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Automatic synchronisation of the QS and GMP+ databases for the listing of feed manufacturing companies (manufacturers and traders) in the QM Milk System

In brief: Technical updates have been made to the listing of companies that are authorised to supply feed for QM Milk. This list can still be found in the GMP+ database of companies as well as in the QS database. However, in order to simplify the system, both databases are now automatically synchronised for GMP+ companies and ensure compliance with the QM Milk Country Note.

As part of the cooperation between QM Milk and GMP+ International and with the latter signing up to the "feed agreement governing the use of feed in milk production" of 1.10.2015, requirements for GMP+ certified feed businesses (manufacturers and traders) which wish to supply feed to farmers taking part in the QM Milk scheme have been defined in a QM Milk Country Note (GMP+ BCN-DE1: QM Milk). Only a GMP+ certified feed company that can prove that it has passed an audit in accordance with the QM Milk Country Note and has been granted the relevant certificate is authorised to participate in the QM Milk System and to be listed in the public GMP+ database of companies. Conversely, GMP+ companies that do not comply with the QM Milk Country Note are not authorised to supply feed for the QM Milk scheme nor will they be included in the databases for feed delivery to QM Milk companies.

The feed companies that are authorised to supply feed for QM Milk are listed in the following two databases:

- GMP+ certified feed producers and traders:
<http://cdb.gmpplus.org/index.php?page=gmpplus&publang=4>
- QS certified feed producers and traders:
www.qs-plattform.de/QSSoftware/suche.html please click on "Futtermittelwirtschaft" (feed industry)

It is important to note that due to the mutual recognition of QS with other standard-setting bodies, the QS database lists both QS certified feed companies as well as additional QS recognised feed companies, certified in accordance with other standard-setting bodies. This includes GMP+ companies with a QS delivery authorisation.

In order to simplify the listing process, the technical conditions have now been created to enable automatic synchronisation of the companies listed in the GMP+ database with those in the QS database.

More specifically, the following updates will be made to the GMP+ feed companies listed in the QS database:

Data transfer from the GMP+ database to the QS database will be automated for all companies that wish to deliver to milk producers taking part in the QM Milk scheme. From July 17th 2017 onwards, instances where companies comply with the QM Milk Country Note will be automatically transferred to the QS database.

The QS database will be updated on a daily basis so that when GMP+ certified feed companies (manufacturers and traders) which use GMP+ certification for bilateral recognition, and therefore the QS delivery authorisation, comply with the QM Milk Country Note, this will be recorded in the database. This simplifies the listing procedure as it avoids having to actively enter additional information into the QS database as well as having to tick the box in the database, as was previously the case. Automatic data transfer ensures that the feed companies are shown correctly.

All GMP+ companies which comply with the QM Milk Country Note will now be listed in parallel in both the public GMP+ database and in the public search query for the QS database.

For milk producers, certification companies and regional offices participating in the QM Milk scheme, this simplifies the gathering of information on feed companies that are authorised to supply feed for QM Milk.