

# GMP+ International Corporate Governance

## Transparency

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# 1. Introduction

GMP+ International is an international operating non-profit private organisation that owns and manages a feed certification scheme for Feed Safety Assurance (GMP+ FSA) and Feed Responsibility Assurance (GMP+ FRA). The GMP+ Feed Certification (FC) scheme, furthermore GMP+ International, facilitates feed companies to produce and deliver safe and sustainable feed. It covers the whole feed chain, including activities like storage & transshipment, transport and laboratory analyses.

GMP+ International has established a respectable governance model that guarantees consistency, independency, responsibility and transparency among our GMP+ Community.

This document explains GMP+ International's governance on the following topics:

- Involvement of stakeholders
- Integrity policy
- Regulations on the ownership and strategic operations.

## 2. Company profile

GMP+ International is a private company with limited liability under Dutch law. GMP+ International chose this corporate entity for several reasons:

- Enable the organisation to act independently without influence of GMP+ certified companies or their groups of interest in the operational management.
- The Managing Director has decision-making authority, and the Articles of Association provide the framework for the operations of the organisation.
- According to the Articles of Association, which follow the Dutch law for private companies, the Managing Director needs approval for some strategic or substantial decisions of its General Shareholders Meeting or the Supervisory Board, to formalise.
- There is no shareholder demand on value expressed in money or dividend. GMP+ International is a private owned non-profit organisation that strives for the non-competitive goal: Safe and sustainable feed, worldwide. Our goal is facilitating the participants to comply with feed safety and sustainability demands in the market.

The scheme documents and the requirements of certification are developed transparently together with partners from subsectors in the feed and food chain. Reliable independent Certification Bodies check these requirements. Besides this, GMP+ International offers information through the GMP+ Company database and newsletters. To support companies to meet the certification requirements, GMP+ International offers support products such as the GMP+ Monitoring database, Feed Legislation website and the GMP+ Academy. In this way, GMP+ International contributes to Safe and sustainable feed, worldwide.



## 3. Our Core Values

What do we believe in? Our values guide us in what we do and the choice we make. They are our guiding principles.

- *Leading*  
We have always taken the lead, and we continue to inspire our community to be forward-looking and take initiative.
- *Together*  
We achieve the best results for the entire feed chain by working closely with our community.
- *Practical*  
We create standards that work in the real world and can be applied in practice throughout the feed chain.
- *Valuable*  
Beyond certification standards, we add value by sharing collective insights and valuable services with our community.

## 4. Involvement of stakeholders

The management and development of our GMP+ FC scheme and related services are based on support, involvement and engagement of (inter)national stakeholders from the whole feed and food chain. GMP+ International actively connects with them through networks and partnerships with feed companies, feed and food associations, other certification schemes for good agriculture practices (G.A.P.) as well as feed or food safety assurance, governmental organisations, consultants and knowledge institutes.

The stakeholders add value to our certification scheme and services through:

- Practical input and contribution to the development of the certification scheme and related services, ensuring market focus and expertise for efficiency.
- Market focus and customers satisfaction.
- Involvement in communication and business development.
- Collaborations and alignment of certification schemes for livestock and aqua farming and for food processing.
- Mutual recognition with and harmonisation of other feed certification schemes.
- Creating capacity in the market to distribute knowledge and support feed companies in the management of feed safety and sustainability..
- Systematically knowledge transfer via training and education to feed companies, consultants, Certification Bodies (auditors) and governmental organisations.



[ image: stakeholders in the GMP+ Community]

Our goal is to enable the collaboration of all stakeholders in our network and engage them through the GMP+ Community. With the GMP+ Community we provide an international platform for exchange of information, knowledge and experiences with stakeholders. We intensify communication and collaboration with our community by analysing and understanding, what is needed to facilitate feed companies all over the world to secure feed safety and sustainable work methods in alignment with the market demands.

GMP+ International has formalised the multi-stakeholder participation in several ways:

1. Partnerships with private associations & food companies and private collective. Branch organisations can nominate a candidate member for the International Expert Committee, the international subcommittees and or technical working groups (see chapter 5).
2. GMP+ Registered Consultants advise companies about the requirements and implementation of the GMP+ FC scheme. Registered Consultants can help to prepare you for GMP+ certification and support you in maintaining your certification.
3. The animal feed chain is constantly changing. Innovations and services are continuously improving, and through our global collaborations in the feed market we want to share services and products that can contribute to safe and sustainable feed.
4. The GMP+ Academy enables everyone in the feed chain to learn and share knowledge about feed safety and sustainability. GMP+ International facilitates a central platform where relevant knowledge is learnt and shared.

## 5. Decision making process

The Managing Director of GMP+ International is responsible for taking the decisions. The decision making is based on two principles:

- Multi-stakeholders' participation via IEC and Subcommittees
- Public consultation.

### 5.1. International Expert Committee

In this process, the International Expert Committee Animal Feed (IEC) has a crucial role. The IEC provides the management of GMP+ International with advice concerning the structure and content of the scheme and the certification requirements.

GMP+ International grants feed and food partners the possibility to nominate candidates for its IEC and its subcommittees. The IEC has a maximum of 19 members (2024)

Subsector	Number of seats
a. Production of dry feed materials	1
b. Production of moist feed materials	1
c. Production of feed additives	1
d. Trade in and collection of feed materials	1
e. Storage and transshipment of feed materials and feeds	2
f. Treatment of feed materials	1
g. Forage trade	1
h. Transport and chartering of feed materials and feeds	2
i. Production of pet foods	1
j. Production of premixtures and compound feeds	4
k. Livestock farming	1
l. Processing, wholesale and retail of animal products for human consumption (food sector)	1

### 5.2. Subcommittees

The advice of the IEC is based on discussion in the subcommittees or working groups. They consist of experts in their field.

GMP+ International has the following subcommittees:

- Subcommittee Production
- Subcommittee Trade & Collection
- Subcommittee Transport
- Subcommittee Certification & Compliance
- Subcommittee Responsible Feed
- Technical Committee Feed Support Products

The tasks, composition and working method of the IEC and the subcommittees are described in the [Regulation for GMP+ International Expert Committee Animal Feed](#) and the [Regulation for GMP+ International Subcommittees Animal Feed](#).

For partners, GMP+ International has the [Regulation for Partnership of GMP+ International Animal Feed](#), Partnerships with trade associations are only allowed, with those who represent companies in one of the following economic activities:

- a. Production of feed ingredients (primary & industrial production)
- b. Traders and brokers of feed ingredients and feeds
- c. Transport and chartering of feed ingredients and feeds
- d. Storage and transshipment of feed ingredients and feeds
- e. Production of pre-mixtures concentrates and compound feeds
- f. Livestock farming
- g. Processing, wholesaling and retail of animal products intended for human consumption (food sector)

Based on market demands GMP+ International experts prepare a draft document. Organisations or companies that don't fit within the above-mentioned descriptions but do want to give feedback are able to take part in the public consultations regarding draft documents. This process is visualised in the following flowchart:



Note that the process is more dynamic than the flowchart above. Discussions can take place in several subcommittees and working groups can be involved.

## 6. Integrity

The integrity of the GMP+ FC scheme involves three parties with different roles and responsibilities:

- **Certified companies** must comply with the requirements of the GMP+ FC scheme in a trustworthy way. A proper feed safety culture in a feed company is an essential condition to realise it.
- **Certification Bodies** have the responsibility of assessing and certifying companies in a competent and impartial way.
- **GMP+ International**, as the scheme owner, is responsible for setting appropriate normative standards, setting adequate rules of feed certification, and carry out effective compliance assessments of the certification process and the integrity policy.

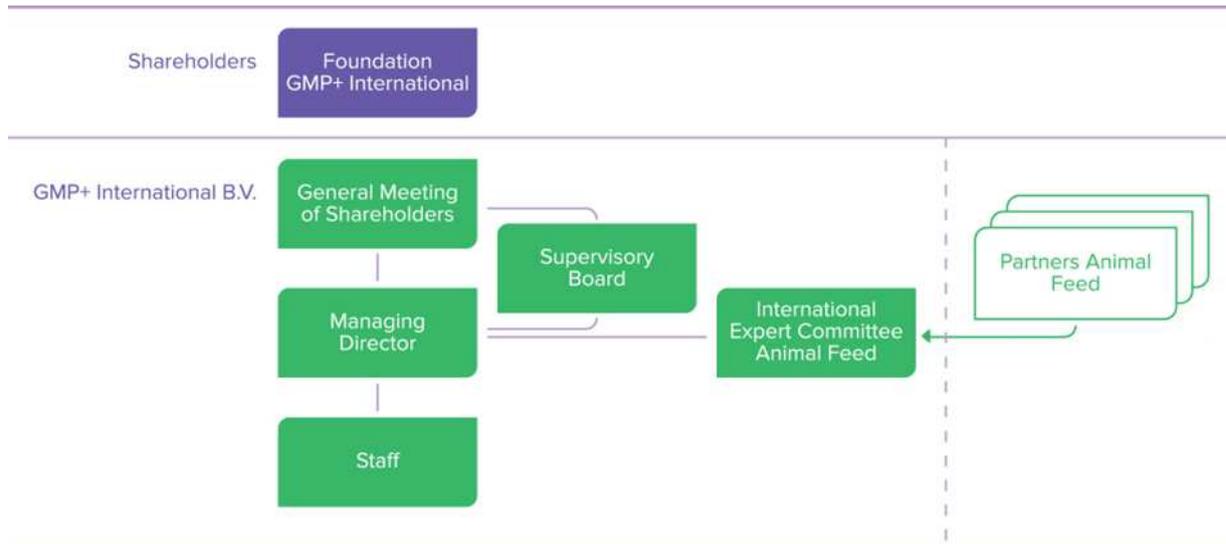
This integrity policy has several goals:

- a. Guarantee consistent implementation of the GMP+ FC scheme worldwide.
- b. Encourage the improvement of Certification Bodies.
- c. Give feedback to GMP+ International.
- d. Determine the ambiguous points in our normative documents.
- e. Follow up of complaints, rumours and investigate fraud.
- f. Achieving a continuous improvement of the certification process.

More information can be found in the [Integrity policy](#) document of GMP+ International .

## 7. Ownership and strategic operations

GMP+ International is a private company with limited liability under Dutch law (B.V.), registered at the Dutch Chamber of Commerce under registration number 27364542.



### Shareholder:

The sole shareholder is called "Stichting GMP+ International". This foundation is composed of ten Dutch associations representing the whole Dutch feed chain. These are the Nevedi, Comité van Graanhandelaren, Hisfa, CFA, VDDN, Vernof/VVS and LTO Nederland.

Note that GMP+ International is open to include more international shareholders.

The shareholders are represented in the General Shareholders Meeting of GMP+ International. The role of the General Shareholders Meeting has been regulated by Dutch law. It concerns the strategy of the company (Business Plan), including finance (annual account), the appointment (and dismissal) of the Managing Director and the members of the Supervisory Board. They are not involved in tactical and operational issues. This is secured in the articles of association.

### Supervisory Board:

The Supervisory Board advises, support and supervises the Managing Director on the management of the organisation and strategic operations. For certain decisions, determined by Dutch law, the Managing Director needs approval of the Supervisory Board. The Supervisory Board consists of three independent persons. They cannot be not involved in the feed business. They are also not involved in tactical and operational matters. The responsibilities and tasks of the Supervisory Board are secured in the Articles of Association as well as in the Regulation Supervisory Board.

### Managing Director:

The Managing Director manages the company. This is regulated in Dutch law. He or she is fully entitled to act and is responsible for all operations. According to legal and statutes stipulations, for some decisions the Managing Director needs approval of the General Shareholders Meeting or the Supervisory Board. The Managing Director is supported by the GMP+ International staff. The responsibilities and tasks are secured in Articles of Association, the *Management Regulation*, and in the *Regulation Supervisory Board*.