



Association des Amidonniers et Féculiers

Seventh Fusarium Toxin Forum

1 – 2 February 2010

On the occasion of this year's Mycotoxins Forum, the European Starch Industry – AAF – would like to communicate that the mycotoxins data collection for the 2009 harvest highlights that most values are below the Limit of Quantification (LOQ) and anyway well below the limits or guidance levels.

We take our responsibility in the field of mycotoxins and since the year 2000 we present to the Commission and to our customers the results of the analyses made by individual AAF members on raw materials and on food and feed products in our industry.

On the basis of the data provided by the AAF – showing that in the in the food products from the maize wet milling process fusarium toxins are hardly present - the European Commission established an exception from the limits on unprocessed maize for the wet milling process, provided some conditions are met. Such exception, as shown by the data gathered and as recognised by the Commission, does not weaken the level of protection of consumers' health. The AAF wishes to reiterate once again, its full commitment to operate based on monitoring programs aimed to deliver safe products to both its food and feed outlets.

Our yearly mycotoxin data collection also showed that implemented control measures are effective to manage the risk of mycotoxins' presence in feed, as all samples collected were well below the guidance levels.

This situation leads us to ask to maintain the current regulatory limits for food and not to change the current feed regime based on guidance levels.

The AAF will continue to collect and process data on deoxynivalenol, zearalenone and fumonisins as well as on T-2 and HT-2 toxins to ensure the compliance of our products with both the food Regulation and the feed Recommendation. As far as T-2 and HT-2 are concerned, we believe it is still premature at this stage to set limits on all cereals for these toxins, mainly because there is (1) scarcity of data, (2) further research on sampling is necessary, (3) there are no validated analytical methods of analysis, (4) clarification on the limit of detection is a prerequisite to estimate the dietary exposure and (5) effects of agricultural practices are not yet known for fusarium species producing these toxins.

Should in the future the need arise to modify the current regime, we stress the importance of following a consistent approach between the various levels set from raw materials to end products. In addition, should the decision be made to establish limits for fusarium toxins in feed, ad hoc studies should be carried out and data should be gathered to decide upon any such limits, and they should be set per feed category. Also, an impact assessment should be carried out to avoid that unrealistic targets are set that will lead to shortage/increased prices and wastage of feed products without contributing to the protection of animal health.

29 January 2010