businesscompanion
trading standards law explained

Mixing feed on-farm

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Although the United Kingdom left the European Union (EU) in 2021, certain pieces of legislation (known as 'assimilated law') continue to apply until such time as they are replaced by new UK legislation, revoked or permitted to expire. This means that our guidance still contains references to legislation that originated from the EU.

In this guide, the words 'must' or 'must not' are used where there is a legal requirement to do (or not do) something. The word 'should' is used where there is established legal guidance or best practice that is likely to help you avoid breaking the law.

This guidance is for England

Assimilated Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 *laying down requirements for feed hygiene* requires virtually all businesses that make, market or use animal feeds to be registered with or approved by their local authority.

The requirements for on-farm mixers of feed will vary, depending upon the types of feed being mixed. This can broadly be split into two areas, based on the Regulation's annexes:

- **Annex I.** Those farmers mixing feed for the exclusive requirements of their own holdings, without using additives or premixtures of additives (with the exception of silage additives)
- **Annex II.** Those farmers not falling into the Annex I category and those mixing feed with additives or premixtures of additives

Definition of additives

An additive means a substance, micro-organism or preparation intentionally added to feed or water in order to perform one or more specified functions. Additives must be authorised under assimilated Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 *on additives for use in animal nutrition*.

More information on additives can be found on the Food Standards Agency (FSA) website.

Only approved additives are permitted to be used in animal feed. Some additives have a limited level of permitted use and are only available for certain species of animals.

For a list of approved additives please refer to the register of regulated food and feed products for Great Britain on the FSA website. Applications in Great Britain for new authorisations, modifications to authorisations or authorisation renewals need to be submitted to the FSA's regulated products application service.

A premixture of additives means mixtures of approved additives or mixtures of one or more approved feed additives, with feed materials or water used as carriers; premixtures are not intended for direct feeding to animals.

Annexes to assimilated Regulation (EC) No 183/2005

The annexes to assimilated Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 (see the link in 'Key legislation' below) set out various standards that feed businesses must comply with.

Annex I

(requirements when mixing feed for use on farmers' own holdings only, without additives or premixtures of additives)

Farmers who fit into this category are required to comply with the requirements of Annex I. In summary, farmers subject to these requirements must:

- ensure that food and feed is produced in such a way as to prevent and minimise hazards and spoilage
- take measures to control any contamination of feed from air, soil, water, fertilisers, pesticides, veterinary medicinal products, etc
- keep clean and disinfect any buildings, vehicles or equipment used for feed mixing, where necessary
- only use clean water
- prevent animals, pests and waste from causing hazardous contamination
- take account of and act upon, where necessary, the results of any analysis carried out
- keep records of measures put in place to control hazards. In particular, records must be kept regarding the following (veterinary surgeons, agronomists and agents can assist in keeping these records):
    - any use of plant protection products and biocides
    - use of genetically modified seeds
    - any occurrence of pests or diseases
    - the results of any analyses carried out
    - the source and quantity of each input of feed, and the destination and quantity for each output of feed

- follow legislation and national guides of good practice regarding:
    - controlling sources of contamination, such as mycotoxins and heavy metals
    - use of water and fertilisers
    - traceability and correct use of pesticides
    - traceability and correct use of veterinary medicinal products
    - preparation, storage and traceability of feeds
    - correct and legal disposal of dead animals, waste and litter
    - prevention of the introduction of contagious disease

Annex II

(requirements when not falling under Annex I and/or mixing feed with additives or premixtures of additives)

Farmers who fit into this category are required to comply with the requirements of Annex II. This will apply to farmers who buy in feed additives or premixtures (except silage agents) and mix them directly - for example, with forage, cereals, etc. This activity is considered to be higher risk compared to other types of activity. In summary, farmers subject to these requirements must:

- apply and document the principles of HACCP (see below) to every step of the on-farm feed activities - for example, facilities, equipment, storage, record keeping, etc
- keep feed machinery clean and serviceable by checking on a regular basis. You should record any cleaning and maintenance measures carried out. Ensure all feed mixers and equipment are maintained and operated appropriately to the range of weights, dilutions and homogeneity required. Regular checks should be made to ensure that homogenous mixing is achieved; these checks should be recorded
- ensure that any scales or metering devices are appropriate to the weights or volumes being measured and are tested for accuracy regularly; these checks should be recorded
- ensure that personnel have sufficient skills necessary for the mixing of feed containing additives / premixtures. You should ensure that staff involved in mixing receive the appropriate training and practice. Any training given should be recorded
- have a written procedure or instructions for mixing operations. Follow suppliers' instructions for use for any additives / premixtures. You should record formulations and the date of manufacture and retain a representative sample of each batch of finished feed produced (and of raw materials if you supply to other farmers). Where formulations change, mixing equipment should be thoroughly cleaned and if necessary flushed, especially if mixing for different species, etc
- store additives / premixtures separately from finished feeds and feed materials to avoid cross-contamination
- keep records of the names and addresses of additive / premixture suppliers and of the quantities of additives / premixtures used with batch numbers recorded (this is in addition to the records mentioned above)
- document a complaints and product recall system if you supply other farmers

What is HACCP?

HACCP ('hazard analysis and critical control points') in relation to Annex II is a documented systematic approach to safety management.

A full HACCP study and system will analyse every step of the feed activities on-farm to identify hazards that may occur, and implement controls (critical control points). The seven steps to HACCP can briefly be described as follows:

- conduct a hazard analysis to find any potential hazards that could occur during production. A hazard is something that might be harmful and may involve microbiological, chemical or physical contamination. Determine what controls you can put in place to eliminate the hazards or reduce them to a safe, acceptable level
- determine the critical control points (CCP). Decide which of these controls are critical to ensuring feed safety. A control is critical if the hazard will not be removed at any later stage of production
- establish critical limits applicable to the CCPs - that is, establish criteria to separate acceptability from unacceptability
- establish a system to monitor controls of the CCPs. Once controls have been put in place, they should be monitored on a regular basis to ensure they work effectively. It is not necessary to check controls on every occasion a particular process is carried out, provided you are sure that the frequency of checks will enable any problems to be identified before there is a risk to feed safety
- establish the corrective action to be taken when monitoring identifies that a particular CCP is not under control. You and your staff must be clear on what action should be taken when monitoring shows that there may be a problem
- review your system and verify its effectiveness. Once established, the system must be reviewed with procedures in place to ensure that the HACCP system is working and is verified as effective. Reviews and verification should take place on a regular basis when any operations of the business change or when problems are identified
- establish documentation in the form of records and procedures in accordance with these principles

The Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) has produced *The Application of HACCP Principles: A Practical Guide for the Agri-Food Supply Chain*, which is designed for use both by businesses for which HACCP may be a completely new concept and also for those with prior experience of it. Access to the guide is limited to AIC members.

The FSA website also has information on HACCP, as well as guidance for farmers on HACCP-related requirements.

Businesses must apply a HACCP system appropriate to the feed activities carried out.

Annex III

(farmers feeding food-producing animals)

All farmers are required, in addition to the Annex I or Annex II requirements, to comply with the requirements of Annex III. In summary, all farmers must:

- manage grazing to prevent the contamination of foods of animal origin by physical, biological or chemical hazards
- observe appropriate rest periods before grazing livestock on pasture treated with manure or chemicals
- design and maintain clean stabling and feeding equipment
- implement a pest control system
- maintain feed and bedding so that it is clean and free from mould
- store feed separately from chemicals and other products prohibited in animal feed
- store medicated feed so as to avoid the risk of cross-contamination
- handle feeds so that contamination and cross-contamination do not occur
- clean watering systems regularly
- ensure that anybody with responsibility for feeding and handling of animals possesses the required ability, knowledge and competence

Mixing with medicines and specified additives

This guidance does not apply to the mixing and use of specified feed additives - for example, coccidiostats and histomonostats. Nor does it apply to the mixing of feed to include veterinary medicines.

For further information, see the Veterinary Medicines Directorate's veterinary medicines guidance, which can be found on the GOV.UK website.

Further information

The FSA's guidance for farmers producing animal feed contains information for those producing or mixing feed.

See also 'Feed hygiene for farmers and growers'.

Trading Standards

For more information on the work of Trading Standards services - and the possible consequences of not abiding by the law - please see 'Trading Standards: powers, enforcement and penalties'.

In this update

No major changes.

Last reviewed / updated: September 2025

Key legislation

- assimilated Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 *on additives for use in animal nutrition*
- assimilated Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 *laying down requirements for feed hygiene*
- Animal Feed (Composition, Marketing and Use) (England) Regulations 2015
- Animal Feed (Hygiene, Sampling etc and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2015

Please note

This information is intended for guidance; only the courts can give an authoritative interpretation of the law.

The guide's 'Key legislation' links go to the legislation.gov.uk website. The site usually updates the legislation to include any amendments made to it. However, this is not always the case. Information on all changes made to legislation can be found by following the above links and clicking on the 'More Resources' tab.

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