GMP+ Standard Accreditation Protocol – Product/Process Certification

1. Introduction

This document specifies the GMP+ International requirements for Accreditation Bodies (ABs) that provide accreditation to Certification Bodies (CBs) offering certification to companies in accordance with the GMP+ Feed Certification scheme - Module: Feed Safety Assurance.

2. Requirements for Accreditation Bodies (AB)

2.1 The AB must be either part of the European Accreditation (EA) Multilateral Agreement (MLA) or member of the International Accreditation Forum Multilateral Agreement (IAF MLA).

2.2 The AB must Inform GMP+ International in case of any change on the membership status stated in article 2.1.

2.3 The AB must meet the requirements stated in the ISO/IEC 17011 for accrediting CBs with GMP+ Feed Certification scheme - Module: Feed Safety Assurance for Product certification, in the scope of accreditation.

2.4 The AB must meet the relevant IAF mandatory documents (MD) for accrediting CBs for Product certification.

2.5 On request of the AB, GMP+ International can share Compliance assessment audit reports and overall analysis, regarding GMP+ International accepted CBs under their responsibility. Provided that the CB has agreed prior to disclosure of these documents in writing (Art. 5.4 of the GMP+ A5). This information must be shared strictly confidential and must only be used as supporting evidence during assessments conducted by the AB.

2.6 The AB must appoint a contact person for the communication with GMP+ International.

2.7 The AB must conduct an annual on-site assessment as part of the accreditation process. In case of any deviation the AB must inform GMP+ International.

2.8 The AB must notify GMP+ International on the status of the accreditation of CBs for this scheme and when the status changes. GMP+ International maintains a registration of accredited CBs.
3. **GMP+ competence of AB assessors**

3.1 AB assessor teams must meet the relevant IAF mandatory requirements for AB assessors.

3.2 The AB must appoint a GMP+ program manager for the GMP+ FC scheme. This can be the contact person for the communication with GMP+ International (see article 2.6).

3.3 The GMP+ program manager must attend at least one of the two annual GMP+ International harmonization meetings on invitation of GMP+ International, to assure knowledge regarding updates in the GMP+ FC scheme and to maintain up to date knowledge of the GMP+ FC scheme.

4. **Accreditation of Certification Bodies**

4.1 The CB must have a GMP+ Feed Certification Scheme License Agreement "GMP+ A5" signed with GMP+ International prior to its accreditation.

4.2 The CB must acquire the accreditation within one year after the date of the license.

4.3 The accreditation process must cover the requirements of the GMP+ Feed Certification scheme - Module: Feed Safety Assurance applicable to the scope of accreditation. The CB performance on the GMP+ certification scheme must be assessed by GMP+ International as part of its Integrity Policy.

4.4 The CB with a license and under the accreditation process of the GMP+ Feed Certification scheme - Module: Feed Safety Assurance for the applicable scope of accreditation may already carry out GMP+ audits with a qualified GMP+ auditor. One of these audits must be witnessed by the AB and the accompanying certification process must be assessed as part of the initial accreditation process.

5. **Witness audits**

5.1 AB witness audits must meet all requirements established in the IAF mandatory documents (MD) for witnessing CBs.

6. **GMP+ International expert**

6.1 A GMP+ International auditor could assist during AB accreditation audits. For this purpose the AB can request the presence of a GMP+ International auditor (see article 2.5).
7. The scope of accreditation

7.1 The applicable scope of accreditation must be precisely defined and included on the accreditation documents with reference to the:

7.1.1 Annex 5 Normative documents of the GMP+ C6 Assessment and Certification Criteria for GMP+ Certification-process certification.

7.1.2 The CB locations included in the CB accreditation.

8. Integrity Policy

8.1 The assessment that CBs meet requirements of the GMP+ Standard Accreditation Protocol must be monitored by GMP+ International and feedback on compliance with it will be shared directly with ABs for discussion and action when appropriate.