

## Q&A list GMP+ BCN-NL 1 Antibiotics-free feed

This document contains the answers to a number of frequently asked questions regarding GMP+ BCN-NL1 Antibiotics-free feed. If you have a question that is not in this list, you can submit it by sending an email to [info@gmpplus.org](mailto:info@gmpplus.org).

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### **1.1 Is certification for the Country Note BCN-NL1 mandatory?**

No, supplementary certification for the Country Note BCN-NL1 is not mandatory. However, it is an excellent way to show your customers that you do not use any antibiotics in the production of your animal feedstuffs. Your customer may request supplementary certification.

### **1.2 I supply to the Dutch market, but I am not located in the Netherlands. Can I get our company certified?**

The Country Note is not intended in particular for Dutch companies, it is intended for the Dutch market. If your company is located outside the Netherlands and you would like to demonstrate that you do not use any antibiotics (for example to supply Dutch customers), you may naturally request supplementary certification.

Supplementary is also possible if you have no connection whatsoever with the Dutch market. However, the expectation is that the Country Note will mainly be used by Dutch companies and companies supplying the Dutch market, as this concerns a request of Dutch market parties.

### **1.3 I am certified for a certification scheme that is accepted as equivalent by GMP+ International. Can I request supplementary certification for this Country Note?**

It is also possible to request supplementary certification for the Country Note BCN-NL1 *Antibiotics-free feed* of to a standard other than GMP+. For example, if you are certified for Ovocom or QS for the production of animal feed. This is subject to the condition that this concerns one of the standards accepted in the GMP+ FSA scheme. For details, please refer to the GMP+ BA10 *Minimum requirements for purchasing*.

This would require for a supplementary audit to be conducted by a GMP+ accepted certification body. This may be your regular auditor for the certificate you currently hold, but you may have to use a different certification body.

### **1.4 Part of the Country Note is verification by GMP+ International. How does that work?**

In order to verify if you actually do not use any antibiotics in your animal feedstuffs, an independent sampler will visit your production site in order to take a sample. This sample will then be tested for traces of antibiotics. This is conducted by means of the LC-MSMS screening, enabling the laboratory to trace no less than 50 relevant components in animal feed. This is a very accurate and highly reliable method for detecting antibiotics, even at very low levels.

If a company should be found to have used antibiotics, this test allows for further determining the type and level of antibiotic. Naturally, this will have implications for the antibiotics-free animal feed certification, but it will not affect your basic certificate.

The analysis result will be sent to the company and a copy to GMP+ International for periodical evaluation of the results.

### **1.5 How do I request certification?**

Certification for this Country Note is conducted by GMP+ accepted certification bodies, similar to certification for other GMP+ certificates). At the moment you are applying for certification, a sample will be taken and analysed (see question 1.4). As soon as you receive this analysis result, the GMP+ auditor can conduct the initial audit.