GMP+ International

FAQ Starting with GMP+

GMP+ D 3.6

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GMP+ Feed Certification scheme

Feed Safety Worldwide

gmpplus.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

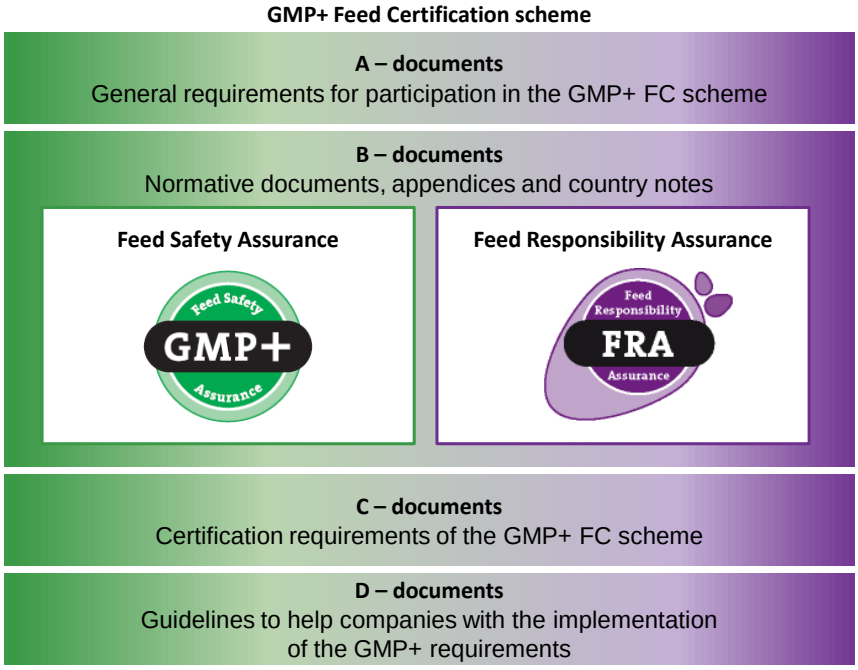
1 Introduction

The GMP+ Feed Certification scheme was initiated and developed in 1992 by the Dutch feed industry in response to various more or less serious incidents involving contamination in feed materials. Although it started as a national scheme, it has developed to become an international scheme that is managed by GMP+ International in collaboration with various international stakeholders.

GMP+ International supports the GMP+ participants with useful and practical information by way of a number of guidance documents, databases, newsletters, Q&A lists and seminars.

The certification scheme consists of various standard documents, subdivided into an A, B and C document section.

In addition, there are so-called D-documents. These are not normative documents. D-documents are intended as additional information or explanation about the scheme documents.



This FAQ list is the result of questions actually asked by companies. These companies can ask a question by mail or telephone. By including frequently asked or relevant questions in a Q&A list, GMP+ International hopes that companies can turn to it with their questions and can find the answer they are looking for. If you have any questions that are not included in this list, please contact GMP+ International via the contact form or via info@gmpplus.org.

2 Select the relevant GMP+ FSA standard

2.1 What is the first thing my company has to do if it wishes to be GMP+ certified

It is important for a company to clearly know for what it seeks certification and what possibilities the GMP+ Feed Certification scheme offers for that. Therefore, we recommend starting with describing all activities you carry out with feed. Feed can be subdivided into:
1) compound feed
2) premixtures
3) additives
4) feed materials.
The EU definitions of feed form the basis for this classification.
For a more detailed manual, the GMP+ Guidance has been drawn up GMP+ D1.2.

2.2 Is GMP+ certification required?

GMP+ certification is not required for companies, there is no Law dictating that companies must have a GMP+ certificate. However, in the market, it is often demanded. Mainly in European countries, certification in the chain is expected. For instance, livestock farmers that only purchase feed from GMP+ certified companies. Or compound feed companies that expect and demand from their supplier that they control the safety of supplied products. GMP+ certification offers a lot of sales opportunities, domestically and abroad.
More information can be found on our website.

2.3 What is a scope?

A scope is a definition of an activity. For instance, production of compound feed. This activity covers sub activities, such as grounding, mixing and crushing, but also planning, purchasing, storage, bagging etc. Within GMP+ certification, the following scopes are defined:

Group	Scope	Scope activities	Standard
Production	Production of compound feed	Producing: collection, drying, cleaning, mixing, producing, packing Storage of compound feed produced in-house Selling compound feed produced in-house Bagging, planning, purchasing, (interim) storage, internal transport.	B1, B1.2
	Production of premixtures	Producing: collection, drying, cleaning, mixing, producing, packing Storage of premixtures produced in-house Selling premixtures produced in-house Bagging, planning, purchasing, (interim) storage, internal transport.	B1, B1.2
	Production of feed materials	Producing: collection, drying, cleaning, mixing, producing, packing Storage of feed materials produced in-house	B1, B1.2, B2

		Selling feed materials produced in-house Bagging, planning, purchasing, (interim) storage, internal transport.	
	Production of additives	Producing: collection, drying, cleaning, mixing, producing, packing Storage of additives produced in-house Selling additives produced in-house Bagging, planning, purchasing, (interim) storage, internal transport.	B1, B1.2, B2
	Production of pet feed	Producing: collection, drying, cleaning, mixing, producing, packing Storage of pet feed produced in-house Selling of pet feed produced in-house in-house Bagging, planning, purchasing, (interim) storage, internal transport.	B,1 B8
Storage, transshipment and trade	Storage and transshipment of feed	Preservation & silage, chopping of forage, crushing or breaking + packing, dehulling, adding water, mixing 2 equal feed materials, bulking, planning, internal transport, storage & transshipment of third party products or own products from a site other than the production site, collection, storage & transshipment of feed in rented storage sites.	B1, B1.2, B3
	Trade in feed (compound feed, premixtures, feed materials, additives, pet feed)	Purchase and sale of feed (also those produced by third parties), trade in own products from sites other than production site, trade commissioned by, administration trade, export offices, post office boxes, delivery to livestock farmers, cooperative group of owners that trade, collection, purchase of raw materials for third parties.	B1, B1.2, B3, B8
Transport and affreightment	Transport of feed: road transport, rail transport, inland waterway transport	Transport of feed by road, planning, acceptance of transport order, related administrative work, purchasing and cleaning.	B4, B4.3
	Affreightment of feed: road transport, rail transport, inland waterway transport, coastal transport, sea transport	Accepting contract, choosing and accepting loading compartment, inspection order, approval of loading compartment, keeping relevant administration.	B4
	Laboratory analysis of feed	Sampling and analysis of samples	B10
	Performance criteria for laboratories	Carrying out analyses for specific	B11

2.4 What is a standard?

A standard is a document containing all requirements for establishing a Feed Safety Management System. A standard can span several scopes. This means that a company that carries out a lot of activities (several scopes) can still find all requirements in 1 standard. Standards are also referred to as normative documents or B documents.

3 Establishing safety system

3.1 Can a company ask help establishing a GMP+ feed safety system?

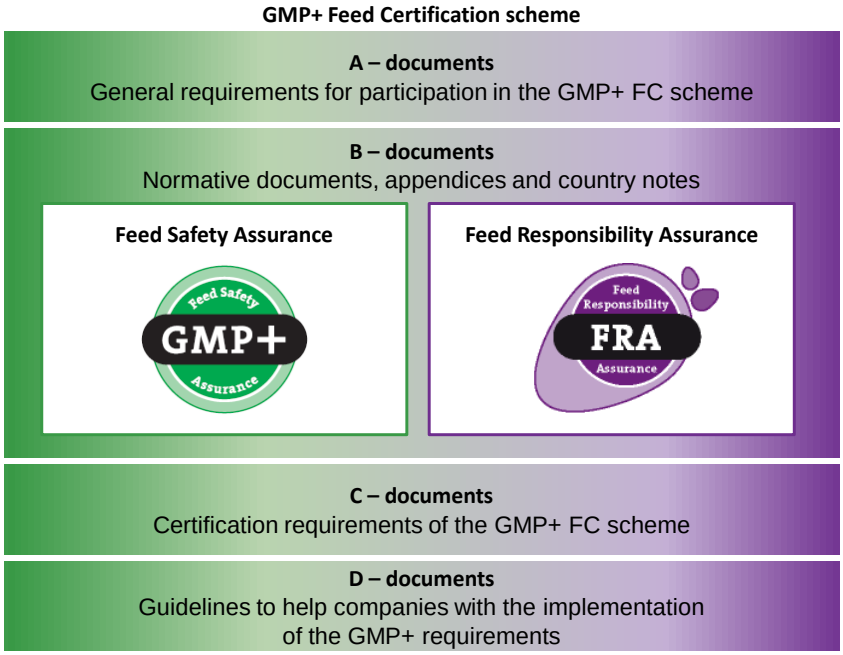
A company can hire a consultancy or company with knowledge of establishing a feed safety system. On the website, a list of ‘registered consultants’ is available with information about the countries they are active in.

3.2 Where can I find the documents that are relevant to GMP+ certification?

These are available at the GMP+ website under the heading ‘GMP+ FSA certification’. In the footer, you can also find interesting items, such as brochures, forms, question and answer lists (FAQ).

3.3 What do the different documents mean?

The GMP+ documents at the GMP+ website can be subdivided into A, B, C and D documents. Each category has its own content, as shown in the following figure.



A documents contain general information that is important for companies. For instance, information about participation in the GMP+ FC scheme, about the use of the logo or definitions.

B documents contain the requirements for the management system, with which the feed safety of the feed can be controlled and guaranteed. In addition to these documents, GMP+ BA documents are available. These are appendices with detailed requirements to which the B documents refer.
The last category is formed by the so-called Country Notes, coded as GMP+ BCN. These Country Notes are drawn up based on specific market questions in the field of feed safety, or provide specific requirements for a certain country.

C documents contain requirements for the GMP+ certification and information for certification bodies. These documents also contain the tariffs for instance.

D documents are not part of the normative scheme documents, but are supportive documents that can help companies and provide them with information. Examples of D documents are manuals or reports with background information, but also a FAQ list.

3.4 What standard for what scope?

What standard is to be used by a company, depends on the activities carried out with the feed. As previously specified, we express these in scopes. The following figure specifies what scope applies to what standard. Chapter 6 shows examples of various company situations and what standard applies to them.

GMP+ FSA standards

Standards / Scopes	GMP+ B1	GMP+ B2	GMP+ B3	GMP+ B4
Production compound feed	X			
Production premixes	X			
Production additives	X	X		
Production feed materials	X	X		
Trade & collection	X		X	
Storage & transshipment	X		X	
Transport				X

3.5 What is the difference between the B standards?

The B standards provide the standards and requirements defined for feed safety assurance. The GMP+ B1 provides these requirements for most activities and this covers the most scopes. The GMP+ B1 standard is formed based on ISO9001 standard and therefore useful for companies that already use the ISO9001 standard. The other GMP+ B standards are more specific, focused on the assurance of just one or a few activities, covering less scopes. They are more focused on a certain target audience.

3.6 Where can I find information about an internal audit?

Before a Certification Body visits a company to audit it, an internal audit must be carried out. To this end, checklists can be used that are available with the C documents at the GMP+ website. The auditors of the Certification Bodies also use these checklists. If these checklists are used during the internal audit, it will instantly be clear where a company must make adjustments to pass the external audit.

3.7 I am in the process of becoming certified, can I already access login details for the GMP+ Portal?

Yes this is possible. All applicants who are already in the process of certification by a Certification Body will receive login details automatically at the moment they are registered in the database. If this is not the case companies may contact their Certification Body for an application in the database in order to receive their login details successfully.

4 Role of the Certification Body

4.1 How do you find a Certification Body?

The database of GMP+ International includes accepted Certification Bodies. The database can be searched for what scope a Certification Body can issue GMP+ certificates. Only GMP+ accepted Certification Bodies can issue GMP+ certificates.

Please note: In the case you are not able to find a Certification Body located in your country of interest. It is advised to search through the option “active in country”. Many certification bodies located in a certain country are active on an international level and may be active in your country.

4.2 What kind of services does a Certification Body render?

A Certification Body registers the relevant company in the GMP+ database, giving the new company access to all documents of GMP+ International that may help in its implementation. For instance, the risk assessments, fact sheets and the list of approved products. In addition a Certification Body carries out the audit. After a successful audit, the company is given an official certificate. This is linked to the data in the GMP+ database, making clear for what scope(s) a company is certified and until when.

5 Having an audit carried out

5.1 Who arranges for the audit?

This is arranged for by the company that seeks certification, in collaboration with the Certification Body. They decide what must be audited and who the most suitable auditor is.

5.2 What is a certificate?

A GMP+ certificate is a document with a statement issued by a Certification Body. This statement specifies what activities ('scopes') a company carries out in the field of feed and that this company carries out these activities in accordance with the requirements of the standard.

5.3 What information does a certificate contain?

If the external audit by the Certification Body results in the decision that the company can be certified, a certificate is drawn up. This certificate states for what scopes a certificate is issued and what standard has been applied. In addition, a certificate shows what Certification Body issued the certificate and for what period. This information is also available in the database of GMP+ International.

6 Examples

6.1 At my company, compound feed is produced. In addition, we sell our own products. What standard applies?

For producing compound feed, the scope 'production of compound feed' applies. The requirements for this scope are available in the GMP+ B1 standard. Selling this compound feed produced in-house, also falls under this scope.
Should the company also sell third-party compound feed, the scope 'trade in compound feed' applies as well. It can be covered with the GMP+ B1 Standard, but also with the GMP+ B3 Standard, at the discretion of the company.

6.2 Our company produces additives for the feed industry. What standard applies?

A company that produces additives falls under the scope 'production of additives'. It can be certified based on GMP+ B1 *Production, trade and services.* In addition, it is possible to seek certification via GMP+ B2 *Production of feed ingredients* (additives fall under feed ingredients).
GMP+ B2 standard is more specific and provides more examples. A company that – in addition to production of additives – does not carry out any activities that fall under – for instance- trade or storage and transshipment, is advised to apply the GMP+ B2 standard. If a company also trades in additives (meaning it also purchases additives produced by third parties and resells these) it must also meet the requirements from the GMP+ B3 standard for instance. After all, this standard covers the scope Trade in additives. Since the structure of these standard is identical and a lot of requirements are formulated similarly, the combined application of these standard is relatively simple.

6.3 We are a transport company providing transport of very diverse products, including feed. What can we assure under the feed safety system?

GMP+ is intended for the assurance of activities relating to feed. In case of a transport company, it concerns various activities, such as the actual transportation, planning and cleaning. To be able to receive a GMP+ certificate, the GMP+ requirements for transport must be met. All these activities must be carried out properly with regard to feed. For the transportation of other products, cleaning is an important activity in particular. The GMP+ B4 Transport describes what must be done to transport both feed and other products and to make sure that the safety of the GMP+ products are assured (GMP+ B4 chapter 7).

6.4 We produce food waste and would like to sell this into the feed chain. Can we become certified for GMP+?

Food waste can be considered being a feed product. Within the feed industry we call it a by-product of the food production. It is possible for a food company who subsequently produces a by-product which is suitable for feed to obtain GMP+ certification for production.

The scope of the GMP+ feed safety management system starts from the moment of creation of the by-product up to and including delivery to a feed company.
Please note: that it is important to understand the difference of waste and by-products. **By-products are no waste material**. By-products must be treated in safe and secure environment in order to be suitable for the feed chain. In other words company has expanded their production activities to animal feed. Through GMP+ certification secures the safety of its production activities to be suitable for the feed chain.

6.5 I am already certified for an equivalent scheme. It is possible for me to also become certified for GMP+ ?

Yes this is possible. GMP+ shares mutual recognition with a number of schemes. These schemes are seen as equivalent to GMP+ FSA and vice versa.
A company may choose to become additionally certified for GMP+ in order to secure other scopes of their companies activities who do not fall within the certification scopes of their current scheme.
A company may choose to become certified for GMP+ for the same scopes/activities they are already certified for via their current scheme. This can be useful in order to be more flexible within the feed (trade) market.

More information about all accepted certification schemes and applicable scopes in the GMP+ BA10 *Minimum Requirements for Purchasing*.

In case you would like to be additional certified it is advised to contact your Certification Body for more information about the audit process.

6.6 I have a web shop and would like to deliver into the GMP+ FSA chain. I am not in direct contact or see the physical product. Do I still need to be certified accordingly?

If you as a web shop owner becomes owner of the product you offer in your web shop, you are considered being a trader. Trade is an activity that needs to be GMP+ assured via certification of the activity ‘trade in feed’.

6.7 Does a location where only invoicing takes place also needs to be certified?

Yes this is required. The activity invoicing of GMP+ assured feed or services is considered being a trading activity and should be GMP+ assured via the certification of the activity ‘trade in feed’.

6.8 I am a shipowner of overseas transport. Do I need to be certified for this transport?

This depends on the activity you do, if you do transport, it not needed to become certified for the transport of overseas shipping. However in the case you act as a broker of the sea transport you will need to be certified accordingly for affreightment activities.

7 What is to be certified and what isn't?

7.1 Must I certify per site or certify my company as a whole?

Every site of a company carrying out activities regarding feed, must be certified individually. This applies to the physical flow of feed, but also for the "paper trade". This provides transparency and clarity in the market, among buyers and other stakeholders. It is possible however to combined the audit for various sites if they all use the same quality manual, for instance (GMP+ A1 chapter 4)

8 Exclusions

8.1 Can I, as a trade company, still trade non-GMP+ certified feed if I am GMP+ certified?

As certified trading company, it is still permitted to trade non-GMP+ certified product. The separation between GMP+ certified and non-GMP+ certified products must be clearly and physically present and demonstrably assured by the Feed Safety Management System of the company. In addition, traceability must be entirely clear. (GMP+ A1 chapter 4)
To make clear what products are produced under GMP+ requirements, the producer must use ‘positive declaration’. This is a statement making clear that the product meets the GMP+ requirements. Additional information about this topic is available in the GMP+ BA6.

8.2 Can I, as a certified production company, also produce non-GMP+ certified feed?

Production of non-GMP+ certified feed at the same site as certified feed is not permitted. The entire production must be assured under GMP+. A company can produce under another scheme accepted within GMP+. During an audit, an auditor can inspect the production of products produced under another certified scheme. Companies that produce pet feed, may also produce non-GMP+ certified feed (GMP+ A1 chapter 4).

9 Tariffs

9.1 What are the costs for GMP+ certification?

You may find more information about costs for certification in the C4 document about tariffs. Please also see the explanatory note about tariffs, which is available on the GMP+ website. Payments will be handled through the Certification Body.

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