

Advice 19-2008 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC: evaluation of a methodology to measure cross-contamination in feed (Dossier N° 2007/24bis)

The Scientific Committee is asked to evaluate the effectiveness of the microtracer method to measure the homogeneity and cross-contamination in feed and to compare this method with three other methods based on the use of salinomycine-sodium, cobalt and a manganese-protein mixture.

The Scientific Committee based its advice on the results of the European "Cross-Conta" project. In this project it is recommended: i) to use, in most cases, the microtracer to evaluate feed for homogeneity and cross-contamination controls, II) to use cobalt for premix controls, III) to use yttrium for the control of feed in production circumstances in which high temperature, pressure or vapour treatment are used.

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that currently no optimal method exists to measure the homogeneity of feed mixtures and the cross-contamination of feed manufacturing installations. Each proposed method has its own limitations and shortcomings. However, the microtracer method might be recommended in most cases provided that its robustness is documented for the planned application and that approved and accredited laboratories for the analysis of the tracer are available in Belgium.