

Official Feed Inspection



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In Service of Healthy Food

In 2009, ALP collected 1,460 samples of livestock feed and 267 samples of pet food (compared with 1,231 and 227 samples respectively in 2008) within the framework of the official feedinspection. The inspections, conducted in more than 570 production or trading establishments, show that the re-

quirements for traceability and self-inspectioning measures according to the HACCP concept are increasingly well understood and implemented. In general, the companies are meeting the requirements properly, and the feedstuffs can be classified as safe.

Official Feed Inspection

Under the mandate of the Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG), ALP controls the production and trade of livestock feed and pet food and authorises new substances destined for use in animal feed. An important aim of this activity of ALP is to prevent toxic or undesirable substances from being fed to

animals and winding up on the consumer's plate in foods of animal origin.

The inspections also help to protect animal owners from fraud, and to ensure that the use of animal feed does not jeopardise animal health or the environment.



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Stable Situation for Livestock Feed

As in 2008, over half of the livestock feed samples gave no cause for complaint. The number of samples with fairly minor defects (incomplete labelling, contents differing slightly from the declaration) remained virtually stable (26.8% as against 26.5% in 2008). By contrast, the number of complaints with financial consequences increased to 19.5% (2008: 17%).

As in 2008, there was again just one instance of an offence needing to be reported, where antibiotics were detected in one of 461 samples tested in the ALP laboratory. All remaining analyses for forbidden or undesirable substances (heavy metals, dioxins and aflatoxins) as well as for salmonella were negative.

Economic Pressure on Companies

The complaints with financial consequences concern values outside of the official tolerances, or relate to unacceptable declaration errors. ALP assumes that not all of these cases involve wilful fraud, but does note that for reasons of profitability, the companies involved often operate at the limits of

the applicable standards. The higher number of complaints is also due to the fact that, in the context of risk-based control, more attention was placed on companies that had already given rise to complaints in the preceding years.

Marked Improvement in the Pet-Food Sector

Of the 267 pet-food samples taken from manufacturers and retailers, 44.6% (2008: 54.6%) exhibited fairly minor defects, whilst 27% of the samples gave rise to complaints with financial consequences, corresponding to a 4.2% decrease compared to the previous year.

The encouraging decrease in samples with slight defects is due to the fact that the companies took great pains to adapt labelling to the legal provisions in force. The complaints with financial consequences were mainly due to contents lying outside of the official tolerances.

GMOs under Observation

Of the 1,460 samples of livestock feed, 241 compound feeds and 96 raw materials were examined for genetically modified organisms (GMOs). None of these samples gave rise to a complaint.

With pet food, on the other hand, eight out of 138 samples analysed failed to comply with the regulations. The samples in question contained GMOs, although none of the raw materials contained was declared to be genetically modified.

Medicated Feedstuff

Since 2008, and in accordance with an agreement with the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products Swissmedic, ALP has also monitored the conformity of medicated feeds to feed

legislation. Two of the 18 medicated feeds inspected required complaints to be filed owing to the excessively high amounts of trace elements they contained.