

Melamine in animal feed: notification sent to stakeholders on 11 December 2008

ACTION: Update on melamine in organic soya from China

Dear Colleague

I am writing in follow-up to my e-mails of 5 December, to advise that the draft Commission Decision which was attached to the second of those e-mails has now been published in the Official Journal as Commission Decision 2008/921 of 9 December.

The Decision came into force on the date of publication, and will be implemented in the UK by official Declaration today. It extends the prohibition on the imports of milk and milk products from China to soya and soya products for particular nutritional purposes for infants and young children, requires Member States to carry out checks on all imports from China of ammonium bicarbonate, milk and soya products for food and feed use, and requires food and feed business operators to give prior notification of all imports of such products.

There is no requirement to provide advance certification to indicate that the products are free from melamine contamination, but feed business operators may consider it prudent to satisfy themselves on this point prior to import. As before, any feed and food products found to have a melamine content of greater than 2.5 mg/kg are required to be destroyed.

The published Commission Decision can be read online at <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:331:0019:0020:EN:PDF>

We have also been in contact with the European Commission to clarify the position with respect to (a) consignments of feed consisting of or containing soya sourced from the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) which are already on UK territory and (b) milk derived from dairy herds which are believed to have received feed adulterated with melamine.

In addition, we have received analytical data from UK stakeholders for melamine, ammeline, ammelide and cyanuric acid in feed and milk. The data for milk derived from animals which received contaminated feed provide some reassurance that the risk to the consumer is low. Provided that the animals in question do not receive further contaminated feed, the levels of melamine in milk can be expected to continue to decline.

Our view now is that milk, milk products or feed products which have a melamine content of no more than 2.5 mg/kg can be used and/or sold, and that in such cases the determination of levels of ammeline, ammelide and cyanuric acid is not

required. This view is based on advice obtained in recent discussions with the European Commission.

We expect that any levels of melamine detected in organic milk will continue to decline in response to the controls in place and the co-operation that has been afforded by feed and food business operators. In our opinion, therefore, there should be no need for further monitoring of milk and milk products once milk from the particular source has been found to be compliant with the Commission's maximum limit. This applies to milk from dairy farms which have used the melamine-contaminated feed.

Recipients of this e-mail should note that a further round of monitoring may be required if further consignments of feed products from the PRC are found to be contaminated with melamine.

In the meantime, I attach an updated list of laboratories with facilities for testing for the presence of melamine. Test results, both positive and negative, should continue to be reported as outlined in my previous e-mails.

Yours faithfully

K MILLAR
Head of Animal Feed Unit

Melamine related compounds analysis laboratories (updated 17 December 2008)

Public Analysts

Organisation	Contact	Contact details	Able to test for....
Lancashire	Peter Mayes	County Laboratory Riversway Dock Estate Preston PR2 2TX 01772 721660 Out of Hours 07811260066 Peter.Mayes@lancashire.gov.uk	Melamine and cyanuric acid.
Eurofins	Jeremy Wootten	Eurofins Laboratories Ltd 28-32 Brunel Road, Westway Estate, Acton, W3 7XR Tel: 020 8222 6072 JeremyWootten@eurofins.co.uk	Melamine, cyanuric acid, ammeline and ammelide.
Hampshire Scientific Service	Glenn Taylor.	Hampshire County Council - Property Business & Regulatory Services Scientific Service Hyde Park Road Southsea, PO5 4LL Tel. 023 92 829 501 glenn.taylor@hants.gov.uk	Melamine only
Staffordshire County Laboratory and Scientific Services	Dr Frank Hollywood	Staffordshire County Laboratory and Scientific Services, Staffordshire County Council, 14 Martin Street, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST16 2LG Tel: 01785 277 810 Frank.Hollywood@staffordshire.gov.uk	Melamine and cyanuric acid
Edinburgh Scientific Services	Andrew Mackie	Edinburgh Scientific Services, 4 Marine Esplanade, Edinburgh, EH6 7LU 0131 555 7980 andrew.mackie@edinburgh.gsx.gov.uk	Melamine, cyanuric acid, ammeline and ammelide.

Note:

The Food Standards Agency cannot recommend any particular laboratory for melamine testing, however we are aware that the above list of laboratories may analyse for melamine in feedingstuffs.

This is for guidance purposes only and is not an exhaustive list of all UK laboratories who can perform melamine testing.

Somerset County Council	Chris Heide	Somerset Scientific Services Somerset County Council County Hall Taunton, TA1 4DY Tel. 01823 358084 cpd@somerset.gov.uk	Melamine and cyanuric acid
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Industry/commercial

Organisation	Contact	Contact details	Able to test for....
LFRA	Antony Bagshaw Tony Hines Peter Wilson	01372 822 291 Abagshaw@leatherheadfood.com 01372 822245 (TH) thines@leatherheadfood.com 01372 822285 (PW) pwilson@leatherheadfood.com	Melamine only
LGC	Ian Lumley or Pete Colwell	Tel 020 8943 7342 (IL) Ian.Lumley@lgc.co.uk Tel 020 8943 7443 (PC) Pete.Colwell@lgc.co.uk	Melamine, cyanuric acid, ammeline and ammelide
AFBI	Glenn Kennedy or Robert McCracken	AFBI Stormont Stoney Road Belfast BT4 3SD Tel: 02890 525651 or 02890 525636 Glenn.kennedy@afbini.gov.uk Robert.mccracken@afbini.gov.uk	Melamine only

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