

Information letter

German Farmers' Association
German Raiffeisen Confederation
German Pet Food Association
GMP+ International
German Dairy Industry Federation
QS Quality and Safety
QM Milk

30th September 2015

Updated feed agreement under the QM Milk scheme, as of 1st October 2015

In brief: an updated "feed agreement governing the use of feed in milk production" will come into force on 01.10.2015 and supersede the 2013 feed framework agreement.

The feed agreement between the feed and milk industries regulates the use of feedingstuffs in milk production for the QM Milk scheme. The new feed agreement is the fruit of discussions between QM Milk and the feed industry. The signatories include QM Milk, the German Farmers' Association, the German Dairy Industry Federation, the German Raiffeisen Confederation, QS Quality and Safety, the German Pet Food Association, and GMP+ International.

The salient changes to the feed agreement are that it now covers feed traders and lists GMP+ International as an additional signatory organisation. Work with GMP+ International was instigated in order to allow GMP+ certified feed companies to receive authorisation to deliver under the QM Milk scheme at international level. This condition has been in force for QS-approved GMP+ companies since 2013 and is maintained in the updated feed agreement.

Additionally, the content of the text has been clarified and slight editorial changes made.

Main provisions of the feed agreement:

- QM Milk accepts feed manufacturers and traders (including private labels) with QS or GMP+ International certification, or certification recognised as equivalent.
- The feed used must be included either in the German positive list of feed materials or in another system provider's list, which is recognised by QS and GMP+ International.
- Feed monitoring is to be carried out in accordance with the requirements of QS, GMP+ International or a system recognised as equivalent. For dioxins, dioxin-like PCBs and non dioxin-like PCBs, the legal action thresholds and maximum levels

apply. For Aflatoxin B1, the recommended value of 1 ppb (1 µg/kg) applies to feed destined for dairy cattle.

- Should the feed exceed the maximum levels, action thresholds or guideline values, the system provider notifies QM Milk, which subsequently contacts both the feed company in question and the competent local authorities in order to agree on further measures.

Additional provisions for feed manufacturers:

- All QS feed manufacturers that are authorised to deliver their goods to the QM Milk scheme are already included in a national list, which can be accessed via the link to the QS database at www.qs-plattform.de/QSSoftware/search.html (please click on Scheme Participant Search and then on Search: Feed Sector). Seeing as the national list of QS feed manufacturers has been in force since 1st January 2014, it replaces the regional lists, which expire at the end of 2015.
- All QS-approved feed manufacturers that are already included in the national list have already agreed with the conditions of participation to deliver to the QS Milk scheme, found at https://qs-plattform.de/index_english.html. These terms and conditions are being slightly altered to take the requirements of the current feed agreement into account (see attached). Important: should previously listed feed manufacturers no longer agree with the amended terms and conditions, they may withdraw their consent at any time by unchecking the relevant box in the QS database. This withdrawal also revokes the feed manufacturer's authorisation to deliver to QM Milk companies.
- Important: QS-approved feed manufacturers that are not yet listed and who wish to deliver to the QS Milk scheme, can register for the centralised list by consenting to the current delivery conditions set out in the feed agreement. In order to do so, they must use their individual login details to tick the box for the chosen site at https://qs-plattform.de/index_english.html.
- All QS companies in the central list therefore give their consent that they will comply with the requirements of the feed agreement and that QS may provide information to QM Milk if any levels are exceeded. The delivery authorisation will thus be activated simultaneously in the QM Milk scheme.
- As regards the listing of businesses which are GMP+ certified and which do not have a QS delivery authorisation, information will shortly be provided, as soon as the technical details have been clarified with GMP+ International.

Additional requirements for feed traders:

- The centralised list of QS feed manufacturers is currently enlarged to include QS-approved feed traders. Feed traders who wish to deliver to the QS Milk scheme can register for the centralised list by consenting to the current delivery conditions in accordance with the feed agreement (see attachment). In order to do so, they must use their individual login details to tick the box for the chosen site at https://qs-plattform.de/index_english.html.
- All QS companies in the centralised list therefore give their consent that they will comply with the requirements of the feed agreement and that QS may provide information to QM Milk if any levels are exceeded. The delivery authorisation will thus be activated simultaneously in the QM Milk scheme.
- Feed traders should be listed by 1st July 2016 at the latest.
- As regards the listing of businesses which are GMP+ certified and which do not have a QS delivery authorisation, information will shortly be provided, as soon as the technical details have been clarified with GMP+ International.

Additional requirements for milk producers:

- Milk producers who take part in the QM Milk scheme may only obtain feed from compound and feed material manufacturers or traders who are recorded in the national list (for feed traders, a transitional period until 1st July 2016 applies). On a transitional basis, in exceptional cases, feed material manufacturers and traders who do not have any certification may deliver to the QM Milk scheme with a clearance certificate.
- Manufacturers and traders that may deliver feed to QM Milk can be viewed at www.qs-plattform.de/QSSoftware/search.html (please click on Scheme Participant Search and then on Search: Feed Sector).

Attached

Feed agreement