

8.2.4. Labelling & Packaging Assessed for Quality.

Standard

Are labelling and packaging materials assessed for quality before use?

Purpose

To ensure a process is in place to assess packaging and labelling prior to use in production.

Reason

A label should meet the minimum labelling standards as per regulatory requirements. Feed safety risks could arise from:

1. Poor Quality & Packaging Integrity:

When the integrity and quality of packaging and labels is not according to specification, they may not withstand the manufacturing, transport, and storage process – affecting the quality of the final product.

2. Mislabelling:

Incorrect information, particularly where warning headings are not adhered to may cause confusion to end-user, and importantly, fail to meet regulatory requirements.

3. Missing Labels or Packaging:

Unaccounted labels or packaging present a feed safety risk – the wrong product may be placed in incorrect packaging or labelled inaccurately. This risk is especially critical in multi-species mills handling RAM or medicated products.

What is Acceptable?

Processing Incoming Raw Material – Standards, Receipt and Records (Fact Sheet 6.2.1 & 6.2.2) provides guidance for inspection, evaluation and approval of material. The assessment of labelling and packaging shall also consider:

Regulatory Requirements*

The label content shall match the specification provided to supplier; these include but not limited to:

- Product name.
- Ingredient list.
- Nutritional Composition.
- Feeding Guidelines.
- Manufacturer name & address.
- Batch/lot number.
- Net weight.
- Use by or best before date.
- Warning heading. Example **“This product contains restricted animal material – DO NOT FEED TO CATTLE, SHEEP, GOATS, DEER OR ANY OTHER RUMINANTS”**.

*Fact Sheet 4.3.1

There are species specific labelling requirements that must be adhered to, for more information visit:

- [Formulation and Labelling of Dairy Cow Transition Feed Guideline](#)
- [Feed Analysis Labelling Policy](#)
- [Horse Feed No Grain Labelling Requirements](#)
- [Uniform Labelling Guidelines](#)

Traceability

Packaging materials and labels shall be allocated a batch or lot number that allows traceability. The information shall be recorded on the inventory system. This information is critical in the event of a feed safety incident.

Quality

Print quality and legibility shall be assessed to ensure label content (Fact Sheet 4.3.1) is clear, legible and the correct font size. The label should be easily read, ensuring there is no smudging, fading, or illegible text.

If a label is pre-placed on a packaging bag, the durability and placement shall be inspected. Is the label securely adhered to the packaging? Will it remain secure during manufacture, transport and storage? Is the label placed in the correct location?

The integrity of packaging material shall be physically inspected for quality. It should be free from punctures, tears or contamination. The packaging material shall be previously selected to withstand handling, storage and transportation without damage to compromise feed quality.

The packaging shall also be previously verified as feed grade – safe for the packaging of animal feed removing the risk of contamination. This shall be confirmed upon arrival to mill, it may include a document inspection verified against purchasing documents.

Quantity Verification

This involves a cross-reference between purchasing document and inward goods invoice. A stock count shall be conducted to ensure the correct number of labels and packaging material have been supplied. Incorrect supply of labels or quantity could delay production or present a feed safety risk – the missing packaging or label could be used to package a different finished product.

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