluded as stock foods.

Labels are required for stock food packages. Printing the label onto the package is acceptable. Labelling is also required for bulk products by way of delivery dockets or invoices, which must be supplied when the stock food is delivered.

Minimum print sizes are specified for 'restricted animal material' statements – see below.

Medicated Stock Foods

No stock medicine, including any bloat treatment, can be added to a block unless the block is first registered with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

The APVMA also requires that only registered medicines are added to stock food supplements or premixes and that they be labelled correctly.

Labelling requirements	Comments
<p>If the food contains restricted animal material, the label or delivery docket must include the following RAM statement:</p> <p><i>This product contains restricted animal material – DO NOT FEED TO CATTLE, SHEEP, GOATS, DEER OR OTHER RUMINANTS</i></p>	<p>The restricted animal material statements must be prominently displayed on the label or package of all stock foods or on papers delivered with bulk feed. It should not be on the back of a label or sewn in under another label.</p>
<p>If the food does not contain restricted animal material, it must still include on the label or delivery docket the following RAM statement:</p> <p><i>This product does not contain restricted animal material</i></p>	
<p>Printed labels must be at least 45mm by 120mm with the RAM statement in print of a contrasting colour. The statement must be in print at least 3mm high. If printed directly onto woven bags the statement must be in letters at least 10mm high.</p>	<p>The same information must appear on all delivery dockets or invoices, in relation to sales in bulk of manufactured stock food, which are delivered to the purchaser with the bulk stock food.</p>

Residues and Contaminants

The Regulation sets a number of standards for foreign ingredients in stock foods. In particular, levels are set for certain chemicals, for certain prohibited substances, for weed seed and plant contamination and for certain toxic compounds and metals. Stock foods must not be supplied if they contain any foreign ingredients above the levels specified in the Regulation. No Restricted Animal Material (RAM) is permitted in any stock foods recommended for ruminants.

Meat meal (Restricted Animal Material - RAM) in stock foods for ruminants

History

The Biosecurity Regulation 2017 prohibits the feeding to ruminants of any RAM which includes *all meat or blood products from any vertebrate animal or bird including meat meal, meat and bone meal, bone flour, poultry meal, fish meal, and also feather meal or any part of an animal.*

The major ruminant animals are cattle, sheep, goats, camelids and deer.

The Biosecurity Regulation 2017 requires the content of RAM – such as meat meal – to be identified on labels or dockets of stock foods which contain it. These RAM containing stock foods are commonly used to feed pigs, poultry and other non-ruminant species.

The feeding of RAM to ruminants was identified as the cause of many outbreaks of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or 'Mad Cow Disease' in other countries. Although BSE has never been diagnosed in Australia, the feeding restrictions provide further insurance against any spread of the disease if it were ever to be diagnosed here. The restrictions also satisfy the assurance requirements of some of our major meat export markets.

Additional information on the ruminant feed ban and related controls is available from the web site of Animal Health Australia at: <http://www.animalhealthaustralia.com.au/programs/biosecurity/tse-freedom-assurance-program/australian-ruminant-feed-ban/>

Regulatory requirements in relation to restricted animal material labelling

The Regulations require that packaged manufactured stock foods are labelled so it is clear that the food either:

- Contains restricted animal material (meat meal, fish meal etc.) and that it may not be fed to ruminants, or
- Does not contain restricted animal material.

In the case of bulk feed, the information must be supplied in writing *at the time the feed is delivered*. The invoice can be used for this purpose, provided it is delivered with the feed, or the information should be included on the delivery docket.

Tallow and used cooking oil which meet the requirements of the Regulation, and gelatin, are exempted from the requirement. Milk products, which only contain milk products, are not included in the definition.

Milk replacers which contain ingredients other than milk – such as added proteins or vitamins – must include a statement that they contain no restricted animal material.

Stock food suppliers should advise buyers of the feeding prohibitions, which apply in all Australian States and Territories.

Repacking of stock foods

Anyone, such as a stock food retailer, who repacks and sells a stock food is required to comply with the labelling requirements under the legislation.

In general, the name and address of the retailer who repacked the product should appear on the new label. All the usual requirements must be met.

Audits

Authorised officers under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* have power to enter and inspect manufacturing and retail premises and access any records relating to the manufacture or sale of stock foods.

NSW Contact for Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia.

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Quality assurance in stock food manufacture

The NSW Department of Primary Industries encourages stock food manufacturers to implement quality assurance (QA) procedures in their manufacturing processes. This helps stock food users to meet the increasingly stringent quality requirements which are driven by domestic and overseas market demands. The adoption of suitable quality assurance practices now will ensure that manufacturers are able to meet any future requirements to uphold the integrity of Australian stock food. A QA program needs to include detailed protocols for all manufacturing procedures, from raw material input to product shipment. Manufacturers should ensure that they have good record systems and effective internal auditing processes which would stand up to scrutiny by an external auditor. In particular, all quality assurance systems should:

- ensure that all raw materials and finished product are stored in separate locations, using containers dedicated to either feed for ruminants or feed for other stock (if it contains restricted animal material) and appropriately identified
- ensure thorough, complete cleaning of all equipment between batches of feed made using restricted animal material, and those made without it
- alternatively, use flushing or sequencing techniques between batches with appropriate testing or checks (using markers or RAM tests) to ensure no carryover of restricted material
- ensure that all material used in either flushing or sequencing is considered restricted animal material and is identified, stored and handled so that it is not used in feed for ruminant animals
- if necessary, limit different feed production to certain days to reduce cleaning and the likelihood of cross contamination
- ensure that all vehicles used to transport raw materials or feeds, especially bulk feeds, are dedicated to only one type of material or feed, and are appropriately identified
- alternatively, ensure thorough cleaning of vehicles between transport of different materials or feed types
- record all the processes and procedures used to achieve these outcomes, and identify how they are checked within the plant.

The importance of implementing these procedures was shown in the United Kingdom, where new cases of BSE were found in animals which were not fed on products known to contain meat and bone meal. *The explanation proposed for this was that it followed cross-contamination of cattle feed with other feed, prepared for pigs or poultry, which contained prohibited material.*

The FeedSafe® program run by the Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia deals with all these issues.

Two commercial PCR tests for RAM contamination in stock foods are available from: The National Measurement Institute, Pymble phone (02) 9449 0111 or; AgriGen Biotech, North Ryde phone (02) 9888 9192.

A rapid test is also available. FeedChek® MBM kits are manufactured by Strategic Diagnostics Inc. www.sdix.com and available from:

Foss Pacific (Contact Lauren)
Unit 2, 112-118 Talavera Road, North Ryde NSW 2113
Ph: (02) 9888-6788 or 1300 360 848
Fax: (02) 9889-4989
Email: info@foss.com.au

These tests, or the use of commercial markers, can be used to help confirm that no cross contamination is occurring.

In some cases manufacturers may be better off to produce only one type of product, that is:

- stock food without restricted animal material for ruminants, or
- stock food with restricted animal material for other animals such as pigs, poultry or dogs and cats.

More information

- Animal Biosecurity, Department of Primary Industries at biosecurity@dpi.nsw.gov.au
- Local Land Services, see <http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/>.
- Copies of all NSW are available from www.legislation.nsw.gov.au
- The APVMA may be contacted via their web site at www.apvma.gov.au

For updates go to www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/factsheets

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