

 Technical Specifications

# R5.0 - Feed Responsibility Management Systems Requirements

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# Welcome

This Feed Certification scheme document helps you to provide responsible feed worldwide. By meeting the requirements set by GMP+ International together with our GMP+ Community, we aim to help you get the feed certification you need. Please read the information in this document carefully.

*Let's make this work together!*

## 1. Scope of this document

This document enables a company to achieve its feed responsibility objectives. It specifies requirements for a Feed Responsibility Management System (FRMS) which enables a company to provide responsible feed products and feed services.

All requirements in this standard are generic and are intended to be applicable to all companies with activities in the feed chain, regardless of size and complexity. This ranges from companies which produce feed additives, feed materials, premixtures, compound feed or pet food, to companies which are involved in the trade, storage and transshipment and transport by road or rail of these products.

This document allows any company, including smaller businesses, to set up a robust and reliable Feed Responsibility Management System. In addition, internal and/or external resources can be used to meet the requirements of this standard.

This document must always be used in combination with a MI document which holds the requirements set for responsible feed and feed services. The combined use enables a company to provide responsible feed products and feed services in accordance to the request from the Market Initiative.

If a company demonstrates compliance with the requirements in this standard, a GMP+ FRA certificate can be granted by the certification body.



## 2. Normative references

The requirements in this document ensure the implementation of a Feed Responsibility Management Systems Requirements (FRMS). The Market Initiative documents contain the responsible feed and feed services requirements set by a particular Market Initiative. The combined use of these documents enables a company to provide responsible feed products and feed services in accordance to the request from the Market Initiative.

Both the Feed Responsibility Management Systems Requirements and the Market Initiatives documents must be considered as a normative part of the GMP+ FRA module. The certified company must comply with the applicable feed legislation.



### 3. Terms and Definitions

See F 0.2 *Definition list*.



## 4. System requirements

### 4.1. Feed Responsibility Management System

#### 4.1.1. Leadership and Commitment

Top management of a GMP+ certified company must demonstrate leadership and commitment with respect to the Feed Responsibility Management System (FRMS) by:

- a) ensuring that the feed responsibility policy and the objectives of the FRMS are established;
- b) ensuring that the resources are made available for compliance with the FRMS;
- c) communicating the importance of an effective FRMS and by conforming to the FRMS requirements and the mutually agreed customer requirements relating to feed responsibility;
- d) ensuring that the FRMS is evaluated and maintained to achieve its intended result(s).

#### 4.1.2. Top management's Responsibilities and Authorities

Top management must ensure that the responsibilities and authorities for relevant roles are assigned, communicated and understood within the organisation.

Top management must assign the responsibilities and authority for:

- a) ensuring that the FRMS conforms to the requirements as described in this document;
- b) reporting on the performance and any need for improvement of the FRMS to Top management;
- c) ensuring that the awareness of the production and/or trade of responsible feed is promoted throughout the whole organisation.

#### 4.1.3. Determining the scope of the Feed Responsibility Management System

The certified company must establish, implement, maintain, update and continually improve a Feed Responsibility Management System, in accordance with the requirements of the GMP+ documents. The certified company must comply with the applicable feed legislation and work in accordance with other developments related to their responsibility.

The GMP+ certified company must describe all activities, processes, products or services in the Feed Responsibility Management System (FRMS) for which it is responsible.



The certified company must determine the scope of the FRMS, by specifying:

- a) all activities, processes, products or services related to responsible feed. These include activities, processes, products and services carried out by/for third parties;
- b) all locations -- whether these are the property of the company or not -- including relevant administrative locations;
- c) Which of the activities, processes, products or services related to the production, trade, storage and transport of responsible feed are subject to GMP+ certification;

It is possible to exclude activities, processes, products or services related to the production, trade, storage and transport of responsible feed from the scope of GMP+ certification.

- d) other (responsible feed and regular feed related) activities, processes, products or services as defined under a) that can have an impact on feed responsibility. The certified company must ensure that these activities, processes, products or services do not have a negative impact on feed responsibility. This must be supported by a HACCP analysis.

If a certified company decides to outsource an activity which can have an impact on the production and/or trade of responsible feed, the certified company must ensure that this activity is also carried out in accordance with the requirements of this GMP+ standard.

The scope of the FRMS must be documented and updated.

#### 4.1.4. Documented information

The certified company's Feed Responsibility Management System must include:

- a) documented information required by the GMP+ standard;
- b) all relevant documented information required by national and international legislation and customers;
- c) documented information concerning the scope of the FRMS (§ 4.1.3).

When creating and updating documented information, the certified company must ensure appropriate:

- a) identification (e.g. a title, date, author, or reference number);
- b) format (e.g. language, software version, graphics) and media (e.g. paper, electronic);
- c) review and approval for suitability and adequacy of the information.

Documented information required by the FRMS and by this GMP+ document must be controlled to ensure:

- a) it is available and suitable for use, where and when it is needed;
- b) it is adequately protected (e.g. from loss of confidentiality, improper use, or loss of integrity).





For the control of documented information, the certified company must address the following, as applicable:

- a) distribution, access, retrieval and use;
- b) storage and preservation, including preservation of legibility;
- c) control of changes (e.g. version control);
- d) retention and disposition. Documented information must be kept at least three years unless a longer storage period is required according to the applicable feed legislation or other regulations.

## 4.2. Prerequisite programmes (PRPs)

### 4.2.1. People

The certified company must ensure that the persons who are given the responsibility to operate and maintain an effective FRMS are competent.

The certified company must:

- a) clearly describe how it organizes its personnel in relation to FRMS;
- b) determine the necessary competence of persons -- including external providers -- doing work under its control that affects feed responsibility performance and the effectiveness of the FRMS;
- c) where applicable, take actions to acquire the necessary competence, and evaluate the effectiveness of the actions taken;
- d) keep appropriate documented information as evidence of competence.

#### Helpful tip:

A competent Feed Responsibility Team has multi-disciplinary knowledge and experience in developing and implementing the FRMS. This includes (but is not limited to) the organization's products, processes, equipment and feed responsibility hazards within the scope of the FRMS.

The certified company must ensure that all relevant people doing work under the certified company's control must be aware of:

- a) the objectives of the FRMS relevant to their task(s);
- b) their individual contribution to the effectiveness of the FRMS, including the benefits of improved feed responsibility performance;
- c) the implications of not conforming with the FRMS requirements.

### 4.2.2. Traceability system



The certified company must have a documented procedure that demonstrates that the certified company is able to ensure the timely withdrawal/recall of products that have been identified as not compliant.

All products that can have an impact on feed responsibility (GMP+ FRA assured or non-GMP+ FRA assured feed) must be traceable in all stages of production, processing and distribution. The traceability system must be able to uniquely identify incoming material from the suppliers and the first stage of the distribution route of the end product.

The required information must be available for GMP+ International and competent authorities within four hours unless the authorities determine a shorter timeframe.

Documented information as evidence of the traceability system must be retained for a defined period, as stated in § 4.1.4. The GMP+ certified company must verify the effectiveness of the traceability system.

 **Helpful tip:**

The document *Guideline for Traceability*, is very useful and provides more information about how to set up an internal traceability procedure.

Certified companies must retain the following as documented information for all products and services:

- a) name and address details of suppliers and customers;
- b) date of delivery;
- c) type of product or service;
- d) product quantity / number of products;
- e) batch number if applicable. This can also be designated as a producer's batch number or a reference number;
- f) transport/ distribution details such as the identification and code of the loading compartments (if the certified company is responsible for transport).

If the certified company is using one of the supply chain models from chapter 5, the records regarding traceability needs to be expanded so it covers all the requirements of the material accounting system (see § 5.1)

### 4.3. Risk Assessment

The certified company must conduct a risk assessment to control risks related to the production and/or trade of responsible feed.

The following HACCP principles are involved:

- a) conduct a hazard analysis;



- b) identify critical control points (CCPs);
- c) establish critical limits for the CCPs;
- d) establish and implement a monitoring system for the CCPs;
- e) define corrective actions;
- f) validate and verify the HACCP plan;
- g) document and register the HACCP plan.

Even though HACCP is normally used to control feed safety risks, there are also risks involved in feed production, trade, storage and/or transport. In the case of this standard, the risk of uncontrolled mixing or substitution between responsible feed and regular feed need to be identified and controlled by the means of a HACCP plan.

In order to apply the HACCP principles successfully, the certified company must first comply with a number of requirements including:

- a) establishing a Feed Responsibility Team;
- b) specifying products and processes including their use;
- c) establishing and implementing a prerequisites program (see § 4.2).

 **Helpful tip:**

The Guideline HACCP (*Guidelines HACCP GMP+*) provides a useful example methodology for risk assessment. Certified companies may use this or a different methodology to do the risk assessment. The focus of this document is on feed safety, but can be used for feed responsibility as well. The result of the application of HACCP principles can be recorded in a so-called HACCP plan. A HACCP plan is a document which is drawn up in accordance with the HACCP principles. Compound feed producers must take into account the risk of mixing/substitution of responsible and regular feed when rework is used in the production process.

## 4.4. Purchase

### 4.4.1. Selection of suppliers

The certified company must ensure that purchased feed and other products and/or services comply with the specified purchasing requirements in the applicable MI document.

The certified company must assess the performance of suppliers at least once a year.

### 4.4.2. Verification of incoming products and/or services

Certified companies must establish, implement, maintain and update criteria for receiving incoming products and services. The results of entry checks must be retained as documented information.

Each incoming delivery must be verified on the basis of its specifications. The products must comply with the specifications. The relevant supply chain model must be documented.



## 4.5. Informing the customer

### 4.5.1. Inform the customer about the status of the feed

The certified company must make the status of the delivered feed or service clear to the customer via a positive declaration. This must include a reference to which of the scopes the feed or service complies with.

The certified company is free to choose how to communicate to the customer about the status of the feed. The certified company must inform customers in relation to:

- a) the status of the feed must contain a clear reference to the applied scope;
- b) the status of the feed must be communicated to the customer on delivery at the latest;
- c) only certified companies that are certified according to the applicable scope are allowed to make a statement about the status of the feed;
- d) informing the customer is only required if the feed is delivered to customers who request feed that is compliant with a specific scope.

#### Helpful tip:

It's the certified company's responsibility to make the status of delivered feed or service clear to the customer.

This status declaration can involve documentation, for example:

1. writing down in a contract with the customer which scope the feed complies with;
2. confirming the status of the feed on the delivery slip;
3. stating that a certain feed recipe complies with the requirements of the specific scope.

### 4.5.2. Delivery requirements

Certified companies must ensure that all invoices issued for deliveries supplied according to the requirements of this standard, include the following information:

- a) name and address details of suppliers and customers;
- b) date of delivery;
- c) type of product or service;
- d) product quantity / number of products;
- e) the supply chain models that are used (see chapter 5). The certified company must include the percentage of volume/weight of each of the used supply chain models for that specific delivery.



## 4.6. Verification

### 4.6.1. External communication

The certified company must establish, implement and maintain effective communications about feed responsibility with customers in relation to feedback including complaints.

### 4.6.2. Internal audit

The certified company must conduct internal audits at planned intervals to provide information on whether the FRMS:

- a) conforms to:
  - 1. the certified company's own requirements for its FRMS;
  - 2. the requirements of this GMP+ standard;
- b) is effectively implemented and maintained.

The certified company must plan, establish, implement and maintain an audit program(s) including a frequency of at least once a year.

The certified company must during the development of the audit program(s) take into consideration:

- a) the selection of competent auditors who conduct audits which ensure objectivity and the impartiality of the audit process;
- b) that the results of the audits must be reported to the Feed Responsibility Team and relevant management;
- c) that documented information is kept as evidence of the implementation of the audit program and the audit results;
- d) that necessary correction and corrective action must be taken within a determined time frame.

#### Helpful tip:

For more information the audit checklist of GMP+ International can be used during the internal audit ([www.gmpplus.org](http://www.gmpplus.org)).

### 4.6.3. Management review

Top management must review the certified company's FRMS at planned intervals of at least once a year to ensure its continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness.



The management review must include consideration of:

- a) changes in the organisation relevant to the FRMS;
- b) information on the performance and the effectiveness of the FRMS, including trends in:
  - 1. the compliance with legislation and regulations;
  - 2. monitoring and measurement results;
  - 3. analysis of the results of verification activities related to PRPs and the hazard control plan;
  - 4. audit results (internal and external);
  - 5. performance of external suppliers;
  - 6. the extent to which objectives of the FRMS have been met.
- c) the adequacy of resources (e.g. personnel, equipment);
- d) relevant information obtained through external and internal communication, including requests and complaints related to feed responsibility from interested parties (e.g. customers and suppliers);
- e) opportunities for continual improvement.



## 5. Supply chain models

This standard provides various supply chain models. The requirements for application of these supply chain models are explained in this chapter. In the scope of the MI document is laid down which supply chain models can be used.

All supply chain models are documented via the material accounting system. The general requirements regarding the material accounting system can be found in § 5.1. All additional requirements regarding the material account system are described in the paragraph (§) of the applicable supply chain model.

The following supply chain models are stated in these paragraphs (§) :

§	Supply chain model
5.2	Segregation
5.3	Mass balance
5.4	Area Mass Balance
5.5	Book & claim

### + Helpful tip:

This chapter is a generic chapter used for all FRA scopes (for various types of companies). As a result of this, there can be requirements stated that are not relevant for the certified company applying this standard. In that case these requirements can be skipped. For example there is a reference to conversion factors in the material accounting system. This is only relevant for producers/processors of feed materials.

### 5.1. Material accounting system

The certified company must identify and document all processing steps involving a change of material volume or weight. This can be based either on determining the actual quantity of each subsequent fraction, or on specifying conversion factor(s) for each processing step. Where it's not possible to measure each processing step, quantities for the complete process may be used.

### + Helpful tip:

For example, if a certified crusher purchases responsible soy, it will transfer the x amount of soy into a number of fractions (for example soy expeller and soy oil). Within the material accounting system, the certified company can use either actual quantities or conversion factors to transfer responsible input to responsible output.

The certified company must set up a material accounting system for recording data related to this standard, including input quantities received and output quantities sold to customers.



The material accounting system must at least include the following information for both input and output:

- a) product description;
- b) quantities of certified product (by volume or weight);
- c) the supply chain model used.

The certified company must draw up once a year volume summaries providing quantities (volume or weight) for each product type and system. This volume summary must include the following:

- a) inputs received;
- b) inputs used for production (if applicable);
- c) inputs still in stock;
- d) outputs still in stock;
- e) output supplied.

*Note: If conversion factors are used, the certified company must specify and document the methodology for calculating the conversion factor(s). The certified company must ensure that conversion factors are updated when there are changes to the production process. This must be done at least once a year.*

 **Helpful tip:**

A material accounting system has a clear link with a tracking and tracing system. Certified companies that already use a GMP+ tracking and tracing system (required in the GMP+ FSA module), will find it easy to comply with these requirements.

## 5.2. Segregation

The certified company must ensure that the responsible feed material supplied to customers has been physically segregated from regular feed material at the physical location. This includes any other stage under the control of the certified company.

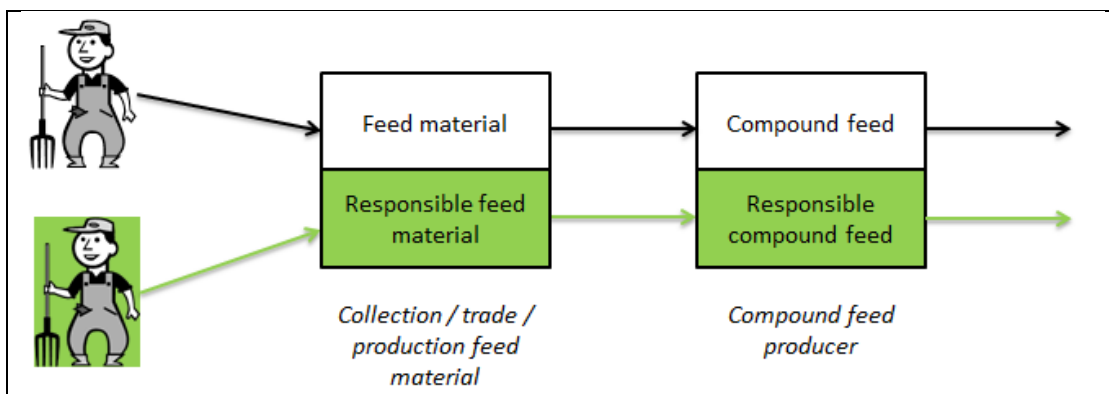


Fig. 1: Schematic overview of Segregation (simplified)





**+ Helpful tip:**

With the segregated system, the certified company can be certain that the material originates from certified farms. This system is however not an Identity-Preserved (IP) system, so it is not designed to provide traceability back to a specific farm.

### 5.2.1. Purchasing

Responsible feed material must be sourced directly from certified growers or from suppliers that use the supply chain model identity preserved or segregation.

When the certified company is purchasing feed via multiple supply chain models, the certified company must ensure that inputs to each supply chain model complies with the purchasing requirements in the relevant MI document.

### 5.2.2. Processing

When identity preserved certified products are mixed with segregated products while abandoning batch traceability, the end product is considered as segregated product.

The certified company must have an effective system in place that is designed to ensure no intermixing between segregated responsible feed material and non-segregated responsible feed material.

**+ Helpful tip:**

Such a system may include for example allocation adjustments (e.g. that the first flow of product through the system following a change from responsible feed material to regular feed material, can be classified as regular) or other systems. Flushing the processing or storage equipment between flows of responsible feed material and regular feed material can be used as such a system, but physical cleaning is not a requirement for this standard.

### 5.2.3. Material accounting system

#### Input

The certified company must record the responsibility data and the quantity (volume or weight) of all responsible segregated input material in the material accounting system, but only after it has gained legal ownership of the input material and has ensured the supporting documentation contains the right information. This data must be recorded as 'output units'.

Where the processing/production process generates co-products and by-products, the certified company must record the quantity (volume or weight) by using separate categories for these co-products and by-products. In this case conversion factor(s) for the processing unit or actual measured output quantities must be used.

### Output

The certified company must deduct the quantity of data supplied to the customers from their material accounting system based on the actual physical material supplied.

### Allocation of responsibility data

The certified company must ensure that allocation of data to customers is consistent with the actual physical product delivered.

## 5.3. Mass balance

The certified company must ensure that the output of responsible feed material supplied to customers does not exceed the input of responsible feed material received at the location, using either a continuous accounting system or a fixed inventory period.

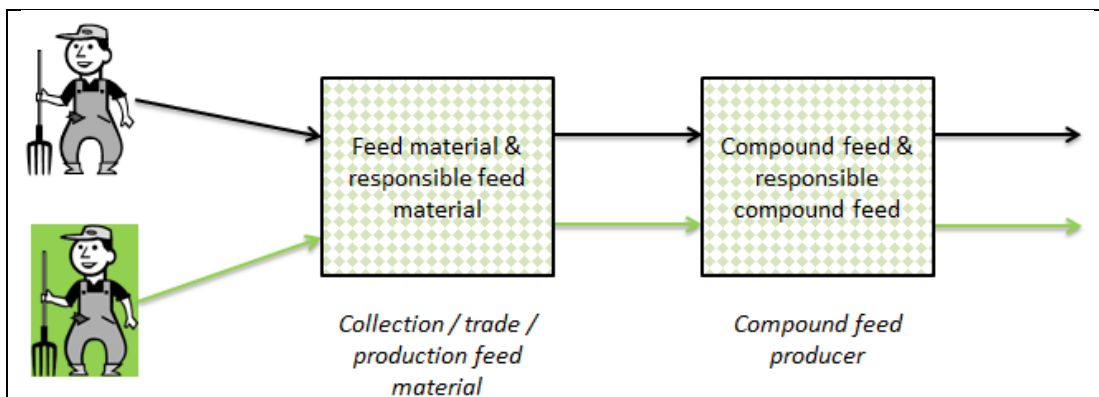


Fig. 2: Schematic overview of Mass balance (simplified)

### 5.3.1. Purchasing

With mass balance, the certified company is allowed to blend regular feed material with responsible feed material. It is therefore also allowed to purchase regular feed material from suppliers. Responsible feed material must be sourced directly from certified growers or from suppliers that use the supply chain models: identity preserved, segregation or mass balance.

When the certified company is purchasing feed via multiple supply chain models, the certified company must ensure that inputs to each supply chain model complies with the purchasing requirements in the relevant MI document.

### 5.3.2. Processing

When identity preserved and/or segregated certified products are mixed with mass balanced products while abandoning batch traceability, the end product is considered as mass balanced product.



### 5.3.3. Material accounting system

#### Input

The certified company must record the quantity (volume or weight) of all responsible input material in the material accounting system, but only after it has gained legal ownership of the input material and has ensured the supporting documentation contains the right information. This data must be recorded as 'output units'.

Where the processing/production process generates co-products and by-products, the certified company must record the quantity (volume or weight) by using separate categories for these co-products and by-products. In this case conversion factor(s) for the processing unit or actual measured output quantities must be used.

Where additional responsibility data is associated with the mass balance inputs received, this data must remain linked, combined and recorded in the material accounting system using separate categories for each identical group of sustainability data.

#### Output

Where the processing/production process generates co-products and by-products, the certified company must deduct the quantity of data supplied to customers from the respective co-product and by-product categories in the material accounting system. The certified company must not apply data generated from the production of one co-product or by-product to a different co-product and by-product.

Where additional responsibility data is associated with the mass balance inputs received, the certified company must deduct the quantity of data supplied to customers from the relevant category of linked data in the material accounting system.

The certified company must not supply responsibility data to customers for other feed materials. In bulked products, the responsibility data must only be applied to the proportion of the related feed material.

#### Allocation of sustainability data

The balancing of input and output of responsibility data must be implemented as a part of the material accounting system. Records of responsibility data available for allocation to outputs are clearly visible to relevant personnel and maintained updated at all times.

The certified company must allocate responsibility data to customers using either a continuous balancing system or a fixed inventory period.

#### Helpful tip:

Within the mass balance system it is possible to allocate the sustainability status from one batch to another as long as the certified company doesn't sell more responsible feed than purchased.



### 5.3.4. Continuous balancing system

Where a continuous balancing system is in operation, the certified company must ensure that the quantity of physical mass balance material inputs and outputs (in volume or weight) at the physical location are monitored on a real-time basis.

The certified company must ensure that the quantity of material (volume or weight) at the physical location is at least the same as the quantity of responsible feed material (volume or weight) available for allocation to outputs in the material accounting system.

The certified company must ensure that the material accounting system is never overdrawn. Only responsibility data which has been recorded in the material accounting system must be allocated to outputs supplied by the certified company.

Responsibility data is valid for 24 months from the date it was first recorded in the material accounting system. If the certified company does not allocate the available quantity of responsibility data to outputs within 24 months, the data must expire and must be deducted from the material accounting system.

### 5.3.5. Fixed inventory period

Where a fixed inventory period is in operation, the certified company must ensure that the quantity of mass balance material inputs and outputs (volume or weight) are balanced within a fixed inventory period which does not exceed one year (12 months).

The certified company must overdraw data when there is evidence that purchases are under contract for delivery within the inventory period, to cover the output quantity supplied.

Responsibility data which has not been allocated to output material at the end of the inventory period can be carried over and recorded in the material accounting system for the following inventory period. Carried-over responsibility data is valid for 24 months from the date of the inventory. If the certified company does not allocate the available quantity of responsibility data to outputs within 24 months, the data must expire and must be deducted from the material accounting system.

The certified company must ensure that the material accounting system is not overdrawn at the time of the inventory. Only responsibility data which has been recorded in the material accounting system within the inventory period (including the carried-over from the previous inventory period) must be allocated to outputs supplied within the inventory period.

## 5.4. Area Mass Balance

The area mass balance model is a combination of Mass Balance (§ 5.3) and Book & Claim (§ 5.5). Collectors/traders that buy feed material on the regular market can purchase 'responsible feed material production credits' directly from growers. These credits must however originate from growers that operate in the same area as the feed material is sourced. The certificates from the purchase area are administratively connected to the delivery of feed material from that area via a mass balance model. Therefore, the volume of responsible feed material that is shipped from a specific area can never exceed the volume of credits bought from the growers in that same area.

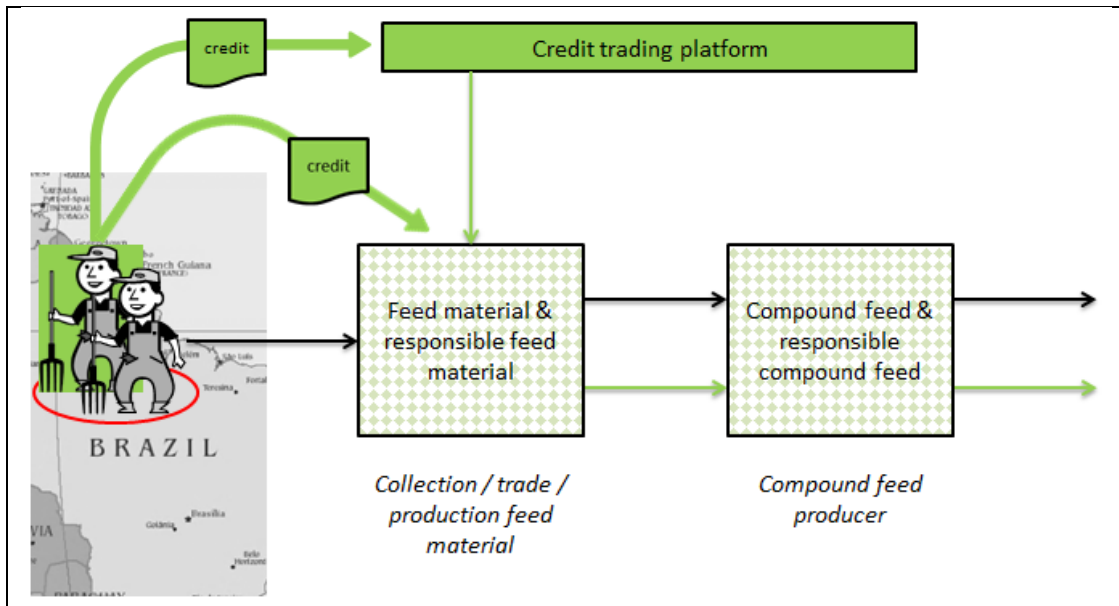


Fig. 3: Schematic overview of Area mass balance (simplified)

**+** Helpful tip:

Area is defined as a region / state within a country. In the case of area mass balance, the credits must originate from the same area as the area where the feed material originated from.

### 5.4.1. Purchasing

With area mass balance, the certified company is allowed to purchase regular feed material from suppliers. Credits must be purchased via a credit trading platform that complies with the purchasing requirements in the MI document. Credits can also be purchased directly from growers. These credits must originate from growers that operate in the same area (region) as the feed material is originating from.

When the certified company is purchasing feed via multiple supply chain models, the certified company must ensure that inputs to each supply chain model complies with the purchasing requirements in the relevant MI document.

### 5.4.2. Material accounting system

The area mass balance model has the same requirements for the material accounting system as the mass balance model. The requirements for the material accounting system can therefore be found in § 5.3.2.

The only difference is that in the case of area mass balance the first link in the chain (collector/ trader) can purchase credits for the amount he/she would like to sell as responsible. No more area mass balance feed material can be sold than purchased via credits. Other links in the chain purchase area mass balance feed material and register this in their material accounting system accordingly.



### 5.5. Book & Claim

The supply chain model book & claim represents the trade of credits through a credit trading platform, where the certificates are separated from the physical flow of feed material. Companies that buy feed material on the regular market can purchase 'responsible feed material production credits' directly from growers. These credits equal the responsible production of a certain amount of responsible feed material. After having bought credits, a company can publicly claim to have supported responsible production of equivalent volumes of feed materials.

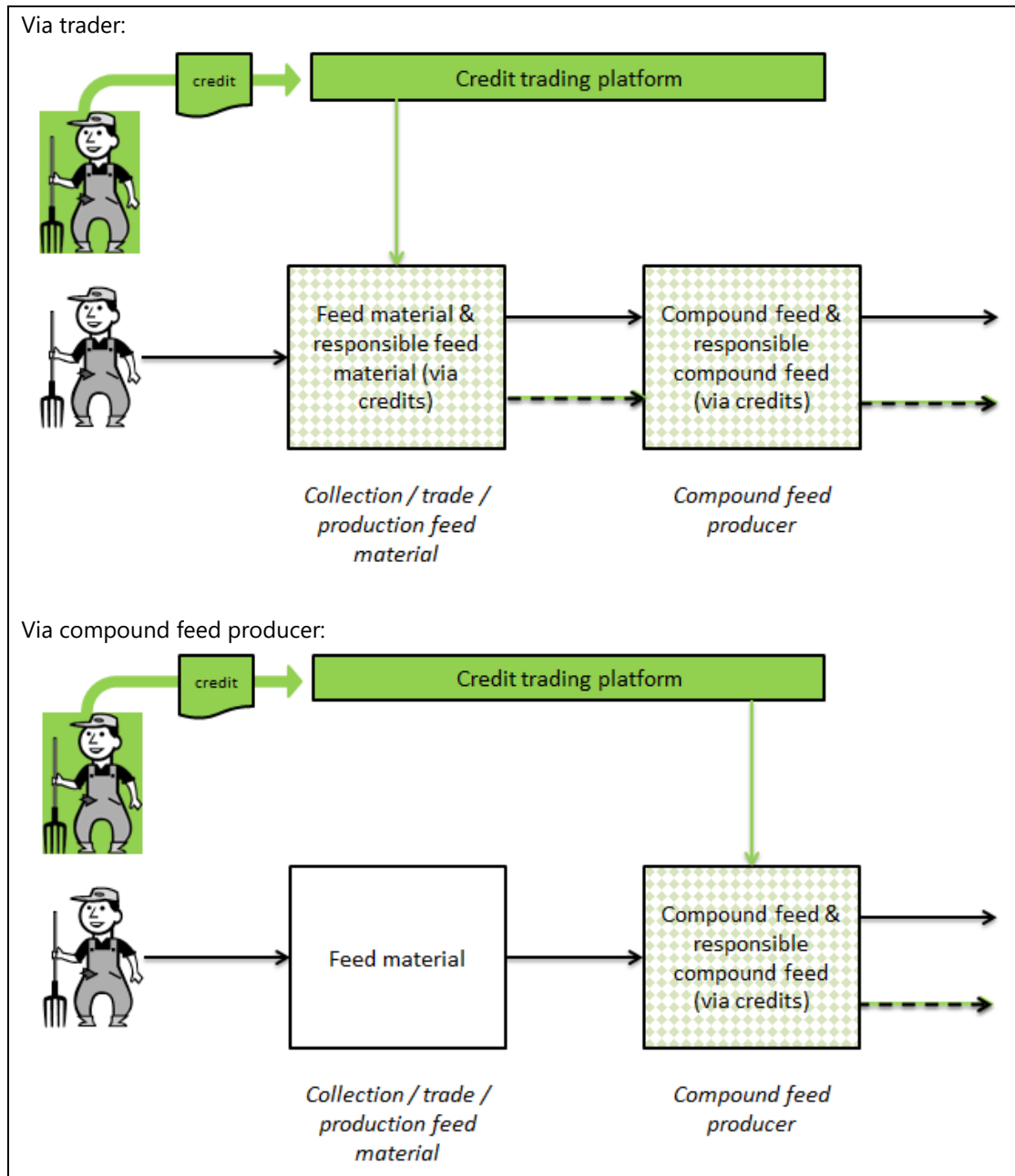


Fig. 4: Schematic overview of Book & claim (simplified)



### 5.5.1. Purchasing

With book & claim, the certified company is allowed to purchase regular feed material from suppliers. Credits must be purchased via a credit trading platform that complies with the purchasing requirements in the relevant MI documents.

When the certified company is purchasing feed via multiple supply chain models, the certified company must ensure that inputs to each supply chain model complies with the purchasing requirements for that supply chain model.

#### Helpful tip:

In the case that redeeming / claiming of credits is needed to finalize the purchasing process, the requirements regarding purchasing of credits must be read as 'purchasing including redeeming / claiming'. Otherwise the credits are not considered as purchased and cannot be used in the material accounting system.

### 5.5.2. Material accounting system

#### Input

The certified company must record the quantity (volume or weight – as specified on the credit) of all responsible input material in the material accounting system. This data must be recorded as 'output units'.

Where the processing/production process generates co-products and by-products, the certified company must record the quantity (volume or weight – as specified on the credit) by using separate categories for these co-products and by-products. In this case conversion factor(s) for the processing unit or actual measured output quantities must be used.

Where additional responsibility data is associated with the inputs received, this data must remain linked, combined and recorded in the material accounting system using separate categories for each identical group of responsibility data.

#### Output

Where the processing/production process generates co-products and by-products, the certified company must deduct the quantity of data supplied to customers from the respective co-product and by-product categories in the material accounting system. The certified company must not apply data generated from the production of one co-product or by-product to a different co-product and by-product.

Where additional responsibility data is associated with the inputs received, the certified company must deduct the quantity of data supplied to customers from the relevant category of linked data in the material accounting system.

The certified company must not supply responsibility data to customers for other feed materials. In bulked products, the responsibility data must only be applied to the proportion of the related feed material.



### Allocation of sustainability data

The balancing of input and output of responsibility data must be implemented as a part of the material accounting system. Records of responsibility data available for allocation to outputs are clearly visible to relevant personnel and maintained updated at all times.

The certified company must allocate responsibility data to customers using either a continuous balancing system or a fixed inventory period.

#### **5.5.3. Continuous balancing system**

Where a continuous balancing system is in operation, the certified company must ensure that the quantity of credit inputs and outputs (in volume or weight – as specified on the credit) are monitored on a real-time basis.

The certified company must ensure that the material accounting system is never overdrawn. Only responsibility data which has been recorded in the material accounting system must be allocated to outputs supplied by the certified company.

Responsibility data is valid for 24 months from the date it was first recorded in the material accounting system. If the certified company does not allocate the available quantity of responsibility data to outputs within 24 months, the data must expire and must be deducted from the material accounting system.

#### **5.5.4. Fixed inventory period**

Where a fixed inventory period is in operation, the certified company must ensure that the quantity of credit inputs and outputs (in volume or weight – as specified on the credit) are balanced within a fixed inventory period which does not exceed one year (12 months).

Responsibility data which has not been allocated to output material at the end of the inventory period can be carried over and recorded in the material accounting system for the following inventory period. Carried-over responsibility data is valid for 24 months from the date of the inventory. If the certified company does not allocate the available quantity of responsibility data to outputs within 24 months, the data must expire and must be deducted from the material accounting system.

The certified company must ensure that the material accounting system is not overdrawn at the time of the inventory. Only responsibility data which has been recorded in the material accounting system within the inventory period (including the carried-over from the previous inventory period) must be allocated to outputs supplied within the inventory period.





## Feed Support Products

That was a lot of information to digest and one might ask, what is the next step? Luckily we can offer support for the GMP+ Community when doing this. We provide support by means of various tools and guidances but as each company has a shared responsibility to feed safety, and therefore tailor-made solutions cannot be offered. However, we do help by explaining requirements and provide background information about the requirements.

We have developed various supporting materials for the GMP+ Community. These include various tools, ranging from Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) lists to webinars and events.

### **Supporting materials related to this document (Guidelines and FAQ's)**

We have made documents available which give guidance to the GMP+ requirements as laid down in the module GMP+ FSA and GMP+ FRA. These documents give examples, answers to frequently asked questions or background information.

## Where to find more about the GMP+ International Feed Support Products

### **Fact sheets**

More information: <https://gmpplus.org/en/feed-certification-scheme-2020/gmp-fsa-fra-certification/support/>

At GMP+ International, we believe everybody, no matter who they are or where they live, should have access to safe food.

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