

ANIMAL FEED REGULATORY PROGRAM STANDARDS

National Standards for Feed Inspection Programs

A joint project of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO)

BACKGROUND

In 2009, FDA drafted a vision paper on building an Integrated Food Safety System (IFSS). One of the key principles of an IFSS is the uniform application of model programs so that regulatory agencies conduct inspections under the same set of standards. The Food Safety Modernization Act, signed into law in January 2011, further builds upon this principle by supporting enhanced partnerships with state and local government agencies, and the integration of these regulatory programs to support a national food and feed safety system.

The following year, the AAFCO Board of Directors encouraged FDA to partner with AAFCO to develop animal feed regulatory program standards (AFRPS).

ISSUE

Presently, there are no recognized uniform standards for state feed regulatory programs. As the United States moves towards integrating food safety resources, uniform standards across feed regulatory programs are needed.

In 2011, FDA and AAFCO entered into a joint partnership to develop the AFRPS. These standards are designed to integrate the regulatory activities of partner agencies into an efficient and effective process for improving food and feed safety in the United States.

BENEFITS

The AFRPS will provide a framework that every state can use to determine the strengths and needs of its program. Implementation of these standards will build uniformity and consistency among state feed regulatory programs and further efforts to develop an integrated food safety system.

CONCLUSION

The program standards are intended to be implemented by animal feed regulatory programs. The draft document is targeted to be completed in 2012.