



# THE CASE FOR MODERNIZATION OF THE CANADIAN FEEDS REGULATIONS

## Questions & Answers



### 1. What are the Canadian Feeds Regulations?

Production of commercial livestock and poultry feeds in Canada is governed by the *Feeds Act and Regulations*, which came into force in 1983. These regulations were developed at a time of rapid change and growth in the industry and they represented a needed modernization of rules put in place in the 50's and which had been overtaken by events in the industry.

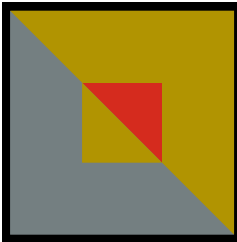
Before this time, animal feed was produced in modest amounts at small feed mills across the country and these feeds were sold locally. While these rules were right for the time, they have not been substantively updated in 30 years. Today, Canada lags behind other industrialized countries with regulations that do not reflect the new food safety practices, commercial realities or scientific knowledge.

### 2. Were the regulations not updated over the years?

Amendments were introduced to the regulations over the years. However, there were no significant changes introduced that would address today's concerns around feed-borne illnesses and animal health or reflect new food safety systems and practices. Essentially, the focus of the regulations remains the same as it was in their early days. In the early 1950's, the regulations were focused on how feed should be manufactured – diet composition- as opposed to feed safety and risk mitigation by reducing feed-borne risks to human and animal health.

### 3. Why do we need new feed regulations?

The current Feeds Regulations are outdated and do not reflect advances in science or in risk management and mitigation and place Canada at the back of the pack when it comes to animal food safety. Our major trading partners, the European Union and the United States (but also Australia and New Zealand) have adopted a more progressive way of regulatory strategy, focusing systematically on the safety and quality of the feed being manufactured.



## THE CASE FOR MODERNIZATION OF THE CANADIAN FEEDS REGULATIONS

### Questions & Answers



#### 4. What are the key changes being proposed by ANAC?

ANAC's vision is of a new regulatory environment that will increase food safety, foster innovation and make the feed industry more competitive. Our ultimate goal is to bring Canada's regulatory system into the 21<sup>st</sup> century by focusing it more on identifying real safety risks. To achieve this, ANAC proposes two key changes:

To achieve this, we are proposing two key changes:



Align the *Feeds Regulations* with international standards and practices. To do this, we are recommending the adoption of hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) based systems to enhance feed safety and regulatory efficiency. HACCP is recognized in the international communities and in fact, is mandatory under legislation in the European Communities.



Feed facility registration based on risk. This would involve having feed mills having HACCP accreditation in place, with such mills being accredited to produce feed composed of ingredients approved by the CFIA. Feed registration would continue to be necessary for feed facilities that do not have or cannot meet HACCP accreditation requirements and /or for feeds that include non-approved ingredients.

#### 5. Would having a HACCP system mean the feed industry would no longer be regulated?

Not at all, feed mill facilities would continue to be regulated and inspected by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). A HACCP-based safety system would free up government inspection and enforcement resources to better focus on demonstrated safety and health risks.



**THE CASE FOR MODERNIZATION OF THE  
CANADIAN FEEDS REGULATIONS**

**Questions & Answers**



**6. What is FeedAssure?**

FeedAssure™ is a comprehensive feed safety management and certification program voluntarily developed for the Canadian commercial feed industry through the Animal Nutrition Association of Canada (ANAC) in 1999. FeedAssure is a HACCP program specifically design to meet the requirements of the commercial feed industry and facilitate regulatory compliance. FeedAssure™ is both a system-wide safety control and a valuable business tool for the animal feed industry. FeedAssure has been reviewed and approved by the inspection division of the CFIA as being equivalent to their food safety/HACCP (FSEP) program.

**7. Would the proposed changes have an impact on BSE safeguards currently in place?**

Not at all, the *Health of Animals Act and Regulations* would continue to provide the same, stringent animal health safeguards. Further, enhanced safety and animal health control measures are well established in commercial feed mills and would only be enhanced by the mandated HACCP system proposed by ANAC.

April 2011