BUSINESS PLAN
CEN/TC 327
ANIMAL FEEDING STUFFS – METHODS OF SAMPLING AND ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Business Environment

→ Consumption of total feed by farm animals in EU-27 in 2006 is around 470 million tonnes of which some 229 million tonnes of roughages and 241 million tonnes of concentrated feed.
→ Feed material production (concentrated feed) in EU-27 in 2006 is thus approximately 241 million tonnes.
→ Of these approximately 144 million tonnes are processed by the compound feed industry in EU-27 in 2006.
→ Numbers on feed material and compound feed trade:
  Import of some 41 million tonnes feed material, the import of compound feed is negligible.
  Export of cereals possibly as feed material, the export of compound feed is negligible.
→ EU legislation in the field of feeding stuffs is substantial (described in more detail later on)
→ Parties involved in methods of sampling and analysis of animal feeding stuffs are:
  the feed industry
  national governments/ legislators
  laboratories
  research institutes

CEN/TC 327 works in close cooperation with ISO/TC 34/SC 10 'Animal feeding stuffs', for a number of standards that are developed under the Vienna Agreement, with either an ISO or CEN lead, thus seeking to ensure common international requirements, both within and outside Europe.

Benefits

The benefits are that the users of the standards, i.e. the technicians in the laboratories have the possibility to use methods of analysis which:
  have been tested for applicability;
  have already been validated;
  are described in an understandable and clear manner;
  give clear instructions in which cases they are applicable
  have high levels of recognition compared to non-standardized methods.

The quality of feed has an impact on the quality of food. By protection of the quality of feed, the consumer is indirectly protected from low quality of foodstuffs, which may not really be toxic but which do not fulfill the European legislation concerning the allowed contents and additives, residues or contaminants.

By applying the methods of feed analysis standardized by CEN/TC 327, feed industry and feed control will avoid generating conflicting results when using different methods.
Priorities

Make European standards available related to EU legislation/official control, Quality assurance in industry and trade contracts. CEN/TC 327 sets priorities for methods to be standardized according to the current EU-legislation and actual needs.
1 BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT OF THE CEN/TC

1.1 Description of the Business Environment

The following political, economic, technical, regulatory, legal, societal and/or international dynamics describe the business environment of the industry sector, products, materials, disciplines or practices related to the scope of this CEN/TC, and they may significantly influence how the relevant standards development processes are conducted and the content of the resulting standards.

Industry, trade and the government have an interest in good quality animal feeding stuffs controlled in a reliable way. This is not only a common market interest. Also the interests of public health (microbiological quality, hormones, mycotoxins), animal health (additives, veterinary drugs) and environment (heavy metals and other undesired substances) play an important part.

When purchasing, producing or selling animal feeding stuffs or raw materials in the common market, validated and agreed methods are needed for a uniform judgement of conformity of products and processes to the requirements and specifications, in particular in the framework of Quality Assurance, Integral control of the production chain and for Official Control.

Official Control methods and standardized methods (e.g. of ISO) are widely used for that purpose. In the European Union and the European Economic Area, European Standards can play an important part in harmonizing the national standards of the member states and in supplying the specific European wants of industry, trade and legislation.

The work of CEN/TC 327 concerns trade of all kinds of feeding stuffs. The interested parties in the standardization process are all institutions which deal with the trade of feed and with quality of feeding stuffs, e.g. feed producers, feed trade institutions, official and private feed inspection services.

The European Standards shall be available as quotable reference documents for existing and future European Directives and Regulations. In brief, it can be stated that the European legislation lays down that feeds as traded in the European market shall be analysed for acceptability concerning the content of additives, residues and contaminants. Maximum levels of additives, residues and contaminants are fixed within several European Directives and Regulations.

Animal feeding stuffs legislation exists to ensure:
- the economic and healthy production of livestock;
- provision of the farmer with information;
- protection of public health and;
- facilitation of trade.

At present the following regulations are of relevance:

General legislation on the official control of feedingstuffs


This directive lays down general rules which are applicable to the methods of analysis adopted pursuant to Council Directive 70/373/EEC. These general rules consist of provisions concerning:

a) preparation of samples for analysis;
b) provisions relating to reagents and apparatus used in methods of analysis;
c) application of methods of analysis and expression of results.


Excerpt: (Article 11) Methods of sampling and analysis

1. Sampling and analysis methods used in the context of official controls shall comply with relevant Community rules or,
   (a) if no such rules exist, with internationally recognised rules or protocols, for example those that the European Committee for standardisation (CEN) has accepted or those agreed in national legislation; or, ...


Excerpt: (Article 3) The free movement of food and feed within the Community can be achieved only if food and feed safety requirements do not differ significantly from Member State to Member State.

1.2 Quantitative Indicators of the Business Environment

The following list of quantitative indicators describes the business environment in order to provide adequate information to support actions of the CEN /TC:

Farm animals in the EU-27 in 2006 consumed about 470 million tonnes of feed of which some 229 million tonnes of roughages and 241 million tonnes of concentrated feed (brochure FEFAC, 50th FEFAC Annual General Meeting, June 2007). Of the production of 241 million tonnes of concentrated feed about 144 million tonnes are processed by the European compound feed industry (brochure FEFAC, 50th FEFAC Annual General Meeting, June 2007). The production of feed materials in the 27 countries of the EU-27 in 2006 is estimated at 200 million tonnes and therefore some 41 million tonnes of feed material (concentrated feed) were imported in 2006 (pers. comm. FEFAC). The export from the EU-27 to countries outside Europe consists for a part of cereals, however how much of this is used for animal consumption is unknown. The import and export of compound feed are negligible (pers. comm. FEFAC). Meat and other farm animal products in EU 27 in 2006 represent a value of about 135.5 billion euro (pers. comm. FEFAC). Animal feed is the most important cost factor for animal output with values between 15 % and 70 % for different types of farm animals and an average of about 25 % (brochure FEFAC, 50th FEFAC Annual General Meeting, June 2007).

The availability of European Standards means that official or private food inspection laboratories in all countries can use the comprehensive list of methods provided by National Standardization Institutes, of which each method gives repeatable and reproducible results. Time-consuming double research to find out which method could be the appropriate one for a given problem will become more and more superfluous. The money such laboratories save due to the availability of a
list of methods (i.e., list of European Standards) cannot be calculated accurately, however, it can reasonably assumed to be enormous.

2 BENEFITS EXPECTED FROM THE WORK OF THE CEN/TC

The availability of standardized methods is of utmost importance to fulfill the requirements of a free movement of goods in the common market. The basis for a uniform judgement of feed in the common market is set up by standardized methods of analysis.

Official or private feed inspection laboratories in all CEN-member countries can make use of the work of CEN/TC 327, i.e. of the comprehensible list of methods that give repeatable and reproducible results. In those cases, were already horizontal standards have been elaborated, it is no longer necessary for analysts in the laboratory to carry out time consuming duplicate research, which method could be the most appropriate for a given problem.

The fact that all European inspection laboratories will be familiar with the same methods enables laboratories to exchange their experiences and to easily develop and improve the methods.

3 PARTICIPATION IN THE CEN/TC

All the CEN national members are entitled to nominate delegates to CEN Technical Committees and experts to Working Groups, ensuring a balance of all interested parties. Participation as observers of recognized European or international organizations is also possible under certain conditions. To participate in the activities of this CEN/TC, please contact the national standards organization in your country.

4 OBJECTIVES OF THE CEN/TC AND STRATEGIES FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENT

4.1 Defined objectives of the CEN/TC

The objective of CEN/TC 327 is the elaboration of standardized test methods for the sampling and analysis for animal feeding stuffs, including chemical, biochemical, physical and microscopical methods. Animal feeding stuffs are defined as any substance or product, including additives, whether processed, partially processed or unprocessed, intended to be used for oral feeding to animals.

In general, CEN/TC 327 does not elaborate standards on terminology but only on test methods.

CEN/TC 327 is active in different areas and has therefore established four working groups and one ad hoc working group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CEN/TC 327/WG 1.1</th>
<th>Organic contaminants</th>
<th>chairman</th>
<th>secretariat</th>
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<tr>
<td>CEN/TC 327/WG 1.2</td>
<td>Heavy metals, trace elements and minerals</td>
<td>Jürgen Danier</td>
<td>Aletta Debernardi (NEN)</td>
</tr>
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<td>CEN/TC 327/WG 2</td>
<td>Composition</td>
<td>Niels Ellerman</td>
<td>Aletta Debernardi (NEN)</td>
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<td>CEN/TC 327/WG 3</td>
<td>Feed additives and drugs</td>
<td>Christoph von Holst</td>
<td>Aletta Debernardi (NEN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEN/TC 327/ad hoc WG</td>
<td>Sample preparation</td>
<td>Jürgen Danier</td>
<td>Aletta Debernardi (NEN)</td>
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4.2 Identified strategies to achieve the CEN/TC’s defined objectives.

Points of interest of CEN/TC 327 in order to prioritize projects and produce European standards:

- Liaise and consult with stakeholders about new work items (tools), especially legislators and industry.
- Where applicable, undertake the field validation of proposed standards to ensure repeatability and reproducibility levels can be established which provide confidence in the use of the methods and enhance European harmonization. Encourage the provision of funding for field validation work.
- Secure the funding to enable field trials to be completed in a timescale which meets the requirements of European legislation and reduce the barriers to trade.
- Identify research needs.
- Promote the expert work carried out by CEN/TC 327.
- Review the work programme every year.
- CEN/TC 327 will actively pursue the co-operation with ISO/TC 34/SC 10 'Animal feeding stuffs' according to the Vienna Agreement.
- Take into consideration the information provided by the liaison members of CEN/TC 327 and other organizations in regular contact with CEN/TC 327, which are:
  - AOAC International
  - EAAP (European Association for Animal Production)
  - FEFAC (European Feed Manufacturers Association)
  - IFFO (International Fishmeal & Fish-oil Organisation)
  - European Commission (DG Sanco)
  - FEFANA (European Federation of feed additive Producers)
  - IMA-Europe (European Industrial Minerals Association)
  - COCERAL (Comité du Commerce des céréales, aliments du bétail, oléagineux, huile d'olive, huiles et graisses et agrofournitures)
  - FEDIAF (Fédération Européenne de l'industrie des Aliments pour Animaux Familiers)
  - EMFEMA (International association of European Manufacturers of Major, Trace and Specific Feed Mineral Materials)
  - ISO/TC 34/SC 10 'Animal feeding stuffs'
  - CEN/TC 307 'Oilseeds, vegetable and animal fats and oils and their by-products – Methods of sampling and analysis'
  - CEN/TC 338 ‘Cereal and cereal products’
  - CEN/TC 275 ‘Food analysis – Horizontal methods’

The task of the WGs is to identify
- which successfully collaboratively tested methods are available;
- which of these give comparable results;
- which of the available methods, if possible one of the comparable ones, is the most appropriate for adoption.

Already from the beginning, the TC has given the responsibility to the experts of the WGs together with a secretary to elaborate the drafts in a form which complies with the PNE Rules. All meetings are held in English language (no translation). Technical discussions are only held during the meetings of WGs (physical, usually no telephone or internet conferences), not in the TC, which mainly deals with superior and administrative topics. However, to comply with the Internal Rules of CEN, the TC adopts each draft to be launched for Enquiry or for Formal Vote. All WGs have secretarial support by professional staff of NEN, the Dutch National Standardization Institute, which holds the TC secretariat and has experience in CEN and ISO operational procedures. The working groups convene at least two times a year. The active projects in each WG are not described here but are provided in the work programme.
The TC and WGs are supported by members/experts from Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. Not all countries are represented in each WG. The technical resources currently available to the working groups include expertise from the interested parties, i.e. food industry, governmental agencies such as food inspection laboratories, private food laboratories and research institutes, e.g. universities. These highly qualified experts do not only attend the European meetings but are (ideally) also involved in National preparatory meetings in which the expertise of all interested National parties is concentrated.

5 FACTORS AFFECTING COMPLETION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CEN/TC WORK PROGRAMME

Two main factors are identified that play an important role in relation to the timely delivery of the required standards:
- availability of experts, and
- availability of funding.

The European Commission finances a major part of the work done by CEN/TC 327: the secretariat and chairman of CEN/TC 327 for 50 % of their work and the project leaders for 100 % of their work. The other 50 % of the work of the secretariat should be financed by the other parties concerned. CEN/TC 327 is in contact with organizations of European Industry to find co-financing as well as for financing standards that are not financed by the European Commission.

Time and costs for experts (not being a project leader) are provided by their employers, but to a limited amount. Experts have problems with getting allowance from their employers to participate in the Standardization work. Beside this, there are problems with finding laboratories available to participate in interlaboratory studies due to the time and costs involved to run the analyses.

As CEN target dates are very strict and the work during interlaboratory studies is very unpredictable, delays are not always foreseen.