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Press Release - Melamine

ANIMAL FEED MANUFACTURERS INVESTIGATE CONTAMINATED RAW MATERIALS WITH MELAMINE

The Animal Feed Manufacturers Association (AFMA), has just completed its investigation into contamination of feed raw materials with melamine. The information reveals that, milk being contaminated through animal feeding, was indeed caused by a raw material remaining from the April-May 2007 melamine scandal in the Pet Food and Animal Feed industries.

In September 2008 there was speculation that contaminated Chinese raw materials were present in the market. The industry has been on alert since May 2007 during which period international cases of contaminated raw materials in the Pet Food and Animal Feed industries had to be dealt with. AFMA has been warning its members at regular intervals to test all raw materials, pre-mixes and feed additives for the presence of Melamine.

As a result of the pro-active actions and warning by AFMA to its members a suspect raw material was identified by a member and samples of the raw material, feed and milk product were sent for analysis. As a precautionary measure, while more laboratory tests were done, this raw material was immediately withdrawn from the market as well as any products which were manufactured containing this raw material. The source of contamination has been removed from the supply chain.

Parallel to this process, AFMA furthermore contracted AFRI Compliance Management Services (an independent auditing company) to investigate the process and the events surrounding the alleged contaminated raw material. It is expected that this investigation will reveal circumstances surrounding the contamination.

The majority of information indicates that this is an isolated incident in a specific geographical region of the country and the product was used for a short period of time. It is clear that the Industry had been misinformed that the contaminated raw material would be harmless to ruminant animals and would be metabolized, as a non protein nitrogen source making it safe for use.

The route of contamination, toxicity levels of melamine and it's interactions with cyanuric acid and other compounds are complex and the threats need to be evaluated in this context. Currently no threat to human health is anticipated as has been the case in China where melamine *per se* was added directly to human food products.



As an assurance to their clients, AFMA members confirm that they are testing their raw materials, for melamine and are requesting suppliers to verify that their products are melamine free. AFMA has during this investigations being liaising with SAMPRO, the representative body of the SA Milk Processors.

For more information, contact AFMA
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