

FEMAS 2024 Sector Note



Insect Processing

Version 1 October 2026

To be read with
FEMAS 2024 Standard

FEMAS Sector Note No. 20 – Processing of Insects

These Sector Notes apply to businesses processing or placing on the market Insect Products derived from insects, for use as animal feed. They are applicable for the stages of production from the acquisition of insects as a raw material, to the production of products for use as animal feed. For the rearing of insects for inclusion in animal feed, please refer to the [*'IPIFF Guide on Good Hygiene Practices for European Union \(EU\) producers of insects as food and feed'*](#)

These Notes are not exhaustive, are intended to assist in the application of the corresponding requirements of the FEMAS Standard and are not to be considered in isolation.

Section 1 of these Sector Notes includes definitions of specific relevance to this sector.

Section 2 of these Sector Notes includes additional sector-specific information to assist Participants in complying with **Requirements, Interpretation, Guidance and Further Information** of the FEMAS Scheme. The FEMAS Scheme Rules provide the following definitions:

Requirement – Sets mandatory standards with which Applicants and Participants must comply to achieve and maintain certification.

Interpretation – Provides specific means for Applicants and Participants to achieve the desired outcome of the preceding Requirement. Applicants and Participants are expected to consider Interpretation and apply as relevant to their business. Failure to follow interpretation, resulting in the desired outcome of the Requirement not being achieved will lead to a non-conformance being raised against the requirement.

Guidance – Non-mandatory suggestions of useful tools and techniques for achieving and maintaining compliance or continuous improvement.

Further information – External sources of useful information, typically including references/ web links to documents or other sources of information.

The assistance of the Royal Entomological Society in preparing these Sector Notes is gratefully acknowledged. For further information on the Royal Entomological Society please contact:

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1 Definitions

Insect Products	Live insects, processed insects and their derivatives
Raw Material	All ingredients used by Participants in the production of the feed, including items that may already be legally defined as feeds, additives or processing aids. In the context of Insect Products, the primary ‘Raw Materials’ referenced in the FEMAS Standard will be the insects and/ or their larvae intended for processing into animal feed.
Substrate	The feed used to farm insects, including feed material(s) and compound feed which may contain feed additives.

2 Sector-Specific Notes

Scheme and Legislative Requirements		
A 1.4.1	Requirement	Participants processing and/ or placing on the market Insect Products for use in animal feed must be authorised by the appropriate Competent Authority(ies) for these activities.
	Interpretation	<i>In the UK and EU this will require approval under Feed Hygiene Regulations and Animal By-Product Regulations.</i>
A 1.4.2	Further Information	<i>Animal By-Products includes insect products.</i>

HACCP		
B 1.7	Interpretation	Sector-specific potential feed hazards include but are not limited to: • Presence of insect species not authorised for feeding to the target livestock species • Foreign objects • Residues of faecal matter and other residual/ waste components from the process • Packaging residues from feed substrates • Presence of undesirable substances • Presence of pathogens • Parasites • Substrates
	Further Information	For additional guidance see the International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed (IPIFF) ‘Guide to Good Hygiene Practice for European Union (EU) producers of insects as food and feed’. https://ipiff.org/good-hygiene-practices/

Raw Materials and Raw Material Suppliers		
C 1.2	Requirement	The Participant must only approve as raw materials those insects authorised for the production of Processed Animal Protein in the countries where insect products will be placed on the market.
C 1.2	Requirement	The Participant’s approval system for suppliers must include effective on-site audits of all sites supplying insects and/ or insect products prior to first supply unless these sites are already certified in their own right to a scheme recognised by AIC and with a scope including the insect species and/ or insect products supplied. On-site audits of non-certified sites must subsequently be carried out at a frequency dictated by risk assessment, to ensure that feed safety is not compromised.

C 1.2	Further Information	<i>The Certification Body will select a number of raw material supply chains to be visited each year. This will typically be at least two supplying sites per FEMAS certified site unless robust risk assessments and controls operated by the Participant allow this to be reduced.</i>
C 1.4	Requirement	For all suppliers of insects, Participants must have in place contracts which specify, as a minimum, the following feed safety criteria: • Statement confirming compliance is required with the 'IPIFF Guide on Good Hygiene Practices for European Union (EU) producers of insects as food and feed' • A statement indicating the intended use as animal feed • A specification listing the species of insects included in the contract • The requirement for all businesses that take ownership of the insects (including third-party 'waste' contractors) and bulk hauliers (except those providing traction only) to be registered as feed businesses • Confirmation of the substrate used and its suitability for use with insects intended for incorporation into feed
C 1.4	Requirement	Substrate for insects must be sourced from suppliers that are certified to an assurance scheme recognised by AIC and with a scope including the substrate supplied.
C 1.4	Requirement	Insects must be fed in accordance with the requirements of current feed regulations relevant to insect products.
C 1.4	Further information	<i>Further information and Guidance on Feed Legislation can be found on the AIC website.</i> https://www.agindustries.org.uk/sectors/animal-feed/resources/feed-legislation-and-guidance.html

Sales Contracts/ Agreements/ Feed Specifications		
F 1.1	Requirement	Participants must ensure that any changes to substrates do not adversely affect compliance with agreed specifications of insect products.

Product Design and Formulation		
F2	Interpretation	<i>Standardising of Insect Products may be undertaken to meet customer specifications for nutrients or other constituents (e.g. protein, fat content/profile, chitin content).</i> <i>The blending of feed in order to reduce levels of undesirable substances to an acceptable level is illegal under UK and EU law.</i>

Labelling and Identification		
F3.2	Requirement	During transport and storage, labels must be attached to the packaging, container or vehicle in compliance with relevant national and local legislation. In the UK, Regulation (EU) No. 142/2011 (as amended) contains additional requirements for labelling of insect products: - Clearly indicate the category (as defined by EU Regulation 1069/2009 as amended) of the animal by-products or of the derived products - Bear the following words visibly and legibly displayed on the packaging, container or vehicle, as applicable: - in the case of Category 3 material, ‘NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION / Processed insect protein — shall not be used in feed for farmed animals except aquaculture and fur animals’
F3.2	Further Information	<i>Full details on labelling requirements for all feed materials placed on the market in the UK and EU can be found on the AIC Website</i> https://www.agindustries.org.uk/sectors/animal-feed/resources/feed-legislation-and-guidance.html

Premises		
G 1.1	Requirement	Areas where insect products and partially processed insects are located (unclean areas) and areas where Insect Meal and Insect Oil are packed or stored (clean areas) must be designated, and appropriate controls implemented to prevent cross contamination.
G 1.7	Requirement	Personnel moving between the unclean areas and clean areas of the process must not do so without changing or disinfecting their footwear.
G 1.11	Requirement	Where animal products prohibited in feed are stored, produced or available on site, they must not contaminate substrates, raw materials or feeds.
G 1.12	Requirement	Procedures must be in place to control the movements of equipment between the unclean areas and clean areas and prescribe the cleaning and disinfecting of equipment where necessary.

Operational Control		
H 9.1	Requirement	Regulation (EU) No. 142/2011 (as amended) requires that for Insect Meal and Insect Oil placed on the market in the UK or EU, insects must have been processed in accordance with methods 1 to 5 or method 7, as referenced in Annex IV.

Process Cross -Contamination Controls		
H 10.1	Interpretation	<i>The responsibility lies with each insect producer to take account of the characteristics of each insect species reared and to design a harvesting process that enables the effective separation of the larvae or adult insects from faeces, frass, dead individuals and other eventual residues of substrates before killing.</i>
	Further Information	<i>For additional guidance see the International Platform of Insects for Food and Feed (IPIFF) 'Guide to Good Hygiene Practice for European Union (EU) producers of insects as food and feed'. https://ipiff.org/good-hygiene-practices/</i>

Drier/ Heat Treatment		
H 12.4	Requirement	Regulation (EU) No. 142/2011 (as amended) requires that for Insect Meal and Insect Oil placed on the market in the UK or EU, insects must have been processed in accordance with methods 1 to 5 or method 7, as referenced in Annex IV.

Analysis Schedule		
I 5.1	Requirement	Analysis schedules must include measurement of residual packaging on a weekly basis as a minimum, unless the feed substrate used for the feeding of insects contains only ingredients that have never been packaged. The rejection limit for presence of residual packaging must be set at the <i>de facto</i> tolerance agreed with the Competent Authorities. Any batch failing this test must be rejected or reworked and the reasons for the failure be investigated.

Analysis Methods		
I 7.3	Interpretation	Control of Packaging Residues <i>The approved method for monitoring residual packaging can be found here:</i> https://www.agindustries.org.uk/resource/acaf-13-05-paper---packaging-in-surplus-foods-16-january-2013.html



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