

GMP+ International launches simplified scheme in 2020

Feed certification scheme, GMP+ Feed Safety Assurance (GMP+ FSA) is given a makeover. The design will be simpler and the normative documents easier to read. GMP+ International decided to initiate this makeover after feedback from the sector. Hisfa, the association for the forage trade is involved in '#ProjectGMP+2020'. Board member Robin Sanders: "We listened to the interests of the SMEs."

In just 25 years, GMP+ International has evolved from a guideline for the Dutch feed sector into an mature and internationally recognized feed certification scheme. With over 18.000 certified companies, GMP+ FSA is the largest scheme for feed safety in the world. The standards are documented in normative documents, the foundation of the scheme. These documents have been thoroughly assessed over the past year and rewritten in collaboration with stakeholders.

'Companies are given more own responsibility'

Objectives

"For some entrepreneurs, the documents are not always easy to understand," Robin Sanders, co-owner of Sanders Fourage explains. As Hisfa board member, Sanders is involved in the renewal of the scheme. "This is caused by the matter itself, but also by the abundance of abbreviations. In addition, we have critically assessed the design. In the current situation, companies must consult several standards to find the certification requirements. This will change. In the new design, all standards are combined into one clear standards, available at just one location." In addition, companies are given a lot more freedom. In the new standards, the objectives are defined. It is up to companies how to achieve these. "So less ready-made procedures" Sanders summarizes the changes. "companies are given more own responsibility".

GMP+ FSA: the changes in brief

- From multiple standards to one standard
- More targeted requirements
- More own responsibility
- More understandable language
- Organized lay-out



Robin Sanders
Board member Hisfa



Simpler and easier to understand

Although the design and the texts have been overhauled, substantive adjustments are limited to a minimum. Companies that currently meet the standards of GMP+ FSA will still be in compliance after the makeover. "For most companies, there isn't a lot of additional work. Of course, entrepreneurs must still thoroughly study the matter", says Sanders. After publication of the standards, a multi-year transition period will follow.

As Hisfa board member, Sanders represented the interests of the SMEs during the process. "Our feedback has been heard, which makes us very happy. At times, we spent hours discussing precise formulations. And not without result: the documents have become much easier to understand. Organized lay-out, easy to read texts and a simpler scheme."