



FAQ Positive declaration

GMP+ D 3.12

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GMP+ Feed Certification scheme



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INTRODUCTION

In the newsletter of [September 26th 2014](#), GMP+ International informed you about the change in the requirements for declaration of GMP+ assured feed.

Starting 1-10-2015, the GMP+ certified supplier must state when the feed it supplies is GMP+ assured (so-called positive declaration). This concerns both deliveries of feed ingredients (feed materials, additives, premixtures) and end feeds (compound feed).

As of October 1st 2016, a GMP+ certified transporter or storage company must state when the service rendered by them is GMP+ assured (so-called positive declaration). This concerns transport and storage of GMP+ assured feed. In addition, feed deliveries to livestock farmers must also be declared as of the specified date.

Declaration can be done in several ways (on the label, on the delivery receipt, in the contract, by means of a framework agreement etc.) as long as it completely clear to buyers what products it concerns.

Below, we have described and answered the most frequently asked questions GMP+ International has received regarding the positive declaration.

Should you have any further questions or would like to receive more information, you can always contact us via our [contact form](#). If necessary, this list will be expanded.

1 General

1.1 What are my actions in case of contracts that have already been signed?

Question:

Positive declaration for GMP+ assured feed took effect on 1-10-2015. However, we have signed contracts with our GMP+ certified suppliers a year ago for the deliveries after 1-10-2015. These contracts contain no mention of positive declaration. Must our GMP+ certified suppliers state that feed supplied under these contracts is GMP+ assured, even though these requirements were not yet in effect when the contract was signed?

Answer:

Positive declaration applies to all GMP+ assured feed delivered on 1-10-2015 or thereafter even if the contract was signed prior to 1-10-2015. The signed contracts can be expanded with an annex containing a statement about the status of the supplied feed. In addition, this statement can be included on the delivery documents.

1.2 Do I have to use literal wording?

Question:

Do I have to include the literal text from the GMP+ BA6 on the label, in the sales contract, on the delivery receipt or in any other accompanying document, or can I use somewhat different words with an equivalent meaning?

Answer:

The statements as prescribed in GMP BA6, Annex 1 must literally be used on the label or on another relevant document. If the statement is not available in the required local language, the participant must first submit an official translation to GMP+ International for approval. For details see GMP+ BA6 Annex 1.

It is also possible to list the positive declaration only in Dutch, English or German with a reference to GMP+ BA6, Annex 1, which contains the authorized translations of the prescribed statements in multiple languages.

1.3 Who should my statement be directed to?

Question:

We supply feed to GMP+ certified companies, companies certified for other certification schemes, livestock farmers but also individuals with hobby chicken for instance. In which cases are we required to state that our products are GMP+ assured?

Answer:

Positive declaration applies in case of delivery to GMP+ certified buyers or buyers who are certified within another certification scheme declared equivalent to the GMP+ FC scheme (see GMP+ BA10 Minimum requirements for Purchasing) and as of October 1st 2016 also in case of deliveries to livestock farmers.

When a GMP+ participant supplies feed to companies that are certified for a non-equivalent certification scheme or to individuals (= non-professional livestock farmers), the participant is not required to declare that the feed is GMP+ assured, unless this is required by the buyer.

1.4 What if my customer doesn't ask for GMP+ feed?Question

Our company is located in the United States. All our feed has been produced under GMP+ requirements. However, a part thereof is sold on the local market to non-certified buyers under non-GMP+ trade conditions. Are we required to disclose this in our sales contracts, for instance by means of a clause?

Answer

No, this is not necessary. When no positive declaration is issued for a delivery of feed, this means that this feed is not (or no longer) GMP+ assured. Therefore, a separate clause to emphasize this, is not necessary.

1.5 If the delivery consists both of GMP+ assured and non-GMP+ assured feed?1.5.1 Question:

As a trader, I sometimes deliver both GMP+ assured and non-GMP+ assured feed in one shipment. How do I communicate this to my customers? Should I use separate accompanying documentation for GMP+ assured and non-GMP+ assured feed (two contracts, two delivery receipts)?

Answer:

No, the use of separate documentation is not necessary. All feed within one delivery, both GMP+ assured and non-GMP+ assured can be included in one accompanying document. In that case, it must be indicated in a clear and unambiguous manner what feed is GMP+ assured. This can also be applied in a contract.

1.5.2 Question

How can I specify what feed is GMP+ assured or not GMP+ assured within one delivery? Can I include a general sentence at the top of the bill of lading, for instance:

“The goods delivered are GMP+ assured unless specified otherwise.”

Subsequently, the feed that is not GMP+ assured, will show the following sentence: “The above-mentioned feed is not GMP+ assured”

Answer

No, the statement: “The supplied goods are GMP+ assured unless specified otherwise” is not permitted.

One of the statements prescribed in the GMP+ BA6, Annex 1 must be used literally.

In addition to the required positive declaration, the supplier may also use the negative declaration to clarify that certain supplied products within a delivery are not GMP+ FSA assured. However, this negative declaration may not be misleading or inconsistent with the positive declaration.

1.5.3 Question

Option 1: Can I state the following under all feed that is GMP+ assured:

“The goods delivered are GMP+ assured”?

There will be no specific mention of products that are not GMP+ assured.

Option 2: Can I state the following at the bottom of the bill of lading:

“ * The goods delivered are GMP+ assured.”

Each GMP+ assured product will have a “*” next to its name, referring to that sentence. Products without “*” are not GMP+ assured but this is not specifically specified by means of a sentence.

Answer

Yes, this is permitted. Both work methods are in accordance with the GMP+ requirements for positive declaration.

1.6 Can I use “multiple choice” declaration?

Question:

Is it permitted to declare the following:

The goods delivered are GMP+ assured” yes/no?

This way it is possible to specify per delivery (for instance by circling) whether it concerns GMP+ assured or non-GMP+ assured feed.

Answer:

Not, this is not permitted. The declaration must be unambiguous, the option described creates too much ambiguity.

1.7 Positive declaration and GMP+ B8 Production and trade of pet food

Question

Does positive declaration also apply to feed assured under GMP+ B8 Production and trade of pet food?

Answer

No, positive declaration does not apply to pet food assured under GMP+ B8 Production and trade of pet food. The GMP+ B8 standard does not refer to this Appendix GMP+ BA6. Should a GMP+ certified company apply positive declaration, then this is permitted. It is advised to use the same formulations from the GMP+ BA6, with clear indications that it concerns a B8 product.

1.8 How product specific must positive declaration be?Question

Can I issue a general declaration to my customers that all feed our company delivers is GMP+ assured?

Answer

No, it is not permitted to issue such a general declaration. It is too non-recurring, too general, too static, not sufficiently related to the feed to which it relates.

Positive declaration must be issued at the least at the level of the contract (for instance for all deliveries that are part of one contract).

1.9 How to deal with internal sales?Question

For export of our feed, these are sold on paper by our domestic production sites (GMP+ B2 certified) to our export site at the port (GMP+ B3 certified). Must this internal transfer of property also be accompanied by positive declaration?

Answer

Yes, in case of a formal transfer of property, the status of the product delivered must be clear. For this reason, feed that is being traded under GMP+ requirements on paper, must be declared GMP+ assured.

1.10 How do I apply positive declaration for a web shop?Question

Is it enough if the general conditions available on the website include the following: 'All of our farm animal feed is GMP+ assured'?

Answer

No, it is not permitted to issue such a general declaration. Please also see question 1.8 How product specific must positive declaration be.

Concretely, it would mean for a web shop that the declaration about the status of feed must be mentioned more specific, for instance in the order confirmation e-mail on the delivery note, on the invoice, etc.

1.11 How do I apply positive declaration in a feed store?

Question

Is it enough if one includes the following text in the store (at the feed isle or the cash register) on a poster: "All our farm animal feed is GMP+ assured"

Answer

Positive declaration must be placed clearly visible with the product.

1.12 Should positive declaration about the feed also be included on transport documents when transport is outsourced?

Question

If the transport is carried out by an external company, should we include positive declaration both on the sales contracts and the transport documents?

Answer

If it is listed on a transport document, it should be clear that the declaration relates to the assured status of feed and not of transport. From the Annex BA6 a choice is to be made, in which there should be no doubt about what is assured.

1.13 Do premixtures and additives fall under 'feed'?

Question

Do premixtures and additives fall under 'feed' and do the rules for positive declaration apply to them?

Answer

Premixtures and additives legally fall under 'feed' and for that reason, positive declaration should be applied for these products.

1.14 Use of logo?

Question

Can the logo also be used for positive declaration?

Answer

No, only the specified indications in GMP+ BA6 Annex 1 can be used. To prevent confusion, the logo cannot be used for declaring GMP+ status. This is due to accreditation rules. For the use of the logo, please see GMP+ A3

1.15 Positive declaration that covers services and feed?

Question

Is it possible to use 1 statement to declare that both services and feed are GMP+ certified?

Answer

Currently there is no statement available declaring that both the feed and the services are GMP+ certified. Both must be individually specified where relevant. The use of only 'GMP+ FSA assured' is not enough and not clear enough.

Example of an unequivocal positive declaration:

Feed and transport: 'GMP+ FSA assured.

Feed and storage: 'GMP+ FSA assured.

2 Feed originating from other certification schemes

2.1 What should my statement be with regard to products from other schemes?

Question:

I frequently buy feed produced under a different, equivalent certification scheme (such as premixtures produced under FAMIqs) and sell it into the certified chain. Do I have to declare that this feed is GMP+ assured?

Answer:

By meeting the purchasing requirements of the GMP+ FC scheme, the GMP+ participant assures the purchased feed under its own feed safety management system. When the participant sells this feed, he must state that the feed is GMP+ assured. This can be done in the accompanying documents, for instance.

Even though these products are produced under other certification schemes, they meet the purchasing requirements of GMP+ meaning that they are assured under the GMP+ certificate of the participant.

If bagged goods originating from other certification schemes are sold into the chain as GMP+ assured feed, the accompanying documents must contain a clear and unambiguous reference to the supplied bagged goods (for instance by including the reference number of the batch on the accompanying documents).

2.2 Should suppliers from other schemes declare something to me?

Question:

I frequently purchase feed from companies that participate in another, equivalent, certification scheme. Are my suppliers required to apply positive declaration for the feed they supply me with as well?

Answer:

This depends on the relevant requirements of the certification scheme in which the supplier participants. Some certification schemes use the so-called positive declaration as well (such as QS), some use negative declaration (such as GMP-Ovocom). Other certification schemes don't prescribe any special status indications at all (such as GTP).

Should the requirements for the status indication provide insufficient clarity in the eyes of the GMP+ participant, the GMP+ participant is free to include additional requirements regarding this in its contracts with the supplier.

2.3 What should the statement of a supplier be from whom I purchase as Gatekeeper?

Question:

For our grain trade, we frequently use the gatekeeper protocol for grain (GMP+ BA10, Annex 5). Are our suppliers (non-certified collectors, often from Eastern Europe and South America) required to state that the grain they deliver to us is GMP+ assured?

Answer:

It is possible that GMP+ participant purchases grain (and other unprocessed agricultural products), additives, crude palm oil etc., based on an approved gatekeeper protocol. These suppliers are not participants in the GMP+ FC scheme and can - formally - not be forced to use the status indication in accordance with GMP+ BA6, since the requirements as referred to in GMP+ BA6 only apply to GMP+ participants. The GMP+ participant that purchases (future) feed under the gatekeeper protocol must give these products positive declaration when selling them to a GMP+ participant.

2.4 What should my statement be in case of “private labeling”?

Question:

What statement must be made if feed is produced by a participant of another certification scheme (such as QS) to be marketed by a GMP+ participant under its own brand name (so-called private label)?

Answer:

The GMP+ participant under whose brand name the feed is marketed, assures safety of the feed under its own feed safety management system. This GMP+ participant must state that this feed is GMP+ assured, even though it was produced under another certification scheme (QS). GMP+ BA6 applies.

2.5 As a trade office, am I required to apply positive declaration as well?

Question

Our trade office is certified for trade in additives, premixtures and feed materials. From this office, feed is traded produced at our FAMIqs or OVOCOM certified production sites. Billing also takes place from this office. Physically, the feed is delivered straight from our production sites to the customer. Is the trade office required to apply positive declaration?

Answer

If the trade office officially places feeds on the market, the trade office is required to apply positive declaration.

3 Services

As of October 1st 2016, services also fall under the rules of positive declaration. These services cover transport and storage. To prevent confusion, this FAQ list attempts to provide clarification.

3.1 What is the role of the affreightment company in the information exchange between the principal of the transport and the transporter?

Question

A compound feed company hires an affreightment company to arrange for the transport of its feed per inland waterway vessel. The skipper / transporter states on the documents to the affreightment company that the transport has been carried out in accordance with GMP+ requirements by means of positive declaration. This positive declaration is not forwarded to the compound feed company by the affreightment company, because the positive declaration is not required for affreightment companies. How can the compound feed factory be sure that the transport is carried out in accordance with GMP+ requirements?

Answer

An affreightment company is not required to provide declarations about its own services. However, it plays an essential role in the information exchange between the compound feed company (the principal) and the skipper. For this reason, the positive declaration of the skipper must be part of the affreightment agreement signed per trip by the skipper, the affreightment company and the principal.

3.2 Positive declaration for multiple feed rides?

3.2.1 Question

Does it suffice to include the comment 'GMP+ FSA assured' at the bottom of an invoice used to bill several GMP+ feed transport rides?

Answer

Yes

3.2.2 Question

What if an invoice is used to bill rides for one principal that concerns both transport of feed (all GMP+ and non-feed. Does it, in this case, suffice to include 'GMP+ FSA assured' at the bottom of the invoice?

Answer

Yes, that is correct. In this case, the statement is unequivocally mentioned on the transport of the feed.

3.2.3 Question

Does it suffice if a transporter only specifies the positive declaration in an annual contract?

Answer

An annual contract suffices. Only a mention in the terms of delivery does not.

3.3 Positive declaration for GMP+ certified storage?

Question

What applies if a storage company is GMP+ certified and packaged GMP+ feed is stored? Is positive declaration also required for the storage of packaged products?

Answer

Yes, if the relevant storage company has a certificate, this service must also be declared positive as such towards the principal.

4 Name of the legal entity vs trade name

4.1 Can I also use trade names?

Question:

For one and the same business site, our company also uses a trade name in addition to the name of the legal entity. What name must we list on the label, the delivery receipt or other accompanying documents associated with the feed originating from this location?

Answer:

The label, the delivery receipt etc. must always contain the name of the legal entity. GMP+ participants must be registered in the GMP+ company database under the name of the legal entity (the registered legal entity). This name is the basis for its entry in purchasing contracts, labels etc. to assure unambiguous traceability.

The use of the trade name in addition to the name of the legal entity is permitted, provided that the trade name used does not cause confusion or is misleading.

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