



Brussels, 19 May 2006

## **Mutual recognition between FAMI-QS and Ovocom GMP / PDV GMP<sup>+</sup>**

Intended for producers and processors of feed additives and premixtures

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**This week, FAMI-QS has signed an agreement with Ovocom (Belgium) and PDV (The Netherlands) which seals the mutual recognition between their schemes. This is an important step for companies and values the work done by FEFANA, PDV and OVOCOM at European and national level towards increased safety assurance of the feed chain. It is also a strong basis for further cooperation between the three organisations to achieve this goal.**

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The scope of the mutual recognition agreement covers both additives and premixtures. On the basis of this agreement, certificates obtained in either of the schemes are fully equivalent and will allow the participant to buy from operators certified under the other scheme without any additional requirements.

In the near future, FAMI-QS certification shall be brought under EN-45011 accreditation.

These three organisations further identified a need for regular consultations about technical and policy items and about improvements of the respective systems.

The priority areas identified for improvement are amongst others:

- Competence and training of certification bodies and auditors. Achieving an appropriate quality of auditing (training auditors and analysis auditing practices).
- Improvement of gatekeeper procedures. Using the approach where necessary without jeopardizing safety.
- Sectorial Sampling plan. Positioning towards national authorities.
- Establishment of a crisis cell. Close co-ordination in case of crisis.

Mutual recognition was already established with AIC schemes in the United Kingdom: UFAS (for premixes) and FEMAS (for feed additives). With these agreements, FAMI-QS has reached mutual equivalence with national systems in a very significant geographical area in the EU.

The equivalence is declared applicable immediately, and will be laid down in the FAMI-QS Process Description very soon.