

Dioxin contamination incident in Germany

Closing information note

→ At one feed fat producing company in Germany, feed fat intended for feed was mixed with fatty acids, which were intended for technical purposes. These fatty acids were contaminated with dioxins.

→ The batch of fatty acids for technical purposes originated from a biodiesel company in Germany. Seven other batches of fatty acids were delivered from the biodiesel company to the feed fat producer via a trader. Three of these batches of fatty acids, delivered in the second half of November 2010, were found to be contaminated. The other four batches of fatty acids, delivered in the first half of December 2010, were not found to be contaminated. The source of the contamination of the fatty acids is still unclear.

→ By way of precaution, pending the outcome of dioxin analysis, all feed fat produced at the feed fat company from 12 November 2010 onwards was considered to be potentially contaminated.

→ The potentially contaminated feed fat (2256 tonnes) has been delivered to 25 compound feed manufacturers in Germany. There were no deliveries of potentially contaminated feed fat outside Germany.

→ Compound feed produced with the potentially contaminated feed fat has been delivered to laying hen, fattening poultry (broilers and turkey), pig, dairy cattle, bovine, rabbit and goose farms, nearly exclusively in Germany. **Based on the available information, no deliveries of potentially contaminated compound feed have taken place outside Germany**, with the exception of deliveries of compound feed for breeding hens to France and Denmark. From the batches compound feed delivered to Denmark, two batches were found to be contaminated above the EU maximum level. This feed has been traced and the breeder hens fed with the contaminated feed have not entered the food chain. The two batches of compound feed that were sent to France were compliant with EU legislation.

→ All potentially contaminated feed fat, compound feed and farms having received potentially contaminated feed are blocked by way of strict precaution pending the outcome of dioxin analysis. There were initially 4,760 potentially affected farms in Germany - this number was dropped on Friday 14 January 2011 to 316 farms given the analytical results and/or investigations conducted.

➔ On Friday 14 January 2011, following further intensive investigations, it was found out that one involved feed manufacturer did not provide the full list of farms which have received potentially contaminated feed and that he made also a false declaration as regards the use of feed fat in the produced compound feed. By way of precaution, the German authorities decided to block (again) without delay all farms which have received feed from that feed manufacturer, awaiting analytical results and outcome of investigations. A legal action against the feed manufacturer has been initiated.

➔ Since 2 March 2011 no farms are anymore blocked

➔ Of 230 samples from eggs from blocked farms analysed, 195 samples are compliant with EU legislation. The highest level found in eggs produced with contaminated feed is 12 pg WHO – PCDD/F – TEQ / g fat (the EU maximum level is 3.0 pg/g fat) and in poultry meat (meat of laying hens) 4.99 pg WHO – PCDD/F – TEQ / g fat (the EU maximum level is 2.0 pg/g fat).

➔ Analytical results of 507 pig meat samples from possibly contaminated blocked farms have also become available. 497 analytical results are compliant with EU legislation (i.e. below the EU maximum level of 1 pg WHO – PCDD/F – TEQ /g fat, for 4 samples the level found (1.07, 1.07, 1.8 and 1.10 pg WHO – PCDD/F – TEQ/ g fat) falls within the measurement uncertainty of the maximum level and are according to EU legislation compliant). For 10 samples of test slaughterings, the EU maximum level was slightly exceeded (levels between 1.1 and 1.6 pg/g fat). It concerns pigs which have been fed with feed with a high proportion of contaminated feed fat. The pigs with levels of dioxin non-compliant with the EU-legislation have not entered the food chain.

➔ Available analytical results of meat from fattening chickens, turkey, beef and milk from blocked farms were all compliant with the EU maximum levels.

An overview of the available analytical results on food of animal origin from blocked farms is hereby provided (situation 23/02/2011)

Food	Number of samples	Samples above the maximum level
Eggs and egg products	230	35
Meat from laying hens	20	5
Meat from broilers	20	0
Meat from fattening turkey	86	0
Pig meat	507	10*
Beef	7	0
Cows' milk	44	0
Rabbit meat	3	0
Sum	917	50

* The non-compliant levels are between 1.1 and 1.6 pg/g WHO-PCDD/F-TEQ/g fat .

➔ The contaminated food products originating from the affected farms are being traced and withdrawn from the market.

➔ No contaminated food of animal origin has been traded or exported to other Member States and third countries with the exception of the delivery of two batches of potentially contaminated eggs to the Netherlands. After processing, one of these batches was sent to the UK. On 10 January 2011, the analytical result of the batch egg products blocked in the Netherlands became available and was found to be compliant with EU legislation (level analysed is 0.23 pg/g fat while EU maximum level is 3 pg/g fat) .

Also the meat of 35 potentially contaminated pigs from a blocked farm was sent to Poland and the Czech Republic before the farm was blocked. It was confirmed that this meat was not traded further and analysis has shown that the potentially contaminated pig meat sent to the Czech Republic was compliant with the EU maximum level. The meat sent to Poland was already consumed and could not be analysed anymore.