

Safety first: EU promotes consumer confidence in feed additive authorisations

On November 9th the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) will officially open the Community Reference Laboratory (CRL) for Feed Additives Authorisation in Geel (Belgium). Feed additives are used in animal feed to improve productivity and health. Industry needs to submit all additives for assessment to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for authorisation and the role of the CRL will be to evaluate the analytical methods proposed to detect the presence of feed additives.

*"Human and animal health is of major concern to all of us. The new and improved authorisation process for feed additives requires the highest competence and research capacity" said Research Commissioner **Louis Michel**. "Our new laboratory has the required expertise to carry out these tasks. These competences are the prerequisites for providing more confidence in food and feed safety and quality for all European citizens".*

Feed additives

Traditionally, animals were fed with feeding stuff, such as hay and grain. Nowadays farmers supplement this diet with compound feed consisting of very diverse feed materials and by-products from food processing, combined with feed additives. Feed additives are used to improve animal productivity and/or health. Examples include nutritional additives such as vitamins and minerals, sensory additives, or technological additives like preservatives and emulsifiers. At present there are some 700 substances and preparations authorised as feed additives by EU legislation.

Seal of authorisation

Before placing a feed additive on the market, the producing industry has to apply for authorisation. The EFSA carries out a scientific safety assessment while the CRL evaluates the analytical methods proposed for the additive to determine its presence in feed and to identify any possible residues in food. Methods for the analysis of residues in food are particularly important in cases when the authorisation establishes maximum residue levels (MRLs) in animal-derived food products. The CRL will also maintain reference samples of all authorised additives and will carry out related tasks.

How will the CRL operate?

The setting up of the Community Reference Laboratory is part of the modernisation of the system for the authorisation of feed additives laid down by Regulation 1831/2003. This Regulation becomes fully applicable in October 2004. Some 90 applications for the authorisation of feed additives have been submitted to the Commission in 2004. The CRL will be assisted by a consortium of laboratories from all EU Member States.

Journalists are welcome to the inauguration

The inauguration will take place at 10:00 on 9 November. The agenda can be found in the annex. For more information contact:

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IP/04/final
Brussels, 5 November 2004

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Annex: Programme 9 November 2004

ANNEX

Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (JRC -IRMM)

The JRC-IRMM is one of the seven Institutes of the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. Its mission is to promote a common and reliable European measurement system in support of EU policies. The prime objective of the IRMM is to build confidence in measurements by the development, production and dissemination of internationally accepted quality assurance tools, including reference materials, validated methods, reference measurements, inter-laboratory comparisons and by providing training.

HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
Directorate D - Food Safety: production and distribution chain
And
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE
Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements

**Inauguration of the Community Reference Laboratory
for Feed Additives Authorisation**

Tuesday, 9th November 2004

at

DG JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE
Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements
Geel

Chairman: A. Herrero, Director of IRMM

09h30 **Arrival at IRMM.**

10h00 Welcome address by R. Schenkel, JRC Acting Director General, BE.

10h15 “The collaboration between the Health and Consumer Protection DG and the DG-JRC”, P. Testori-Coggi, Director Food Safety, Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General, BE.

10h30 “The establishment of the CRL on Feed additives within the framework of the new Regulation on feed additives”, W. Penning, Head of Unit Animal Nutrition, Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General, BE.

10h40 “Member States views on the new authorization procedure laid down in Regulation 1831/2003”. G. Lunn, Head of Department Feedingstuffs and Fertilizers, Danish Plant Directorate, DK.

10h50 **Coffee break**

11h10 “Activities of the IRMM on food and feed safety”. E. Anklam, Head of Food Safety and Quality Unit, JRC-IRMM, BE.

11h20 “The CRL for feed additives authorisation and the feed network”. C. von Holst, CRL Operating Manager, Food Safety and Quality Unit, JRC-IRMM, BE.

11h30 “The role of EFSA and the collaboration with CRL in the assessment of feed additives under the new Regulation 1831/2003”, L. Vahteristo, Scientific Coordinator of the FEEDAP Panel, European Food Safety Authority, BE.

- 11h40 “The setting up of the CRL for GMOs under Regulation 1829/2003 on Genetically modified feed and food”, G. van den Eede, Head of Biotechnology and GMO’s Unit, JRC-IHCP, IT.
- 11h50 “Bridging the Commission and regulatory residue testing laboratories. A decade of CRLs experience”, Rainer Stephany, Project leader, [Laboratory for Residue Analysis \(CRL-ARO\)](#), NL.
- 12h00 “The point of view of the feed additive industry regarding the new system of evaluation of feed additives”, D. Jans, FEFANA Secretary General, BE.
- 12h10 “Expectation of the European compound feed industry with regards to the setting up of the CRL”, A. Döring, General Secretary FEFAC, BE.
- 12h20 Inauguration of the new Community Reference Laboratory for Feed Additives Authorisation. L. Arts, representing the Netherlands EU Presidency, will present a plaque marking the inauguration of the CRL to A. Herrero (JRC).**
- 12h30 Lunch**
- 14h15 Visit to IRMM, selected facilities: 4 groups of 15–20 people, 4 rotations**
Group A - Food Safety and Quality (FSQ) laboratories, main building.
Group B – FSQ and CRL laboratories, chemistry building.
Group C - CRL facilities, chemistry building.
Group D - Reference Materials Unit.
- 16h00 End of the CRL inauguration event and departure to Brussels**