

# Regulation for Partnership of GMP+ International

## 1 Introduction

For GMP+ International it is important to have partners worldwide, sharing and supporting the vision, values and ambitions of GMP+ International. This document regulates partnership within GMP+ International.

## 2 Code of Principles

- 2.1 The following principles express the vision, values and ambitions of GMP+ International regarding its certification scheme for feed safety assurance. GMP+ International's partners endorse these principles.
- 2.2 GMP+ International's partners:
  - a. Are committed to respond – on behalf of all the links in the feed chain – to concerns of the animal production chain and consumer concerns relating to food safety in an appropriate, adequate and convincing manner. Both human health and animal health are included in this approach. Human and animal health surpass economical and commercial interests;
  - b. Encourage continuous improvement, development and understanding of the best practices in feed safety assurance and sustainability in a trustworthy, conscientious and consistent manner. Best practices are related to the latest insights regarding (i) quality assurance management, (ii) Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (iii) the application of good manufacturing practices (prerequisite programmes) and (iv) traceability;
  - c. Endorse that preventive and corrective measures are based on the latest scientific knowledge, but in case of doubts or lack of knowledge, the precautionary principle will have to be applied;
  - d. Endorse the establishment and maintenance of an international, chain-oriented certification scheme which serves as a basis for all types of feed companies (maximum uniformity with respect to the essential aspects of feed safety assurance), recognising the mutual dependence of all links in the feed chain. This also involves aiming for specific, national (end) product standards to comply with additional national requirements;
  - e. Recognise and endorse the shared responsibility of every company and link in the feed chain for the common interest of an optimal feed safety assurance in the entire feed chain, in order to comply with legal requirements and feed safety assurance related to downstream (animal production) food chain demands.
- 2.3 GMP+ International's partners:
  - a. Communicate openly with GMP+ International and its partners in case of common interests regarding feed safety.
  - b. Participate actively in consulting procedures and meetings of GMP+ International;
  - c. Communicate openly with the stakeholders in the feed and food chain, with governmental organisations and with other stakeholders regarding feed safety assurance.

- d. Encourage the acceptance and application of the GMP+ certification scheme animal feed within their supplier companies, customers and the official authorities in their country or location, and worldwide, or of other equivalent and accepted certification schemes.
  - e. Endorse open communication by GMP+ International regarding publication of participants, and of termination, suspension and withdrawal of certificates and all aspects that are relevant to maintain a trustworthy and reliable certification scheme.
- 2.4 GMP+ International's partners endorse the application of clear rules for certification and of supervision of the certification practices in order to achieve uniform, reliable and solid certification and a high GMP+ compliance performance within the participating companies.
- 2.5 GMP+ International's partners endorse the need for clear rules of certification regarding:
- a. Certification by independent certification bodies (third party certification), which are accredited in accordance with EN 45011 (ISO Guide draft 65);
  - b. Auditing by auditors with sufficient audit experience, professional skills and knowledge, who periodically test their knowledge of the scheme and of technical and legislation aspects of the business by means of periodical examinations;
  - c. Uniform and consistent assessment of the feed safety systems within companies by employing structured check lists to ensure a profound audit with clear classification of non-conformities with unambiguous measures and sufficient audit time;
  - d. Adequate supervision of the certification's operations by accreditation bodies and by GMP+ International themselves, in order to ensure consistent, uniform and independent application of the rules of certification and to maintain the trustworthiness of the certification scheme in the market.

### 3 Partners' types

- 3.1 A trade association representing companies with any of the subsectors listed below, has the option of becoming a partner of GMP+ International.

#### Subsectors

- a. Production of dry feed materials / co-products for fermentation
- b. Production of moist feed materials / co-products for fermentation
- c. Production of feed additives
- d. Trade in and collection of feed materials / co-product for fermentation
- e. Storage and transshipment of feed materials and feeds
- f. Treatment of feed materials
- g. Forage trade
- h. Transport and chartering of feed materials and feeds / co-products for fermentation
- i. Production of pet foods
- j. Production of premixes and compound feeds
- k. Livestock farming
- l. Processing, wholesale and retail of animal products for human consumption (food sector)
- m. Biomass fermentation

- 3.2 In the event where no trade association represents the scope of economic activity in a certain country for potential partners, individual companies within that scope are allowed to become a partner of GMP+ International.

## **4 Partnership's benefits and duties**

- 4.1 A trade association partner has the following rights and benefits:
- a. To be allowed to nominate candidate members for the International Expert Committee, and for international and national sub-committees and technical working groups for the scope of economic activity they represent.
  - b. Being a visible active partner of a leading platform for setting the best practices for feed safety assurance
  - c. Access to all draft documents that are being prepared by working groups and the International Expert Committee and their proposals;
  - d. Access to all Early Warning messages;
  - e. To be closely involved in the continuing improvement of the GMP+ certification scheme animal feed;
  - f. Displaying their organisation's logo on GMP+ International's website;
  - g. Being invited to GMP+ International partner and non-public meetings;
  - h. Receiving discounts for GMP+ International seminars and workshops;
  - i. Being invited to send in practical cases for harmonisation meetings with certification bodies;
  - j. Access to all GMP+ International's publications;
  - k. Access to the Database Risk Assessment Feed Materials.
- 4.2 In the event of companies being a partner as referred to in section 3.2, they have the same rights and benefits as described in section. 4.1 on the understanding that for sub a) they are allowed collectively to nominate candidates per country and per scope of the economic activity they represent.
- 4.3 The partner's duties include:
- a. To express their commitment to GMP+ in communication, behaviour and actions;
  - b. To actively participate in relevant consultation procedures and (instructional) meetings accessible to all partners;
  - c. To meet the obligation of paying the annual financial contribution mentioned in section 5.1. This contribution has to be paid within the first month of acceptance and in February every subsequent year;
  - d. Not to distribute or publish non-public information of GMP+ International (details in the log-in section of the website), excepting after explicit prior permission.

## **5 Partners' contribution**

- 5.1 Partners' annual financial contribution is € 1,000 (VAT exclusive) per scope of activity. If an organisation or a company subscribes for acceptance within more than one scope of activity, it accepts the obligation to pay contribution for both categories subject to a 25% discount.

- 5.2 GMP+ International is entitled to review the contribution amounts annually, under the condition that the updated rates will be published latest five months before the concerning calendar year.

## **6 Subscription and acceptance**

- 6.1 An interested organisation or company can register as a GMP+ International partner by filling in the application form included in Appendix I, which is available from the website of GMP+ International ([www.gmpplus.org](http://www.gmpplus.org)). By subscribing, it fully endorses the code of principles and recognises to respect the duties mentioned before.
- 6.2 GMP+ International's Managing Director is qualified to decide on acceptance of a candidate partner. Rejection will always be motivated, after consultation with the General Shareholders Meeting. Acceptance and rejection will be confirmed in writing. In the event of acceptance, partnership will be automatically renewed on an annual basis as per 1st January, unless the partnership is cancelled in accordance with the notice period as referred to below.

## **7 Termination of partnership**

- 7.1 A partner may terminate its partnership exclusively as per 1st January of the subsequent year, provided that the partner sends a notice of cancellation of its partnership latest four months in advance by registered letter.
- 7.2 The GMP+ International's Managing Director is qualified to decide on termination of partnerships if a partner fails to comply with the partner's obligations. Termination will be effected by registered letter with a clear motivation, and termination will be published after four weeks of the date of the letter. The termination will be null and void if the relevant organisation or company complies with its duties in a convincing manner.
- 7.3 In the event of a partner company having its GMP+ certificate withdrawn or suspended, the partnership is automatically withdrawn or suspended for the relevant period.

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This regulation replaces the Regulation for Partnership of GMP+ International of 17 May 2011.

The Hague, 9 December 2011

Johan den Hartog  
Managing Director

## Annex I: Application form

### To:

GMP+ International  
Stadhoudersplantsoen 12  
2517 JL Den Haag  
The Netherlands  
e-mail: [info@gmpplus.org](mailto:info@gmpplus.org)

### Application form for GMP+ International's partnership

Name of the organisation	:	
Street + no.	:	
Place	:	
Postcode	:	
P.O. Box	:	
Postcode P.O. Box	:	
Telephone number	:	+ (including country number)
Fax number	:	+ (including country number)
Country of location	:	
E-mail address	:	
Website address	:	
Registration number (Chamber of Commerce)	:	
Scope of activity	:	See section 3.1
Type of organisation	:	trade association or company
Name of the contact person	:	
E-mail address contact person	:	
VAT number	:	
Bank account number	:	
Swift Code	:	
IBAN	:	

Undersigned,

- a. Requests hereby to become partner of GMP+ International as soon as possible
- b. Declares to have read and to endorse the code of principles
- c. Declares to have read and to comply with all duties related to the partnership
- d. Allows GMP+ International to publish above mentioned information of the organisation
- e. Allows GMP+ International to publish the organisation's logo or ideogram, which will be forwarded to GMP+ International promptly.

Date of subscription :  
Name of subscriber :  
Function of subscriber :  
Signature :

### To version 2 of 17 May 2011

To harmonize the division of the subsectors of stakeholders in the Regulation for Partnership on the one hand and in the Regulations for the International Expert Committee and the Subcommittees on the other hand, this adaptation was necessary. As a result in section 3.1 the subsector 'Storage and transshipment of feed materials and feeds' has been added. Additionally, the subsector 'Treatment of feed materials' has been added because of a need in the market to look for possible standards regarding that issue too.

### Note to version 3 (1 December 2011)

Some GMP+ certified companies are also involved in the production, trade and transport of so-called co-products for fermentation. The Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation initiated in cooperation with the companies involved in the biogas fermentation sector the development of a standard for assuring the quality of so-called co-products used in fermentation. The involved stakeholders requested GMP+ International to combine this standard with the GMP+ FSA scheme because of efficiency and available experience.

This adapted version of the regulation enables the stakeholders in the whole biomass fermentation chain (production, trade and transport of co-products for fermentation and the biomass fermentation sector) to get involved in the determination and maintenance of the intended standard via partners (see section 3.1).

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