

FDA is developing an Animal Feed Safety System that minimizes the risk to animal and public health through the use of risk-based, preventive, and comprehensive animal feed control measures. As part of this process we have established draft definitions for comprehensive and risk-based.

Comprehensive

A comprehensive animal feed safety system would incorporate the following concepts:

1. it would apply to the whole range of feed products, including all ingredients and finished feeds;
2. use ingredients approved and/or recognized by an established regulatory agency or entity whose members are charged with a responsibility of enforcing laws regulating the production, labeling, distribution, or sale of animal feeds;
3. cover the complete range and variety of facilities involved in animal feed production;
4. have the flexibility to be process- or product-oriented, depending on the situation;
5. address feeds produced for food and non-food animals;
6. cover all known hazards, and be applicable to hazards not yet identified;
7. address both human and animal health issues, and,
8. acknowledge and coordinate regulatory authorities at all levels, including local, state, tribal and federal, involved in feed safety.

Risk-Based

A risk-based approach for the Animal Feed Safety System identifies and assesses the risks to animal and human health posed by biological, chemical and physical hazards in animal feed. In this context, risk is a function of the likelihood of human or animal exposure to deleterious amounts of such hazards in feeds, and the significance of the health consequences in response to those exposures. Analysis of the risks posed by feed hazards will help the agency identify the appropriate regulatory approach for each hazard, and will permit the agency to make effective and efficient use of regulatory resources.