

Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/786 of 19 May 2015 defining acceptability criteria for detoxification/decontamination processes applied to products intended for animal feed as provided for in Directive 2002/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council

[Directive 2002/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 May 2002](#) on undesirable substances in animal feed provides that Member States are to ensure that measures are taken to guarantee the correct application of any acceptable detoxification/decontamination process on products intended for animal feed and the conformity of those detoxified/decontaminated products with the provisions of Annex I of that Directive.

In order to ensure a uniform assessment across the European Union of the acceptability of detoxification/decontamination processes, acceptability criteria for detoxification/decontamination processes are established at Union level by [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2015/786 of 19 May 2015 defining acceptability criteria for detoxification processes applied to products intended for animal feed as provided for in Directive 2002/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council](#).

The acceptability criteria for detoxification/decontamination processes ensure that the detoxified/decontaminated feed does not endanger animal and public health and the environment and that the characteristics of the feed are not adversely altered by the detoxification/decontamination process. Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/786 provides for the acceptability criteria for a physical detoxification/decontamination process, chemical detoxification/decontamination process and (micro)biological process. The Annex to the Regulation provides details on the information which feed business operators have to provide to the Commission for the purpose of assessment by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA).

Detoxification/decontamination processes through which the contamination by an undesirable substance is reduced or eliminated solely by the usual refining process, cleaning, sorting or mechanical removal of contaminants or certain parts of the contaminated feed are excluded from the scope of the Regulation as such processes are part of the usual production process

Also the feed additives belonging to the functional group of additives which suppress or reduce the absorption of mycotoxins, promote their excretion or modify their mode of action and thereby mitigate possible adverse effects of mycotoxins on animal and public health do not fall within the scope as these additives do not change the level of the undesirable substance in the feed as the feed itself is not detoxified/decontaminated by the use of these additives and furthermore, these additives are not intended to be used for non-compliant feed.

A detoxification/decontamination process shall only be applied if

- the process is exclusively intended for the detoxification/decontamination of feed in which the non-compliance as regards Directive 2002/32/EC does not result from an on purpose non-compliance as regards the application of good hygiene practices along the feed chain.

- EFSA has performed on, the request of the Commission a scientific assessment of the detoxification/decontamination process and concluded that the detoxification/decontamination process complies with the acceptability criteria.

In case of an urgent need to detoxify/decontaminate a large amount of feed with a detoxification/decontamination process not yet assessed by EFSA, the Commission may request to EFSA on request of a competent authority to provide within a short period of time for an assessment of the detoxification/decontamination process to enable, in case of a favourable outcome, for a defined short period of time, the detoxification/decontamination of specifically identified contaminated consignments. The use of this detoxification/decontamination process on a wider scale for an undetermined period of time is only allowed after EFSA has performed a comprehensive scientific assessment with favourable outcome.

The detoxification/decontamination process shall only be performed in an establishment approved for that purpose in accordance with Article 10(3) of [Regulation \(EC\) No 183/2005](#). To ensure a correct and effective application of the detoxification/decontamination process, the detoxification/decontamination process should be accepted by the competent authority to be performed in the relevant establishment.

Taking into account the experiences of the assessment of the detoxification/decontamination processes in the past years, EFSA will prepare a guidance to feed business operators regarding the information needed to support the risk assessment of the

Overview of detoxification/decontamination processes assessed by EFSA

Contaminant	Feed	Process	Date of adoption	Outcome of assessment	Link to opinion
dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs	fish oil	physical filtration with activated carbon	04/07/2017	compliant with the acceptability criteria	https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/4961
hydrocyanic acid	linseed	enzymatic release and subsequent evaporation	19/09/2017	compliant with the acceptability criteria	https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/5004
dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs	fish oil	physical filtration with activated carbon	21/11/2017	compliant with the acceptability criteria	https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/5081
dioxins and PCBs	fish meal	hexane extraction and fish oil replacement	23/01/2018	compliant with the acceptability criteria	https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/5173
dioxins and PCBs	Fish meal	oil extraction followed by replacement with decontaminated fish oil	23/01/2018	compliant with the acceptability criteria	https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/5174
aflatoxins	groundnut press cake	ammoniation	23/11/2021	not confirmed for compliance with the acceptability criteria	https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/7035
dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs	fish oil and vegetable oils and fats	physical process with activated carbon	12/07/2022	not possible to conclude on compliance with the acceptability criteria	https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/7524
Scientific assistance in an emergency situation					
dioxins and PCBs	sunflower cake	hexane extraction	30/07/2018	compliant with the acceptability criteria	https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/5398