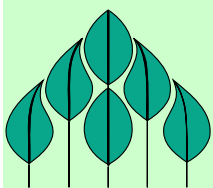


Legislation for the labelling of feeds for hobby animals and pets

Introduction to the legal provisions in the Netherlands which apply to the labelling of compound feeds intended for pets and hobby animals

Quality Series no. 119
May 2007



Product Board Animal Feed

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INTRODUCTION

This brochure from the Product Board Animal Feed (PDV) is primarily intended for those companies which are responsible for the labelling of compound feeds for pets and hobby animals. This brochure does not relate, as far as the production of foodstuffs is concerned, to animals kept commercially.

There appears to be a need within companies for a document which clearly shows the legal rules related to labelling which are applicable in the Netherlands. This need was created because there is renewed interest in the subject of labelling due to the legal supervision carried out by the Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (referred to hereafter as the VWA).

Many companies seemed to have problems creating the correct labels. In addition, there were quite some differences in the sector in the enforcement of the legislation relating to the labelling of feeds.

The lack of a clear and unambiguous summary of the legislation has led to high costs within the pet sector. Much attention is paid within this sector to the attractive presentation of animal feeds to the consumer. This means that much use is made of relatively expensive, pre-printed packaging and labels.

Even minor changes to labels lead to high costs because a number of expensive print plates must be replaced. In addition, large stocks of labels and packaging materials must sometimes be destroyed. There is a different packaging for each product within a product line and there are usually varying sizes of a product available for sale. The trade in these animal feeds is also internationally-oriented. Packaging is printed in various languages and companies are confronted with various national authorities.

1. ANIMAL FEED LEGISLATION IN GENERAL

1.1. European origin of the legislation

The legislation with respect to the labelling of feeds is regulated in the Netherlands in the Animal Feed Enabling Legislation, the Animal Feed Decree and the Animal Feed Regulation. Although this is national legislation, it primarily consists of provisions which have their origin in European legislation.

Most provisions of the European legislation which relate to labelling are regulated in Directives. In principle, the provisions of the Directives must, in order to become effective, first be converted into national legislation by the Member States. The major directives which are important for the labelling of pet foods are Directive 79/373/EEG (compound feeds), Directive 82/475/EG (on the designation of ingredients for pet foods) and Directive 96/25/EG (feed materials).

In addition, there are also provisions relating to labelling in European Regulations. The provisions of European Regulations have a direct effect within the Member States and do not first have to be converted into national legislation. From the Animal Feed Enabling Legislation, the Animal Feed Decree and the Animal Feed Regulation there are references to the European regulations which are relevant for animal feed. (Regulation (EC) no. 1831/2003, GMO Regulation, Directive 70/524/EG)

1.2. Future European legislation

The European Commission is currently engaged in the preparation of a new policy with respect to labelling. The intention is to replace in due time the directives relating to the labelling of feeds with a single European regulation. It is proposed to prepare the text of the legislative proposal in 2007. Because the legislative proposal will have to be adopted in cooperation between the European Parliament and the Council in accordance with the co-decision procedure of Article 251 of the Treaty, it is probable that this new regulation will come into force not earlier than 2009.

1.3. Structure of the Dutch legislation

In the Netherlands a decision was made in favour of the inclusion of the provisions of the animal feed legislation in stratified legislation. This means that only the most general provisions in an Act are regulated in the formal sense (the Animal Feed Enabling Legislation). An Act in the formal sense is one which must be approved of by Parliament.

The other provisions are included in a General Administrative Measure (Animal Feed Decree) and a Ministerial Regulation (Animal Feed Regulation). The advantage of these two last types of legislation is that they can be changed via a more simple legislative procedure. The implementing provisions can therefore be amended more quickly than if everything was regulated in detail in a formal Act.

1.3.1. Distinction between compound feeds and feed materials

Separate rules are formulated in the legislation for compound feeds and feed materials. The provisions of Chapter 2 of the Animal Feed Decree and in Chapter 3 of the Animal Feed Regulation relate to feed materials. The provisions of Chapter 4 of the Animal Feed Decree and in Chapter 5 of the Animal Feed Regulation relate to compound feeds.

Compound feeds are defined as: “mixtures of feed materials”¹. Feed materials are defined as: “animal feeds which are intended for use as feeds either as such or following treatment or processing for the preparation of compound feeds for animals or as carriers for premixes”².

Most pet foods which are sold to the consumer are products which have been put together from a number of feed materials. The provisions for compound feeds therefore apply in most households.

1.3.2. Mandatory and facultative designations

The legislation distinguishes between mandatory and facultative designations on labels. Mandatory designations must be specified on the label or accompanying document. With facultative designations the company may choose whether or not to specify this information. The possibilities for facultative designations are provided in the legislation.

1.3.3. Animals, pets and productive livestock

The Animal Feed Enabling legislation, the Animal Feed Decree and the Animal Feed Regulation contain a number of definitions. The most important definitions are those of animals³, pets⁴ and productive livestock⁵. Each legal provision relating to the application of rules for labelling must be closely examined to see to which category of animals the provision in question applies.

A distinction is made in this brochure between two categories of animals:

1. animals which are normally only kept as pets such as dogs, cats and small rodents and exotic birds, and
2. animals where account should reasonably be taken of the fact that (the products of) these animals may be eaten, such as chickens or rabbits.

For the sake of clarity, we shall only designate the first category of animals as pets in this brochure. The second category will be designated as hobby animals. The terms pets and hobby animals are not defined in the legislation.

¹ Article 2, sub b, Directive 79/373/EE

² Article 2, sub k, Directive 79/373/EE

³ Artikel 2, sub h, Directive 79/373/E

⁴ Article 2, sub i, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁵ Article 2, sub h, Directive 79/373/EEC

2 GENERAL RULES FOR LABELLING

2.1. Not misleading

The most general rule is that it is forbidden to label feeds in a way which may be misleading⁶. That is the only legal provision relating to labelling which is included in the Animal Feed Enabling Legislation itself. For all the other regulations there is a reference to the Animal Feed Decree and the Animal Feed Regulation (which was adopted under the Animal Feed Decree)⁷.

2.2. Language

For the Dutch market the designations on feeds must be in the Dutch language⁸. If the product is also intended for sale in another Member State of the European Union, then the designations must also be in the languages chosen for this purpose by the other Member State⁹. The designations must be clearly visible, properly legible, indelible and attached in a proper fashion¹⁰.

2.3. Export to third party countries

On feeds which are intended for export to third-party countries, the Dutch labelling provisions do not have to be followed with the exception of the provisions which apply to diet feeds if the label states that the product is intended for export. The designation 'EXPORT' must appear on the packaging or on the accompanying document in capital letters. If the net weight is more than 5 kilograms then the letters of the designation must be at least 2 cm high. If the net weight is 5 kilograms or less then the designation must be in letters of at least 2 mm high¹¹. Under certain circumstances feed additives may be processed in these feeds which are not permitted in the European Union.

2.4. Label or accompanying document

For packaged feeds the label designations must be specified on the packaging or on a label which is attached to the packaging¹². Exceptions to this are designations on compound feed of the type or category of animal, the instructions for use, the analytical constituents and nutritional value, the composition and the quantity. These may also be specified on an accompanying document. For (simple) feed materials label designations may always be specified on an accompanying document even if they are traded in packaged form. For feeds and feed materials which are delivered in bulk the designations must be specified on a document which accompanies the bulk delivery. An exception is made for the sale of small quantities of compound feeds which are directly intended for the end user. For these feeds the labelling provisions must be present in a legible form at the point of sale¹³.

⁶ Article 3, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁷ Article 5, section 1, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁸ Article 11, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁹ Article 11, Directive 79/373/EEC

¹⁰ Article 5, section 1, Directive 79/373/EEC

¹¹ Article 14, sub b, Directive 79/373/EEC

¹² Article 5, section 4, sub a, Directive 79/373/EEC

¹³ Article 5, section 2, Directive 79/373/EEC

3 SPECIFIC PROVISIONS FOR LABELLING

This chapter provides a summary of the provisions which specifically apply to feeds which are made up from a number of feed materials. The legal term for these feeds is “compound feed”.

3.1. Designation of type of feed

The type of feed must be indicated on the label or accompanying document for compound feed¹⁴. The type of feed must be indicated using one of the following terms:

- Complete feed¹⁵
- Complementary feed¹⁶
- Mineral mix¹⁷
- Molasses feed¹⁸
- Complete milk replacement feed¹⁹
- Complementary milk replacement feed²⁰
- Complete diet feed²¹
- Complementary diet feed²²

Compound feeds for pets may also be designated with the term:

- Feeding stuff
- Complete feeding stuff
- Complementary feeding stuff.²³

For compound feeds intended for other pets than dogs or cats the type of feed may also be designated as just ‘compound feed’.²⁴

In addition to the type of feed there must also be a designation of for which type or category of animal the feed is intended.²⁵ The VWA states that this designation may not be freely combined with the name of the type of feed. The name ‘complete dog food’ is not correct according to the VWA because the term “dog food” does not appear in the summary in the previous section. The correct designations are in this case: “feeding stuff for dogs”, “complete feeding stuff for dogs”

For compound feeds which consist of a maximum of three feed materials the notification of the type of animal is not mandatory. It must be clear from the names of these compound feeds which feed materials have been used.²⁶

¹⁴ Article 5, section 1, sub a, Directive 79/373/EEC

¹⁵ Article 2, sub d, Directive 79/373/EEC

¹⁶ Article 2, sub e, Directive 79/373/EEC

¹⁷ Article 2, sub f, Directive 79/373/EEC

¹⁸ Article 2, sub g, Directive 79/373/EEC

¹⁹ Article 2, sub j, Directive 79/373/EEC

²⁰ Article 2, sub j, Directive 79/373/EEC

²¹ Article 5, sub 1, Directive 93/74/EEC

²² Article 5, sub 1, Directive 93/74/EEC

²³ Article 5, section 6, Directive 79/373/EEC

²⁴ Article 5, section 6, Directive 79/373/EEC

²⁵ Article 5, section 1, sub b, Directive 79/373/EEC

²⁶ Article 5, section 1, sub a, Directive 79/373/EEC

3.2 Feed additives

In Section 7 of Chapter 5 of the Animal Feed Regulation, there are additional rules on labelling of compound feeds in which feed additives have been processed. These rules come from Directive 70/524/EEG. The provisions of Article 16 of this withdrawn Directive remain applicable under Article 23 of Regulation (EG) 1831/2003.

Mandatory designations

A number of designations must be specified with respect to feed additives in a feeding stuff²⁷. Whether or not a designation is mandatory depends on the type of feed additive which has been processed. It is, for example, in trace elements other than copper not mandatory to specify the designation of the trace element.

The following designations may, depending on the type of feed additive processed, be mandatory:

- Specification of the name of the feed additive
- The level of added active substances²⁸
- The level of active substances at the end of guarantee date²⁹,
- The guarantee date or the shelf life³⁰,
- Specific designations for feeds for pets³¹,
- Specific designations for enzymes³²,
- Specific designations for micro-organisms³³, and
- details of the suitable use of the feed.

An assessment must be made of for which feed additives the above designations are mandatory using Article 41, Animal Feed Regulation. Notification of the details of suitable use of the compound feed may be declared mandatory in the licence requirements or permit conditions of the processed feed additive. The license and permit requirements can be found via the Community Register³⁴. The designation which must be used is specified in the fifth column of the register.

In addition to the name, the EC registration number may also be used facultatively. Specification of the E number is mandatory for micro-organisms and enzymes.

For copper the name of the copper compound must be specified with the level of Cu. The specification is then, for example: "Copper(II) sulphate pentahydrate, of which Cu: 15 mg". The level of Cu may also be specified between brackets.

For vitamins A, D and E the name and the level of active constituents must be specified.

²⁷ Article 16, section 1, Directive 70/524/EEC

²⁸ Article 16, section 4, sub b, Directive 70/524/EEC

²⁹ For vitamins and anti-oxidants the VWA allows, instead of the added level, the guaranteed level of active substances at the end of guarantee date.

³⁰ Article 16, section 5, Directive 70/524/EEC

³¹ Article 16, section 1, sub b, Directive 70/524/EEC

³² Article 16, section 1, sub h, Directive 70/524/EEC

³³ Article 16, section 41, sub I, directive 70/524/EEC

³⁴ Feed Additives Register

For vitamin E the level of vitamin E must be expressed in α -tocopheroles. Vitamin E is usually expressed in international units (I.E.), where

1 mg dl-alpha-tocopherylacetate = 1 I.E.

1 mg dl-alpha-tocopherol = 1.1 I.E.

1 mg d-alpha-tocopherylacetate = 1.36 I.E.

1 mg d-alpha-tocopherol = 1.49 I.E.

The designation for vitamin is then, for example: "Vitamin E, of which α -tocopherol: 50 IE".

The level of α -tocopherol may also be specified between brackets.

For vitamins the added level must be specified and not the total level of active substances. In addition, for vitamins the VWA allows, instead of the added level, the guaranteed level of active substances at the end of guarantee date.

For pets the names of feed additives must be preceded where applicable by the text:

- 'substance preventing oxidation'
- 'colouring agent' or 'coloured with'
- 'preservation agent' or 'preserved with'.

Exception

For compound feeds for pets in a packaging with a net content of 10 kg at the most it may be decided to replace the name of colouring agents, oxidation prevention substances and preservatives by the text "EC feed additives"³⁵.

Permitted specifications are:

- "Coloured using EC feed additives", "With permitted EC colouring agents" or "Colouring agent EC feed additives"
- "Oxidation prevention substance EC feed additives" or "With EC permitted anti-oxidants"
- "Preserved using EC feed additives", "Preservative EC feed additives" or "With permitted EC preservatives" or "With EC-permitted colouring agents, preservatives and anti-oxidants"

If requested the manufacturer must provide the name of the feed additives to the customer.

Facultative designations

If the name of the feed additive is specified for trace elements, vitamins, provitamins or substances with an analogous effect then an official analysis method must exist so that the presence of the feed additive can be established. These analysis methods are specified in the bundle of analysis methods³⁶. The specification may be

- name of the feed additive
- The level of active substances and the guarantee date or the shelf life
- The level of the element if the element is a trace element.

Levels of feed additives may not be specified in the analytical constituents as specified in Chapter 3.4.

³⁵ Article 16, section 7, Directive 70/524/EEC

³⁶ PDV analysis methods bundle

The VWA permits vitamins which belong to a vitamin complex to be designated with the name of the vitamin complex. Vitamin B3 may therefore be designated: "Vitamin B".

3.3. Nitrogenous products

Additional instructions apply for compound feeds in which special nitrogenous products have been processed³⁷. These are given in the seventh column of the appendix to Directive 82/471/EEG. Under Article 23 of Regulation (EG) 1831/2003 a number of nitrogenous products were moved to the operational sphere of this Regulation. These were amino acids, their salts and analogies and ureum and their derivatives. The instructions for these substances as they are specified in the seventh column of Directive 82/471/EEG are still applicable under Article 10 of Regulation (EG) 1831/2003.

3.4. Analytical constituents

It is mandatory to specify on the label the analytical constituents which are given for the various feeds in Table 1. In addition it is permitted to specify a limited number of other constituents and nutritional characteristics. These constituents are shown in Table 2. Levels of feed additives may not be specified with the analytical constituents. Levels of feed additives may in accordance with Chapter 2 be specified after the feed additives. In addition, other data may be specified as included in page 10 under the heading "facultative designations"

For certain compound feeds the level of ash insoluble in hydrochloric acid may exceed the maximum of 2.2%. The level of ash insoluble in hydrochloric acid must in this case be specified on the label together with the designation in Table 1.

³⁷ Annex Directive 82/471/EEC

Table 1 Mandatory designations of the analytical constituents					
Type of feed	Hobby Poultry	Other hobby animal ruminants	Other hobby animal non-ruminants	Dogs and cats	Other pets
Complete animal feeds	raw protein raw fat raw cellulose raw ash methionine	raw protein raw fat raw cellulose raw ash	raw protein raw fat raw cellulose raw ash	raw protein raw fat raw cellulose raw ash	
supplementary feeds - mineral - mixes	calcium phosphor sodium	calcium phosphor sodium magnesium	calcium phosphor sodium	calcium phosphor sodium	calcium phosphor sodium
supplementary feeds - molasses - feeds	raw protein raw cellulose total sugars (saccharose) raw ash	raw protein raw cellulose total sugars (saccharose) raw ash magnesium ($\geq 0,5\%$) ¹	raw protein raw cellulose total sugars (saccharose) raw ash	raw protein raw cellulose total sugars (saccharose) raw ash	raw protein raw cellulose total sugars (saccharose) raw ash
Supplementary animal feeds - others	raw protein raw fat raw cellulose raw ash calcium ($\geq 5\%$) ¹ phosphor ($\geq 2\%$) ¹ methionine	raw protein raw fat raw cellulose raw ash calcium ($\geq 5\%$) ¹ phosphor ($\geq 2\%$) ¹ magnesium ($\geq 0,5\%$) ¹	raw protein raw fat raw cellulose raw ash calcium ($\geq 5\%$) ¹ phosphor ($\geq 2\%$) ¹	raw protein raw fat raw cellulose raw ash	

¹ Labelling is mandatory, if the percentage of magnesium, calcium or phosphor is higher than the indicated percentage.

Table 2 Facultative notifications of the analytical constituents (where not mandatory)			
Complete animal feeds	Supplementary animal feeds - mineral mixes	Supplementary animal feeds - molasses feeds	Supplementary animal feeds - others
Moisture content or dry matter raw protein raw fat raw cellulose raw ash starch total sugars (saccharose) total sugars + starch lysine methionine cysteine threonine tryptophane calcium phosphor sodium magnesium potassium	Moisture content or dry matter raw protein raw fat raw cellulose raw ash lysine methionine cysteine threonine tryptophane magnesium potassium	Moisture content or dry matter raw fat calcium phosphor sodium magnesium potassium	Moisture content or dry matter raw protein raw fat raw cellulose raw ash starch total sugars (saccharose) total sugars + starch lysine methionine cysteine threonine tryptophane calcium phosphor sodium magnesium potassium

In addition, the moisture level of compound feeds must be specified if it is higher than:

- 7% in milk replacement feed and in other compound feeds with a level of milk products of more than 40%;
- 5% in mineral mixes without organic constituents
- 10% in mineral mixes with organic constituents³⁸;
- 14% in other compound feeds³⁹.

In addition to this, in diet feeds the analytical constituents and the nutritional characteristics must be specified from the columns 'essential nutritional characteristics' and 'specifications on the label' from Part B of the appendix to Directive 94/39/EG⁴⁰.

The specified analytical constituents must be based on:

- The results of sampling and analysis of the compound feed itself, and/or
- Calculations using the results of sampling and the analysis of the feed materials processed in the compound feed, taking into account with the functioning of the production process, and/or
- Calculations using known levels of analytical constituents in the Feed materials processed in the compound feed, taking into account the functioning of the production process.

3.5. Composition

The categories of processed feed materials can be specified on the label or accompanying document for compound feeds as specified in the appendix to Directive 82/475/EEG⁴¹. Feed materials which do not belong in any category must be designated with the name on the list of exclusive names in Part B of the appendix to Directive 96/25/EG⁴². The feed material must comply with the description and requirements in column 3 of the list. If no exclusive name applies to an ingredient then the feed material must be given a name which can not mislead the consumer about the actual nature of the product. The following details must be apparent from the name of the product or by-product:

- the origin,
- the parts used,
- the treatment, and
- the maturity or the quality

The feed materials and categories of feed materials must be specified in decreasing order of their share in the compound feed.⁴³

For pre-packed feeds which consist partially or wholly of GMOs the label must state "This product contains genetically modified organisms" or "This product genetically modified [name of the ingredient]". For products which are not pre-packed these notifications must be specified at the point of sale.⁴⁴

³⁸ Annex part A, sub 2, Directive 79/373/EEC

³⁹ Article 5, section 1, sub e, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁴⁰ Annex part B, Directive 94/39/EC

⁴¹ Article 5 quater, section 3, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁴² Article 5 quater, section 1, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁴³ Article 5 quater, section 2, sub b, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁴⁴ Article 4, section 16, Regulation (EC) no. 1830/2003

For compound feeds for pets it is permitted to draw attention to the presence or the low level of one or more feed materials which are of real importance for the characteristics of that feed. In that case the minimum or maximum level, expressed in weight percentages of the feed material used, must be clearly specified next to the specification of the feed material or the categories.⁴⁵

For diet feeds⁴⁶ there must also be a specification on the label of the feed materials as specified in the column 'specifications on the label', in relation to the column 'essential nutritional characteristics' in Part B of the appendix to Directive 94/39/EG.

3.6. Directions for use

There must be directions for use on the compound feed label or accompanying document which indicates the precise purpose of the feed and which makes suitable use of the feed possible.⁴⁷ For compound feeds which consist of a maximum of three feed materials and for which the name clearly shows which feed materials are used, the directions for use are not mandatory.⁴⁸

Feed additives

Specific mandatory specifications apply to some feed additives with respect to the suitable use of the compound feed. These specifications may be made mandatory in the licence or permit conditions of the feed material processed. The license and permit requirements can be found via the Community Register⁴⁹.

Nitrogenous products

Additional instructions apply for compound feeds in which special nitrogenous products have been processed⁵⁰. These are given in the seventh column of the appendix to Directive 82/471/EEG. For the nitrogenous products which have been moved to the additives regulation there also still apply the provisions from the seventh column of the appendix to Directive 82/471/EEG.

Proteins from mammals

There must be a specification for feeds which contain proteins which come from the tissue of mammals: 'This compound feed contains protein from tissue from mammals which may not be fed to ruminants'.⁵¹ This obligation does not however apply to feeds for pets. This obligation also does not apply if the feed does not contain any protein from tissue from mammals other than⁵²:

- milk or a milk product,
- Gelatin,
- Dicalcium phosphate from defatted bones,
- Dried plasma and other blood products and

⁴⁵ Article 5 quater, section 4, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁴⁶ Annex part B, Directive 94/39/EC

⁴⁷ Article 5, section 1, sub c, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁴⁸ Article 5, section 1, sub a, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁴⁹ Feed Additives Register

⁵⁰ Directive 82/471/EEC

⁵¹ Annex, part A, sub 7, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁵² Annex, part A, sub 7, Directive 79/373/EEC

- Hydrolysed protein with a molecule weight of less than 10,000 dalton, which complies with each of the following requirements:
 1. it is obtained from skins from animals which were processed in a slaughterhouse where an official vet has carried out an ante-mortem inspection in accordance with Article 5, first section, subsection b of Regulation (EG) no. 854/2004 of the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union dated 29 April 2004 adopting specific provisions for the organisation of the official checks on products intended for human consumption which are of animal origin (PbEU L 139), and which on the basis of that inspection are found to be suitable for slaughter in accordance with that regulation;
 2. it is manufactured making use of a production procedure in which the necessary measures are taken to prevent the contamination of skins, as specified in part 1, as much as possible, the skins are soaked in brine, limed and washed intensively and the material is then exposed to a pH of more than 11 for a period of more than 3 hours at a temperature of more than 80°C, and the skins are then given a heat treatment at more than 140 °C for 30 minutes at a pressure of more than 3.6 bar
 3. it comes from an establishment which carries out a programme of internal checks⁵³.

Fishmeal, blood products and dicalcium phosphate / tricalcium phosphate

Under the TSE Regulation it is prohibited to process a number of products in feeds for productive livestock. An exception is made for non-ruminant productive livestock if a number of requirements are met. One of these requirements is that a specification must be on the label which warns the user against using this feed for ruminants. This obligation does not apply for pets. If applicable, the following statements must be placed on the labels for compound feeds hobby animals:

- "Contains fishmeal – not suitable for feeding to ruminants."
- "Contains dicalcium phosphate / tricalcium phosphate of animal origin – not suitable for feeding to ruminants"
- "Contains blood products – may not be fed to ruminants"⁵⁴.

Diet feeds

In addition to the above, the user instructions on the label for diet feeds must state:

- the instructions which are in part B of the appendix to Directive 94/39/EG
- advice on the composition of the daily ration for supplementary diet feeds⁵⁵;
- the recommended minimum and maximum period of use or a more precise period of use⁵⁶.

If in the column 'other statements' in part B of the appendix to Directive 94/39/EG it is not stated: 'It is advisable to consult a vet before use' or 'It is advisable to consult a vet before use or before extending the period of use', the label of the diet feed states: 'It is advisable to consult a specialist before use.'⁵⁷

⁵³ Annex A, sub 7, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁵⁴ Appendix 4 of Regulation (EC) no. 999/2001

⁵⁵ Annex, part B, Directive 94/39/EC

⁵⁶ Annex, part A, Directive 94/39/EC

⁵⁷ Article 5, section 4, Directive 93/74/EC

Claims may not relate to characteristics involving the occurrence, treatment or healing of a sickness⁵⁸!

3.7. Reference number and the guarantee and production date

A reference number and a guarantee date must be specified for compound feeds⁵⁹. This date must be indicated as follows:

- 'to be used before' followed by the date (day, month and year) in the case of compound feeds which are microbiologically highly perishable⁶⁰;
- 'preferably use before' followed by the date (day if wished, month and year) for other compound feeds.⁶¹

If a guarantee date also has to be shown because there are certain feed additives processed in the compound feed, then only the first date to be exceeded may be given⁶². The latest date is taken as the guarantee date, where the feeds retains its specific characteristics, if it is kept in suitable conditions⁶³.

The guarantee date and the reference number may be shown outside the box for this purpose. In the box there must be a statement of where this notification is to be found⁶⁴.

An indication of the date of manufacture may be given on the label or accompanying document⁶⁵. The date of manufacture on its own may not be specified but must be designated as follows: "Manufactured (number of days, months or years) before the indicated date of minimum shelf life." If the guarantee date on the label is indicated outside the box intended for this purpose then there must be an indication of where the guarantee date is specified on the packaging⁶⁶. The indication of the date of manufacture must be placed within the box.

3.8. Quantity

The quantity of compound feed must be specified in the following manner:

- the net volume or net weight for liquid products
- the net weight for non-liquid products⁶⁷.

The designations must be shown in figures followed by the name of the symbol for the measurement unit involved.

The quantity may be shown outside the box intended for this purpose. In the box there must be a statement of where this notification is to be found.

⁵⁸ Article 5 sexies, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁵⁹ Article 5, section 1, sub i and j, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁶⁰ Article 5 quinquies, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁶¹ Article 5 quinquies, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁶² Article 5, quinquies, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁶³ Article 2, sub l, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁶⁴ Article 5, section 1, sub d, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁶⁵ Article 5, section 3, sub l, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁶⁶ Article 5 quinquies, section 2, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁶⁷ Article 5, section 1, sub h, Directive 79/373/EEC

3.9. Name of the responsible company and the registration or certification number

The label must state the name and location of the head office of the company which is responsible for the labelling. The certification number of this company must also be specified⁶⁸. The responsible body may be: the manufacturer, packager, importer, seller or dealer, according to how the agreements have been regulated between these parties.

The VWA does not issue registration numbers. Companies which do not have to be certified do not have a registration or certification number. The registration number of the PDV may be specified. If the lack of a registration number from the VWA leads to problems in the export of feeds then this can be reported to the PDV or the VWA.

3.10 Other facultative compound feed specifications

In addition to the above notifications, it is permitted to place the following designations on the label:

- the price of the product⁶⁹;
- the trade name or the brand of the product⁷⁰;
- the name of the country where the compound feed was produced⁷¹;
- The notification of the condition of the compound feed or the special treatment which it has been subjected to⁷²;
- the mark or trademark of the company which is responsible for the labelling
- The name of the preparer and the location of the business unit where the compound feed was produced (if this company is not responsible for the labelling)⁷³.

Other details are permitted on the label or accompanying document, if they are:

- objective, measurable and can be proven;
- can not mislead the buyer;
- are clearly separated from the mandatory notifications⁷⁴.

For diet feeds the rules in Chapter 4.6 also apply. Medicinal claims are prohibited.

⁶⁸ Article 5, section 1, sub g, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁶⁹ Article 5, section 3, sub e, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁷⁰ Article 5, section 3, sub f, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁷¹ Article 5, section 3, sub d, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁷² Article 5, section 3, sub i, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁷³ Article 5, section 3, sub a and b, Directive 79/373/EEC

⁷⁴ Article 5 sexies, Directive 79/373/EEC

SAMPLE LABELS FOR HOBBY ANIMALS AND PETS

Minimum prescribed labelling provisions

3.1	Complete feed for dogs or cats	Contents = or < 10 kg
3.5	Rich in chicken, with rice	
	Composition:	
3.5	Meat and animal by-products (chicken minimum 14%), grains (rice minimum 4%), vegetable by-products, oils and fats, minerals	
	Instructions for use:	
3.6	See nutrition table for the recommended quantities per day.	
	Average analysis:	
3.4	Raw protein: 9.0 %, raw fat: 6.0 %, raw cellulose: 0.5%, raw ash: 2.2%, moisture 73%	
	Added per kg of feed:	
3.2	Vitamins: A: 13,500IE, D: 1,350 IE, E: 50 mg, of which 50 IE α -tocopherol Copper(II) sulphate pentahydrate, of which Cu: 15mg With EC permitted colouring agents and preservatives*,	
3.8	Reference number and use-by date: See top of packaging	
3.7		
3.9	Van Zuidhoren BV Lemmer Registration number: 12345	

**f the consumer packaging is larger than 10 kilograms then the individual names of the colouring agents and the preservatives must be specified on the label.*

Minimum labelling provisions + any additional details

3.1	<p>Complete feed for dogs or cats Contents > 10 kg</p>
3.5	<p>Rich in chicken, with rice</p>
3.5	<p>Composition: Chicken meat (minimum 14 %), chicken liver, rice (minimum 4%), cellulose fibres, sunflower oil, fish oil, Fructo-Oligo-Sacharides, minerals</p>
3.6	<p>Instructions for use: See nutrition table for the recommended quantities per day.</p>
3.4	<p>Average analysis: Raw protein: 9.0 %, raw fat: 6.0 %, raw cellulose: 0.5%, raw ash: 2.2%, moisture 73%</p>
3.2	<p>Added per kg of feed: Vitamins: A: 13,500IE, D: 1,350 IE, E: 50 mg, of which 50 IE α-tocopherol B2, B12, Colouring agent: Brilliant acid green BS (Lissamine green) (E142) Preservative: Sorbine acid (E 200) Anti-oxidation substance: L-Ascorbine acid (E 300) Copper(II) sulphate pentahydrate, of which Cu: 15mg Manganese (Specified levels of vitamins relate to the levels which must be present as a minimum at the end of the guarantee date)</p>
3.8	
3.7	
3.9	<p>Reference number and use-by date: See top of packaging</p>
	<p>Van Zuidhoren BV Lemmer Registration number: 12345</p>

3.1	Complete feed for guinea pigs and hamsters
	Composition:
3.5	grains, vegetable by-products, oils and fats, minerals.
	Instructions for use:
3.6	Per day: 35 grams for guinea pigs and 10 grams for hamsters
	Added per kg of feed:
3.2	Vitamins: A: 13,500IE, D: 1,350 IE, E: 50 mg, of which 50 IE α -tocopherol Colouring agent EC feed additives, Copper(II) sulphate pentahydrate, of which Cu: 15mg.
3.7	Reference number, contents and use-by date: See bottom of packaging
3.8	
3.9	Van Zuidhoren BV Lemmer Registration number: 12345

3.1	Complete feed for (dwarf) rabbits*
3.5	Composition: grains, vegetable by-products, oils and fats, minerals.
3.6	Instructions for use: 25 grams of feed per kg of body weight per day
3.4	Average analysis: raw protein: 9.0%, raw fat: 6.0%, raw cellulose: 0.5%, raw ash: 2,2%
3.2	Added per kg of feed: Vitamins: A: 13,500IE, D: 1,350 IE, E: 50 mg, of which 50 IE α -tocopherol Colouring agent EC feed additives, Copper(II) sulphate pentahydrate, of which Cu: 15mg.
3.7	Reference number, contents and use-by date: See side of packaging
3.8	
3.9	Van Zuidhoren BV Lemmer Registration number: 12345

**This label has been drawn up in the expectation of talks with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority. The purpose of these talks is to contribute to a more unambiguous understanding of the legal frameworks with respect to hobby animals.*

3.1	Complete feed for hobby poultry*
3.5	Composition: grains, vegetable by-products, meat and animal by-products, fish and by-products, oils and fats, minerals
3.6	Instructions for use: For the recommended quantities per day see the nutrition table.
3.4	Average analysis: Raw protein: 9.0%, raw fat: 6.0%, raw cellulose: 0.5%, raw ash: 2.2%, Methionine: 0,05%
3.2	Added per kg of feed: Vitamins: A: 13,500IE, D: 1,350 IE, E: 50 mg, of which 50 IE α -tocopherol Zeaxanthine (E 161h), Copper(II) sulphate pentahydrate, of which Cu: 15mg
3.7	Reference number, contents and use-by date: See rear of packaging
3.8	Van Zuidhoren BV
3.9	Lemmer Registration number: 12345
3.5	This product contains genetically-modified Soya.
3.6	Contains fishmeal and dicalcium phosphate / tricalcium phosphate of animal origin – not suitable for feeding to ruminants

**This label has been drawn up in the expectation of talks with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority. The purpose of these talks is to contribute to a more unambiguous understanding of the legal frameworks with respect to hobby animals.*