

2.4.2 Dust extraction equipment.

Standard

Is appropriate dust extraction equipment installed?

Evidenced by no significant build-up of dust within mill buildings.

Purpose

To control cross-contamination by grain/feed dust and its associated feed safety risks travelling through the facility.

Reason

Dust movement from one process area to another raises a health and feed safety concern due to the risk from spreading microorganisms and/or other ingredients (e.g. RAM or medicated) resulting in cross-contamination. Inhalation of dust particles can cause serious acute or long-term illness in employees.

What is Acceptable?

This Fact Sheet should be viewed in conjunction with Roadway Dust Management 2.1.3 and Ventilation or Dust Extraction 2.4.1.

General Dust Management

Dust produced from roadways and other general activities, should be managed within the facility according to a Mill Hygiene Program (See fact sheet 2.7.1 & 2.7.2).

Production Processes

Manufacturing processes that have been identified as high-risk dust to produce should be risk assessed and appropriate controls put in place. A dust extraction system should be installed to prevent the build-up of dust and travel through the facility. The dust extraction equipment will also mitigate the risk of cross-transference between incompatible products, such as dust produced from RAM or medicated feeds into ruminant feeds.

Validation

The system installed for the control of dust extraction should undergo a validation process. Is the extraction system appropriate for the size of production run? Can swabs of general environment be taken and confirm no dust residue? Results should be recorded over a set period and discussed with Management. If the equipment installed is not capable of controlling dust production, then management and production should look into alternative or additional ventilation or dust-extraction equipment, or changes to production processes.

The appropriate environmental swabs can be discussed with a NATA accredited laboratory. (See Fact Sheet 7.1.5.)

Equipment Maintenance

A procedure should be made available that lists the maintenance requirements of equipment. These maintenance records should form part of an operators Preventative Maintenance program (See Fact Sheet 2.2.4 to 2.2.7).

Procedure

Dust collected from extraction equipment can be a reservoir of microorganisms, mould, and medicated or RAM Residues. A procedure should also outline how collected dust is managed and disposed of, to prevent cross-contamination risks.

If a risk assessment has concluded that extracted dust can be reworked, this should clearly documented with any tests and limits in rework procedures (see Fact Sheets 8.4) and formulation procedures (see Fact Sheets 4.1).

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