

## **Melamine in animal feed: notification sent to stakeholders on 28 November 2008**

### **URGENT ACTION: Melamine in Organic Soya Expeller for feed use from China**

Dear Colleague

You will be aware that in the past few months there have been a number of reports of findings of melamine in imports from the People's Republic of China (PRC) of food products for human consumption. Melamine is a chemical of intermediate use in the manufacture of amino resins and plastics, which appears to have been fraudulently added to increase the food products' nitrogen levels and thus indicate a falsely higher protein content when subjected to analysis.

We have recently become aware that melamine has also been detected by the authorities in France and the Netherlands in imports from the PRC of soya products for feed use. In the past 24 hours, we have received information that melamine has also been found in the UK in imports of organic soya expeller for feed use.

We are awaiting a risk assessment, which we will forward early next week. In the meantime, we are writing to relevant stakeholders to alert them to the presence of melamine in soya expeller from the PRC. We would advise that -- in line with their responsibilities under Articles 15, 17, 18 and 20 of EC Regulation 178/2002 on the general principles of food law (see Related Links) -- feed business operators cease all use of and quarantine any supplies from the PRC of soya expeller in their possession and have the material sampled for the presence of melamine and related compounds (cyanuric acid, ammeline and ammelide). In view of the apparently widespread nature of the contamination of products from the PRC, feed business operators may wish to consider quarantining and testing any other feed products in their possession which originate from China before they are put into the feed chain.

The results of any positive sampling of feed materials or products containing feed materials originating from China should be reported to the Food Standards Agency using the online incident report form on our website (<https://incidents.foodapps.co.uk/IncidentReportForm/login.aspx>). Select "Enter as guest", then click on "Incident Notification" and complete the boxes as appropriate. (The form can also be accessed from the front page of our website (<http://www.food.gov.uk/>) through the "Incident Form" link under the "Quick Links" heading on the bottom right, which will take you to a page with some highlighted text a third of the way down it; this is another link to the incident report form.) If you have any queries about the incident report form, or need assistance with completing it, please contact my colleague Drazenka Tubin-Delic in our Incidents Branch on 020 7276 8450.

Positive results for melamine should be reported immediately using the online incident report form, so that we are able to build a picture of the extent and nature of the potential contamination. We would also be grateful to be advised of any negative findings, as Member States are required to report these to the European Commission on a fortnightly basis. Negative results should be sent to direct to Mercy Adebisi in the Animal Feed Unit (<mercy.adebisi@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk>).

We would be grateful if trade associations receiving this notification would cascade it to their members with immediate effect. Additionally, trade associations should advise their members who import high protein feed materials from PRC that -- under the terms of Article 3 of Commission Decision 2008/798/EC of 14 October 2008 -- they are required to provide prior notification of these consignments to the relevant feed enforcement authority at the port of entry.

Any questions about this e-mail should be directed to Joseph Nicholas in the Animal Feed Unit (e-mail <joseph.nicholas@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk> or telephone 020 7276 8462).

Yours faithfully

K MILLAR  
Head of Animal Feed Unit