



## FEMAS Sector Note No. 19 – Seaweed and Maerl Meal

These Sector Notes apply to businesses producing or placing on the market of Seaweed and Maerl products for use as animal 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.

### 1 Definitions

<b>Seaweed Meal</b>	Obtained by drying and crushing macro-algae, in particular brown algae.
<b>Maerl</b>	Product of natural origin obtained from calcareous marine algae, ground or granulated.

## 2 Sector-Specific Notes

<b>HACCP and Feed Safety Risk Assessment</b>		
<b>B 1.7</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<p><i>Sector-specific potential hazards include but are not limited to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Contamination by items in the water column from which product is harvested (e.g. from waste discharge, mineral oil spills, pollution, plastic, wood and other waste items)</i></li> <li>• <i>The presence of animals living in or on the weed, which may be inadvertently picked up during harvesting (e.g. fish, crustaceans, molluscs and other invertebrates)</i></li> <li>• <i>The presence of stones inadvertently picked up during harvesting</i></li> <li>• <i>The presence of undesirable substances absorbed from seawater (e.g. heavy metals, pesticides, Dioxins)</i></li> </ul>

<b>Feed Specification</b>		
<b>F 1.1</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>	<p><i>Maximum levels are set for total iodine in complete feeds in relation to authorisations for feed additives containing iodine. The specification should therefore include the range of iodine content in the feed.</i></p>

<b>Analysis</b>		
<b>I 5.1</b>	<b>Guidance</b>	<p><i>Undesirable Substances Directive, 2002/32 as amended Annex I, Section I contains a specific footnote for arsenic in seaweed:</i></p> <p><i>“Upon request of the competent authorities, the responsible operator must perform an analysis to demonstrate that the content of inorganic arsenic is lower than 2 ppm. This analysis is of particular importance for the seaweed species Hizikia fusiforme.”</i></p>



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