



# **Annual Report 2005**

# The Community Reference Laboratory for Feed Additives Authorisation



The CRL-FAA Team (October 2005)

The mission of IRMM is to promote a common and reliable European measurement system in support of EU policies.

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### **Foreword**

2005 was the start-up year for the Community Reference Laboratory for Feed Additives Authorisation (CRL-FAA), where we faced a new authorisation procedure, evaluation of our first dossiers, being a new team at the CRL-FAA, and where the first rapporteurs took on their duties. It was a year where we tried to bridge existing legislation with upcoming requirements and where everybody tried to find their role in the authorisation procedure. Regulation (EC) No 378/2005 which outlines the duties of the CRL-FAA, entered into force. A huge effort was made throughout the year to establish the right tools for our stakeholders, be it web tools, guidance documents or templates. And it was the year where we continued our efforts regarding accreditation and where we trained four new colleagues to join the CRL-FAA team.

As you will see via this Annual Report, in addition to all the start-up activities, the CRL-FAA undertook a number of other projects. We are proud that we managed to finalise all our evaluation reports and completeness checks for dossiers - within the given deadlines - even when there were complicating factors. In this context we would like to thank the Consortium Laboratories and in particular the rapporteurs for all their efforts, talent and commitment to reach a successful result. Likewise, on behalf of the whole CRL-FAA-team we would like to thank the Animal Nutrition Unit of DG SANCO for their continuous support to our activities and to EFSA for their constructive comments.

Looking towards the future the CRL-FAA anticipates a rapidly increasing workload, culminating with the re-authorisation of the 2542 feed additives that were notified as existing feed additives authorised under Directive 70/524/EEC. We, from the CRL-FAA's side, will do our utmost to make this gigantic task run as smoothly as possible and we look forward to close collaboration with our partners and their continued support in achieving this.

C. von Holst and A.M. Jensen, April 2006



# The objective and the team of the CRL-FAA

The scientific assessment of applicants' dossiers requires an evaluation of the analytical methods proposed by the applicant to determine the additive in feed and in some cases, its residues and/or metabolites in food. The task of the CRL-FAA is to evaluate the submitted analytical methods.

Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 nominates the Joint Research Centre (JRC) as the CRL for Feed Additives Authorisation and the JRC Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements (IRMM) has taken up the task since November 2004.

As of 31 December 2005, the CRL-FAA team consists of eight people, four of which are officials. The team members come from six member states and one candidate country.



Christoph von Holst (Operating Manager)



Anne-Mette Jensen (Project Leader)



Sulhattin Yasar



Renata Leuschner



Giuseppe Simone



Dalia Garaleviciene



Seppe Staes



Machteld De Smet



# Tasks of the CRL-FAA

In agreement with Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition and Regulation (EC) No 378/2005 which details the rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 and provides the practical conditions for the duties and tasks of the CRL-FAA, our responsibilities include

- the dissemination of analytical methods;
- the reception, storage and maintenance of the feed additive samples;
- evaluating the method of analysis of the feed additive, and of other relevant methods of analysis related to it, as regards its suitability for official control;
- submitting an evaluation report to EFSA for each dossier;
- where necessary, the testing or validation of the method(s) of analysis;
- to provide scientific and technical assistance to the Commission, especially in cases of dispute;
- the overall coordination of the Consortium of National Reference Laboratories; and
- the possibility to create and maintain a database of methods of analysis available for control of feed additives and to make it available to official control Laboratories.

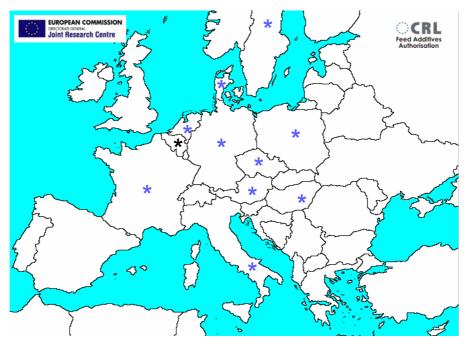
In its tasks, the CRL-FAA aims to contribute to the mission of the JRC-IRMM which is to promote a common and reliable European measurement system in support of EU policies.

# The CRL-FAA and the Authorisation Process

Before placing a feed additive on the market, applicants have to seek authorisation by the European Commission. Prior to a possible authorisation an assessment is carried out by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA). This procedure requires an evaluation of the analytical methods proposed by the applicant to determine the presence of the additive in feed and in some cases, also in food. Evaluation of the analytical methods is the task of the CRL-FAA. Given the high number of different feed additives ranging from trace elements to probiotics, expertise in many fields of analytical chemistry is needed. Therefore the CRL-FAA is supported in its tasks by a Consortium of European National Reference Laboratories (NRLs).

Methods are evaluated in a stepwise manner in which the CRL-FAA and a rapporteur, appointed from the Consortium Laboratories, at first assess the documents provided by the applicants. If the methodology is well known, a validation has already been conducted or the protocol of the method is scientifically sound, a favourable opinion will be given to EFSA without performing experiments. In agreement with Regulation (EC) No 378/2005 the CRL-FAA charges the applicant 3000 € for each application. When necessary, the CRL-FAA can test the method in its own or an NRL laboratory, or it can organise an inter-laboratory comparison study to validate it after prior notification to the EFSA.

The CRL-FAA also maintains a bank of reference samples of all authorised additives.



Location of Laboratories that were rapporteurs in 2005 (The laboratory with the black star is the CRL-FAA)

# The Consortium of National Reference Laboratories



According to Article 6.1 of Regulation (EC) No 378/2005 the CRL-FAA is assisted by a Consortium of National Reference Laboratories for the duties and tasks set out in 2.2, 2.4 and 3 of Annex II of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003. The appointed Laboratories are shown in Table 1:

Table 1: The Consortium of NRLs

EU Member States	Name of laboratory						
Belgique/België	<ul> <li>Federaal Voedingslabo Tervuren (FAVV), Tervuren</li> <li>Vlaamse Instelling voor Technologisch Onderzoek (VITO), Mol</li> </ul>						
Česká republika	Central Inst. Superv. Test. Agriculture, Ústřední kontrolní a zkušební ústav zemědělský (ÚKZÚZ), Praha						
Danmark	Plantedirektoratets Laboratorium, Lyngby						
Deutschland	<ul> <li>Schwerpunktlabor Futtermittel des Bayerischen Landesamtes für Gesundheit und Lebensmittelsicherheit (LGL), Oberschleißheim</li> <li>Landwirtschaftliche Untersuchungs- und Forschungsanstalt (LUFA), Speyer</li> <li>Sächsische Landesanstalt für Landwirtschaft Fachbereich 8         Landwirtschaftliches Untersuchungswesen, Leipzig     </li> <li>Thüringer Landesanstalt für Landwirtschaft (TLL), Abteilung Untersuchungswesen Jena</li> </ul>						
Eesti	<ul> <li>Põllumajandusuuringute Keskus (PMK), Jääkide ja saasteainete labor, Saku, Harjumaa</li> <li>Põllumajandusuuringute Keskus (PMK), Taimse materjali analüüsi labor, Saku, Harjumaa</li> </ul>						
España	<ul> <li>Laboratorio Arbitral Agroalimentario, Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca y Alimentación, Madrid</li> <li>Laboratori Agroalimentari, Departament d'Agricultura, Ramaderia i Pesca, Generalitat de Catalunya, Cabrils</li> </ul>						
France	Laboratoire de Rennes, Direction Générale de la Concurrence, de la Consommation et de la Répression des Fraudes (DGCCRF), Rennes						
Ireland	The State Laboratory, Dublin						

Norway	LabNett AS, Agricultural Chemistry Laboratory, Stjørdal
<b>EFTA Countries</b>	
United Kingdom	The Laboratory of the Government Chemist, Teddington
Sverige	Foderavdelningen, Statens veterinärmedicinska anstalt (SVA), Uppsala
Suomi/Finland	Kasvintuotannon tarkastuskeskus/ Kontrollcentralen för växtproduktion (KTTK). Vantaa/Vanda
Slovensko	<ul> <li>Skúšobné laboratórium – oddelenie analýzy krmív, Ústredný kontrolný a skúšobný ústav poľnohospodársky, Bratislava</li> </ul>
Slovenija	<ul> <li>Univerza v Ljubljani. Veterinarska fakulteta, Nacionalni veterinarski inštitut, Enota za patologijo prehrane in higienookolja, Ljubljana</li> <li>Kmetijski inštitut Slovenije, Ljubljana</li> </ul>
Portugal	Laboratório Nacional de Investigação Veterinária, Lisboa.
Polska	<ul> <li>Instytut Zootechniki w Krakowie, Krajowe Laboratorium Pasz, Lublin,</li> <li>Państwowy Instytut Weterynaryjny, Puławy</li> </ul>
Österreich	Österreichische Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit (AGES), Wien
Nederland	<ul> <li>RIKILT- Instituut voor Voedselveiligheid, Wageningen</li> <li>Rijkinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu (RIVM), Bilthoven</li> </ul>
Magyarország	<ul> <li>Országos Mezőgazdasági Minősítő Intézet (OMMI) Központi Laboratórium, Budapest</li> </ul>
Luxembourg	Laboratoire de contrôle et d'essais — ASTA, Ettelbrück
Lietuva	<ul> <li>Nacionalinė veterinarijos laboratorija, Vilnius</li> <li>Klaipėdos apskrities VMVT laboratorija, Klaipėda</li> </ul>
Latvija	Valsts veterinārmedicīnas diagnostikas centrs (VVMDC), Rīga
Κύπρος	Feedingstuffs Analytical Laboratory, Department of Agriculture,     Nicosia
	Centro di referenza nazionale per la sorveglianza ed il controllo degli alimenti per gli animali (CReAA), Torino
Italia	Istituto Superiore di Sanità. Dipartimento di Sanità alimentare ed animale, Roma

# Main Activities of the CRL-FAA in 2005

In addition to the scientific evaluations that the CRL-FAA carries out, in 2005 the CRL-FAA arranged workshops, prepared guidance documents, templates, established a number of web tools, maintained a database on methods of analysis, maintained a sample bank of feed additives and prepared several strategic documents.

## **Workshops**

The CRL-FAA held two workshops in 2005. Both were held at the JRC's Institute for Reference Materials and Measurements in Geel, Belgium. In each case the workshops were attended by representatives from DG SANCO, EFSA, the Consortium of NRLs, industry and academia. Proceedings from each of the two workshops have been prepared and sent to the participants.

The first CRL-FAA-workshop in 2005 took place 14-15 April and was attended by 38 participants. The recent inauguration of the CRL-FAA was celebrated with the Consortium of NRLs, and the CRL-FAA Guidance document for Laboratories was presented. In addition a case study for a feed additive dossier was demonstrated, illustrating the main steps of the evaluation process of its analytical methods. Scientific presentations on 'fitness for purpose' criteria and the analytical challenges related to flavourings relevant to feed additives were given.

The second workshop took place 5-6 October and was attended by 44 participants. The first learning experiences from scientific evaluations of the first dossiers were shared. The importance of identification of the feed additive and the criteria for official control methods were discussed and the CRL-FAA's criteria for suitability of methods were explained. The scientific session included presentations on measurement uncertainty and on advances in methodology to determine microorganisms.

# CRL-FAA Evaluation Reports

In 2005, final reports on the assessment of analytical methods for 14 dossiers were submitted to EFSA. All evaluations were completed within the given timeframe (see Table 2).

Table 2: Overview on dossiers handled in 2005

Additive Name	Active Substance	Finished	Deadline	Rapporteur			
		on					
Bioplus 2B	B. licheniformis DSM 5749	24/06/05	15/09/05	CRL-FAA			
	B. Subtilis DSM 5750			(R. Leuschner),			
Avatec® 150G	Lasalocid sodium	13/05/05	15/05/05	CRL-FAA			
				(M.J. Gonzalez)			
Rosemary	Carnosic acid	21/08/05	03/09/05	CRL-FAA			
				(C. von Holst)			
FormiTM LHS	Potassium diformate	02/09/05	02/09/05	Plant Directorate			
				(A.Plöger), DK			
Amaferm® Dry	Citric acid, thiamine	18/11/05	20/11/05	CRL-FAA			
	cellulase, amylase			(R. Leuschner)			
VevoVitall®	Benzoic acid	03/10/05	05/10/05	OMMI (J.Dömsödi), HU			
Biosaf® Sc 47	S. cerevisiae NCYC Sc 47	02/09/05	02/09/05	DGCCRF-L35-RENNES, FR			
Horses				(J. Michard), FR			
Biomin® IMB 52	E. faecium DSM 350	25/08/05	25/08/05	NVRI PULAWY			
	· ·			(K. Kwiatek), PL			
Coxidin®	Monensin sodium	20/07/05	20/07/05	RIKILT			
				(J. De Jong), NL			
Toyocerin®	B. cereus var. toyoi	11/11/05	11/11/05	AGES			
	(NCIMB 40112/			(A. Adler), AU			
	CNCMI-1012)						
Sel-Plex®2000	Selenized Yeast	08/12/05	08/12/05	Sweden			
	(S.cerevisiae)			(E. Nordkvist), SE			
Phyzyme <sup>TM</sup> XP	6-phytase (S. pombe)	22/12/05	22/12/05	Lufa Leipzig			
				(J. Schönherr), DE			
Biosaf® Sc 47	S. cerevisiae NCYC Sc47	21/12/05	30/12/05	CRL-FAA			
Lambs				(R. Leuschner)			
Calsporin®	B. subtilis C-3102	12/12/05	12/12/05	Lufa Speyer (G. Strauss), DE			

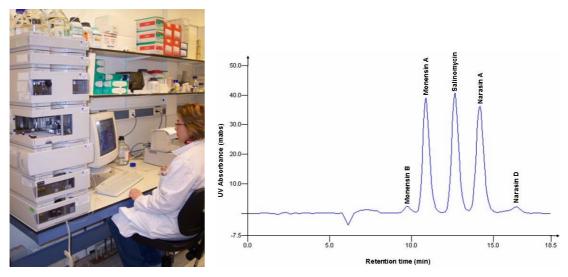
# Characteristics of the methods evaluated by the CRL-FAA

One of the major challenges is the diversity of the analytical methods that are evaluated by the CRL-FAA in cooperation with the NRLs. Since the target feed additives are quite different ranging from trace elements to probiotics, enzymes and coccidiostats, also the corresponding analytical methods cover a large range of different methodology. As specified in Commission Regulation (EC) No 378/2005, the main focus of the evaluation procedure is placed on the analytical method proposed by the applicant to determine the *active substance* in *compound feedingstuff*. In addition and on a case by case basis, also other methods such as the determination of *impurities* or *undesirable substances* in the *feed additive* can be

included in the evaluation of the CRL-FAA. For instance, legal limits are set for lead and cadmium in feed additives belonging to the functional group of compounds of trace elements. Therefore, appropriate analytical methods for their determination in the product are evaluated. In some cases, also the availability of appropriate methods for the *identification* of *the feed additive* is an important aspect of the dossier evaluation. For instance, when using an enumeration method to determine the *amount* of a specific probiotic in feedingstuffs, in addition molecular methods such as Pulsed Field Gel Electrophoresis (PFGE) or Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) can be applied to establish whether the detected micro-organism is *identical* with the authorised probiotic.

Since the purpose of the analytical methods is to enforce legal limits such as the minimum and maximum content of the active substance in the complete feedingstuffs, the analytical methods have to fulfil the criteria of methods suitable for *official control*. The fitness of the analytical method for this specific purpose needs to be demonstrated by conducting appropriate validation experiments. Therefore, the applicant has to provide the analytical protocol of the method accompanied by the validation study performed on this protocol. Requirements regarding method performance characteristics and validation procedures are described in dossier guidelines such as Commission Directive 2001/79/EEC and very recently by Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official food and feed control. In this context it is important to mention that the target field of application of the analytical methods as evaluated by the CRL-FAA is defined by the frame of the sought authorisation (i.e. target concentration in target feed). However, assessing the suitability of the method for the detection of the active substance at trace level in non-targeted feed is beyond the scope of this evaluation procedure.

For evaluating the analytical methods the CRL-FAA applies a flexible approach, taking into account the expert knowledge present in the laboratory network. As an example, it is also possible that the CRL-FAA recommends in its evaluation report another method, which is considered more suitable for official control purposes compared to the applicant's method. This is for instance the case, when, for a specific active substance an official Commission method or an ISO method is available, whereas the applicant proposed an in-house developed method. Other important sources of methods suitable for official control are method collections from National Control Laboratories or peer reviewed methods for which the results of collaborative validation studies of analytical methods in the relevant field have been published. To facilitate this work, suitable methods are included in the method database as described in this report.



left: Federica Serano determining vitamin A, using LC-UV equipment right: liquid chromatogram of selected coccidiostats

An overview of some of the methods recommended by the CRL-FAA in 2005 is shown in Table 3, demonstrating the diversity of the analytical methodology involved. For instance, the determination of the coccidiostat monensin sodium or of the zootechnical additive benzoic acid requires the use of High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) coupled to an ultraviolet (UV) detector. However, for quantifying the content of probiotic (microorganism) in feed additives, pre-mixtures and feedingstuffs enumeration methods need to be used. Also methods for inorganic analysis are important as exemplified with the determination of selenium in compound feed. In this case the active substance (selenium) is measured applying a method in which the laboratory can utilise various options regarding the sample preparation and the final determination (e.g. Zeeman graphite furnace Atomic Absorption Spectrometry (AAS) or Hydrid AAS).

The evaluation procedure also includes analytical methods, which do not measure the concentration of a target analyte but the activity of an enzyme. In this case the measurand (i.e. the enzyme activity) is defined by the *specific method protocol* as proposed by the applicant. Consequently, harmonisation of methods for the determination of the enzyme activity is difficult, since the method is almost always linked to a specific product. However, for the enzyme phytase a harmonised method is currently under review at CEN which allows for the determination of the activity of a high number of different phytase products applying the same protocol.

Table 3: Examples of analytical methods that are considered suitable for official control of the active substances evaluated in 2005

Active substance	Type of measurement	Status of method	Reference
Probiotic bacilli spores	Enumeration	Validated by a collaborative study and published in a peer reviewed journal	Leuschner, R.G.K., Bew, J.& Cruz, A. (2003) J. AOAC Int. 86, 568-575
Selenium	Atomic Absorption Spectrometry	Recommended method according to a National method collection	VDLUFA (Germany), Methodenbuch III, 1993, Selen 11.6.1
Monensin	High Performance Liquid Chromatography	InterNational Standard	ISO 14183.2005: Animal Feeding stuffs – Determination of monensin, narasin and salinomycin contents –
Phytase activity	Determination of the enzymatic product by spectrophotometry	Validated by a collaborative study	CEN-method draft: Animal feedingstuffs— Determination of phytase activity; Working document N 347 of CEN TC 327

## Guidance Documents Prepared in 2005

- General Guidance Document for Applicants on administrative matters and requirement for method descriptions/validation. The document is available from the CRL-FAA website (http://www.irmm.jrc.be/html/CRL-FAA/).
- Guidance for NRLs on duties of rapporteurs and time indications for the different steps of the evaluation procedure including a checklist for rapporteurs. This document is available to the NRLs only through the CRL-FAA extra-net.
- General template report for rapporteurs to obtain consistency in the style of CRL-FAA reports.

### Strategic Documents

The CRL-FAA prepared a discussion paper, in order to elaborate the fitness-forpurpose criteria for the analytical methods of the evaluation procedure. This paper was shared with the NRLs, DG SANCO and EFSA. Based on the feedback received on the discussion paper a follow-up document on this topic was written to reach a common approach among the involved parties.

# The CRL-FAA Sample Bank for Feed Additives

With the first feed additive sample arriving at the CRL-FAA 22 December 2004, the real start-up year for the CRL-FAA sample bank was 2005.

The CRL-FAA sample bank physically consists of 8 cells of -30°C freezers, 8 cells of +5°C fridges and 15 mobile cupboards at ambient temperature.

In 2005 we received 116 samples in total. We predict 7500 new samples by 2010, based on information available from the Community Register for Feed Additives.

In addition to the physical sample bank, all relevant information about the samples and accessory dossiers is updated (arrival date, weight, validity checklist, expiry date, etc...) in a virtual CRL-FAA sample bank consisting of an Access database.

Due to growing needs and in order to meet the requirements for accreditation, the working instructions, procedures for handling, storage, registration of the samples and the CRL-FAA Samples database have been reviewed and adapted in 2005.



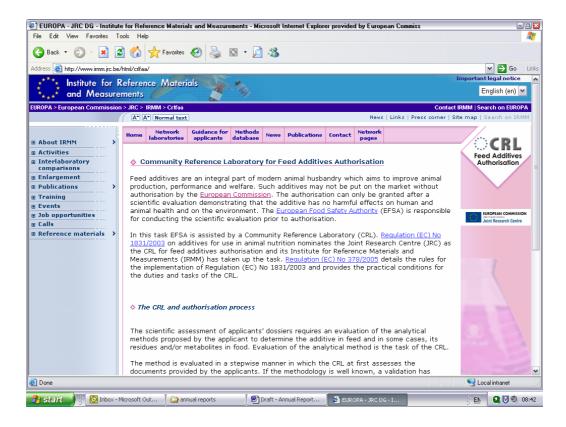
Renata Leuschner placing samples in one of the refrigerators of the CRL-FAA sample bank

#### Website

The CRL-FAA website was made accessible to the public in early 2005 and was officially presented during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop of the CRL-FAA, in April 2005. Both sections of the website (public pages and network pages) have been regularly updated during the year.

In the public pages information on the activities of the CRL-FAA and composition of the Consortium of NRLs are presented, and support is given to the applicants seeking feed additive authorisations.

In the network pages assistance is given to the NRLs on the procedures and activities in which the Consortium is involved. Detailed information is provided on the current status of the dossiers evaluated by the CRL-FAA. A list of the Reference Samples stored at the CRL-FAA is also available for the Consortium via the network pages.

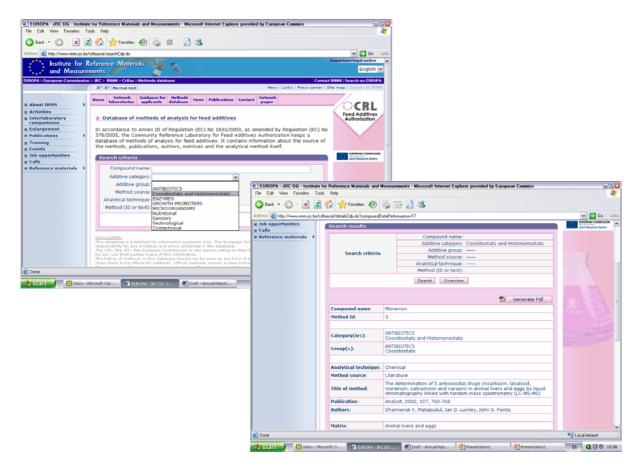


#### **CIRCA**

CIRCA (Communication and Information Resource Centre Administrator) is an extranet tool developed by the European Commission that enables the CRL-FAA and the Consortium of NRLs to maintain a secure space on the Internet where they can share documents and information, participate in a discussion forum. The system also allows for various other functionalities. It has been presented during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop of the CRL-FAA in April 2005 together with the CRL-FAA website. More than 50 users (Consortium members, EFSA staff members, DG SANCO administrators and the CRL-FAA team itself) share information and documents on a daily basis, allowing for effective and fast communication. The system is managed by the CRL-FAA. Due to the rapidly increasing quantity of documents to be handled, the CRL-FAA aims to replace the tool by a more powerful system in the near future.

#### Methods Database

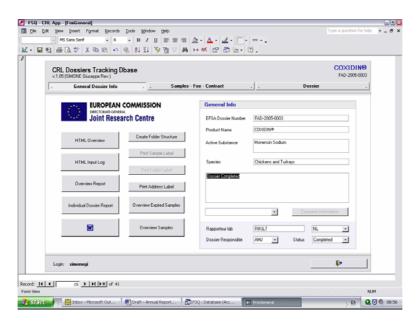
The database on Methods of Analysis for Feed Additives was first published on the website as a list of methods. During the year new methods have been added and it now contains about 285 methods. A new interface accessible via Internet has been developed and integrated into the website at the end of 2005 in order to allow users of the database to run searches by different criteria (compound, analytical technique, source, additive group/category). The last phase of the development of the database will be completed by April 2006 with an "administration interface" which will be used by the CRL-FAA not only to input new methods but also to update the contents of the database.



Search results for analytical methods for the determination of coccidiostats

# CRL-FAA Administration Informatics Tools

Several informatics tools have been developed internally in order to allow for an effective running of the CRL-FAA operations. A first version of a Dossiers Status Database has been established with the aim of keeping track of every single step in the evaluation process, particularly the strict deadlines laid down by the EU legislation, and of all the information related to each dossier handled by the CRL-FAA. The database has been linked to the already existing Samples Database and in addition will be linked to a Database for the Consortium Laboratories. The final aim will be the establishment of an integrated CRL-FAA application which will be used by the CRL-FAA staff for the management of the whole workflow of the evaluation process.



Example of one of the CRLs internal administrative tool

# Additional activities of the CRL-FAA

The activities of the CRL-FAA are closely linked to other projects of the IRMM, especially those on the validation and harmonisation of analytical methods in the field of food and feed analysis. Several members of the IRMM are working in the TC 327 'Animal feeding stuffs – Methods of sampling and analysis' (working group 3 'Feed additives and drugs') of the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN). In this context the CRL-FAA contributed to the validation of a harmonised method for the determination of phytase activity in feed which is now under review to become official CEN method.

# Future Activities of the Community Reference Laboratory for Feed Additives Authorisation

Looking ahead, the CRL-FAA anticipates a high workload, culminating with the reauthorisation no later than 2010 of the approximately 2600 feed additives that were notified as existing feed additives authorised under Directive 70/524/EEC (Table 4). The exact figure will however depend on several factors, for instance

- whether or not analytical methods related to flavourings are to be evaluated by the CRL-FAA;
- the extent to which applicants actually wish to seek re-authorisation for those additives that were notified; and
- how many applications will be filed per feed additive.

Table 4: Latest possible re-authorisation of the feed additives notified under Directive 70/524/EEC

Category	Entries	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Techn.	481	1	1			479					
Sensory	1823			1		1818		4			
Nutrit.	108					108					
Zootech.	110	1	8	6	14	58					1
Coccidio.	20	1			6	1	3		2	6	1
Total	2542	3	9	7	20	2464	3	4	2	6	2

In addition to the re-authorisation of *existing* additives, it is likely that the CRL-FAA will receive 20-30 dossiers for *new* feed additives per year, including 2006, as calculated by extrapolation of the number of dossiers received in 2005. However, we can never predict exactly how many new feed additives are developed. Furthermore we cannot predict *when* we receive the dossiers.

#### Commitment

In the CRL-FAA we will continue to do our utmost to do high quality work and to finalise all our evaluation reports and completeness checks for dossiers within the given deadlines and in close collaboration with the Consortium of NRLs. We aim to maintain the right guidance documents, web tools and templates for our stakeholders and we will continue our efforts regarding accreditation. However, with the large number of dossiers that the CRL-FAA faces, both from previously notified feed additives and from completely new products, the challenge will be to manage all these – without knowing when they arrive on our desk.

# Acknowledgements

We sincerely thank our colleagues within the Institute for their strong support and interest in the CRL-FAA activities, both with regards to secretarial support, review of reports and development of tailor made systems. A special thank you to Maria-Jose Gonzalez, Annegret Erkelenz, Michael Bickel, Federica Serano, Stefano Bellorini, Stephane Marcon, Ursula Vincent, Elisa Dalle Molle, Karl-Heinz Grobecker, Leen Peetermans, Ivan Celen, Elizabeth Garlick, Sari Lehto, Sigrid Beutels, Bartel Meersman, Marc Wellens, Helene Nielsen, David Lewis and, last but not least: Elke Anklam (Deputy Director of the IRMM and Head of Unit for the Food Safety and Quality Unit) and Alejandro Herrero (Director of the IRMM).

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