FiBL Europe

Products for feeding

Basic admission criteria for the European Input List

Version 1, 29 June 2020

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1. Introduction

This document describes the criteria that need to be fulfilled in order for feeding products to be included in the European Input List. Additional criteria may apply for products to be included in a national list or a list of a private association. This document will be updated whenever necessary. The most recent version, which is available on the project website (www.inputs.eu), is the only valid version.

Requirements of EU organic legislation regarding feed and feeding

Art. 22 of Reg. 889/2008 states which substances may be used in the processing of organic feed and feeding organic animals. Annex V of Reg. 889/2008 lists the authorised feed materials. Annex VI of Reg. 889/2008 lists the authorised feed additives.

The European Input List – a private standard

The European Input List is a private standard. It is based on the relevant EU legislation (Reg. 834/2007 and in particular Reg. 889/2008). However, it also comprises additional criteria and interpretations, which were set by FiBL, in order to ensure compliance with the objectives and principles of organic production.

Scope of products included

The European Input List covers all kinds of inputs which are used in the context of animal feeding, such as primary feed materials, compound animal feedstuff, feed concentrates, mineral feed, complementary feed, feed premixes, additives for feedstuff products and products for silage preparation. Note: Some national lists include only a reduced scope of product types.

Safeguard clause

In addition to the requirements outlined in this document as well as in the General Business contract, the European Input List reserves the right to exclude substances or products from all product categories if there is evidence that they could have serious adverse effects on human health and/or the environment (e.g. carcinogenic, mutagenic, toxic to reproduction, endocrine disrupting, toxic to aquatic organisms, low biodegradability, persistent).

2. General requirements

2.1 Non-use of GMOs

Background

The EU organic legislation explicitly states that the use of GMOs and products produced from or by GMOs is to be excluded (Art. 4 of Reg. EC No. 834/2007).

Requirements

Products to be listed on the European Input List may not contain any GMOs and/or products thereof. At the moment, a 'non-GMO declaration' is required for all relevant materials, in particular:

- Micro-organisms (fungi, bacteria, yeasts) and microbial products
- All organic acids (e.g. ascorbic acid) and enzymes which are used as Preservatives or silage agents
- Vitamins and provitamins.
- Components of agricultural origin (e.g. maize, rapeseed, cotton, sugar beet) must generally be produced organically. For materials with an organic certificate, a 'non-GMO declaration' is not required. However, for conventional materials used under an exceptional rule (see below), the evaluation teams may request a non-GMO declaration.
- In case that microbial products contain significant remains of the growing media in the final product, the applicant shall prove that the growing media are of non-GMO origin.
- If considered relevant, the evaluation teams may request a non-GMO declaration also in other cases.

2.2 Requirements for feed materials of agricultural origin

Background

The EU organic legislation requires that animals shall be fed with feed materials from agricultural holdings (Art. 14 (d)(iii), Reg. EC No. 834/2007).

Requirements

- feed components of agricultural origin (plant and animal) must come from organic production (Art. 14 d of Reg. 834/2007), for exceptions, see below.

3. Specific requirements

3.1 Specific requirements for spices, herbs and molasses

Background

Spices, herbs and molasses for feeding purposes should preferably be of organic origin. However, according to Art. 22(b) of Reg. (EC) No. 889/2008, spices, herbs and molasses[1] may also be used in non-organic form under certain conditions.

Requirements

Non-organic spices, herbs and molasses are authorized under the following conditions:

- their organic form is not available, and
- they are produced or prepared without chemical solvents, and
- their use is limited to 1 % of the feed ration of a given species, calculated annually as a percentage of the dry matter of feed from agricultural origin.

3.2 Exceptions for conventional protein components

Background

Article 43 of Reg. (EC) No. 889/2008 rules the use of non-organic protein feed of plant and animal origin for livestock. However, it grants exemptions for non-organic protein feed

- where farmers are unable to obtain protein feed exclusively from organic production and
- it authorizes the use of a limited proportion of non-organic protein feed for porcine and poultry species.

Requirements

- Products containing non-organic protein components may be included into the European Input List. However their listing is subject to the following restriction: «Only authorised for pigs and poultry within the 5 % buying-in limit for conventional feed until 31.12.2020».
- Slaughterhouse wastes from conventional animals are excluded.

[1] In several countries (e.g. Germany, Austria, Switzerland), a sufficient supply of organic molasses has recently become available. In such countries, the national evaluation teams will phase out the use of conventional molasses.

3.3 Requirements for fishery products

Background

Art. 22(e) of Reg. (EC) No. 889/2008 specifies under which conditions fishery products may be used.

Requirements

Fishery products are authorized under the following conditions:

- they originate from sustainable fisheries, and
- they are produced or prepared without chemical solvents, and
- their use is restricted to non-herbivores, and
- the use of fish protein hydrolysate is restricted solely to young animals.

3.4 Requirements for fermentation (by-)products

Background

Art. 22 of Reg. 889/2008 specifies under which feed materials may be used.

Requirements

Fermentation (by-)products are authorized under the following conditions:

- The micro-organisms are listed in section 2 of Annex V of Reg. 889/2008 (currently *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* and *Saccharomyces carlsbergiensis*), and
- The products are produced or prepared without chemical solvents
- Their cells are inactivated or killed

4. Requirements for feed materials of mineral origin

Background

Section 1 of Annex V of Reg. (EC) No. 889/2008 lists the allowed feed materials of mineral origin.

Requirements

- Feed materials of mineral origin are restricted to those listed in Annex V of Reg. (EC) No. 889/2008.

4.1 Specific requirements for salts

Sea salt and coarse rock salt are authorized according to article 22, Reg. (EC) No. 889/2008.

5. Requirements for feed additives

Background

Annex VI of Reg. (EC) No. 889/2008 lists the authorized feed additives.

Requirements

- Feed additives are restricted to those listed in Annex VI of Reg. (EC) No. 889/2008.

5.1 Specific requirements for vitamins and trace elements?

For the time being the European Input List does not set any additional requirements for vitamins and trace elements. However certain national lists further limit their application. The respective national approaches follows national guidelines and private standards.

6. Requirements for products for silage preparation

Background

Among the additives that are authorized for animal nutrition, Annex VI of Reg. (EC) No. 889/2008 lists also silage additives. Silage additives shall only be applied, if weather conditions do not allow an adequate fermentation to happen.

Requirements

- Silage additives may only be composed of materials outlined in section 1 (e) of Annex VI of Reg. (EC) No. 889/2008.

7. Note on the use of natural rooting materials

Natural materials such as peat or lignocellulose may be used as litter or rooting materials. However, they are not authorized as feed materials in organic production and are therefore listed together with the products for cleaning, disinfection and hygiene.

8. Compliance with general legislation

The European Input List includes only products that comply with the relevant EU and national legislation. Compliance with relevant legislation is primarily in the responsibility of the applicant companies. However, if national evaluation teams suspect

that a product does not comply with the relevant legislation, they may postpone inclusion into the list until the applicant has demonstrated legal compliance.