

## **P.4.- Portuguese Official Inspection in the field of animal nutrition concerning the detection of banned meat and bone meal**

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Since 1993 that Portuguese competent authorities have developed an official inspection in the field of animal nutrition, helping safeguard of animal health, human health and environment, as well as to ensure the fairness of commercial transactions and protect the interests of consumers. Starting with the detection of the presence of illegal anabolic agents in animal feed, several changes have been added to the strategy control, such as the raw data composition in order to evaluate the compliance of feedingstuffs labelling, additives content, as well as undesirable and forbidden substances determination. All the routine methods are EU official methods of analysis, European or International Standards or based in recognised scientific papers.

Due to the problem of BSE, with the first Portuguese diagnosed case in 1990, and in view to accomplish European and national legislation meanwhile adopted, a new official method was included to the control plan. The method based on the guidelines for microscopic examination established by Directive 98/88/CE, was implemented after a training course in Rome in 1998 and the participation in an proficiency test (organised by European Commission), and allows the qualitative identification of animal origin constituents in animal nutrition.

Actually the inspection program comprises four official plans with different business operator targets: manufacturers of compound feedingstuffs and onfarm mixers (PNCACA); livestock farms, intermediates and distributors of compound feedingstuffs, premixes and feed additives (complementary plan); fish meal manufacturers, (autocontrol plan) and 3rd countries importation of fish meal. The matrices analysed are animal feedingstuffs, raw materials (vegetables and animals origin) and premixes.

So far, we have analysed more than ten thousand samples and only eight of them were considered positive: three in 1999, four in 2000, and one in 2004, all observed in the feedingstuffs samples from livestock farms.

### ***Keywords***

*Official control, animal feed, microscopic method.*