

Agricultural and Vegetable Oils Bulletin

Fit for Animal Consumption

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In the international commodity trade of feed materials (feed grains, cereal by-products, oilseed extraction products, etc.) it is often written into contracts and/or Letters of Credit, and therefore in principals' instructions, that inspection companies should provide certificates stating that the products are "fit for animal consumption."

TIC Council Guidelines state that any statement made by Members with regard to fitness for any particular purpose should be based on relevant analysis. Inspection companies have a duty to perform their work with due care and skill; and this includes exercising reasonable care and diligence in the choice of tests which should be undertaken before making such statements as "fit for animal consumption", so as to protect both the inspection company and its client from risks and liabilities.

TIC Council member companies are not in a position to judge what makes a product "fit for animal consumption" as an inherent value, but can only assess the conformity of test results to specified criteria. In instances where it is believed that insufficient analysis and/or instructions have been made, TIC Council member companies will therefore propose to their principals additional testing or procedures so that they can make the required statement regarding the condition of the product with confidence. Where this proposal is not followed, the member company may have no option but to decline to make the necessary statement or qualify the statement in such a way as to reflect the analysis actually performed.

To offer some consistency in this approach, TIC Council members have together considered current industry practices in defining the minimum testing requirements to support the issuance of certificates stating "fit for animal consumption". This has resulted in the table attached as appendix "A" to this bulletin. This table identifies four categories of commodity and specifies the analyses that are considered necessary to support the statement "fit for animal consumption" for each. This is based on the requirements present in different national and/or international legislations as well on the requirements of international organizations.

The listing is not exhaustive and additional analysis may be necessary. Individual contractual requirements and statutory regulations, provided they are made known, take precedence over the minimum analyses proposed in the table. However, where any customer requirement falls short of the analyses shown in the table, TIC Council members will draw this to their principals' attention, and may qualify any statement made or decline to issue certificates stating "fit for animal consumption" unless appropriate analyses have been performed. The table does not seek to establish what limits are acceptable for the analyses listed. TIC Council Member companies will normally work to the limits required in the declared country of destination, or, if such are not available, in the country of origin, or by FAO.

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Revisions/Reaffirmations

Rev. 0 February 2014
Rev. 1 December 2022

Appendix "A" to TIC Council Agricultural Committee Bulletin				
MINIMUM TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR "FIT FOR ANIMAL CONSUMPTION" STATEMENTS				
ANALYSES	COMMODITIES			
	wheat & wheat by-products	maize & maize by-products	barley/ other cereals & their by-products	oilseed meals, cakes and expellers
Pesticides				
Pesticide screening (incl. at least organochlorine compounds, organophosphorus compounds, pyrethroids, and carbamates)	X	X	X	X
Heavy metals				
Lead	X	X	X	X
Cadmium	X	X	X	X
Mercury	X	X	X	X
Arsenicum	X	X	X	X
Mycotoxins				
Ochratoxin	X	X	X	X
Deoxynivalenol	X	X	X	
Zearalenone		X		
Aflatoxin B1		X		X
Fumonisin B1/B2		X		
Poisonous seeds	X	X	X	X
Radioactivity (if origin Russia/Ukraine)	X	X	X	X
Ergot	X		X	
Organoleptical aspects				
Odour	X	X	X	X
Visual appearance	X	X	X	X
Microbiology				
Salmonella*	X	X	X	X

* in case of presence of Salmonella serotyping is required. In the event S. Enteritidis and/or S. Typhimurium are identified goods are not fit for animal consumption