

2.4.1. Ventilation or dust extraction.

Standard

Are ventilation or dust extraction units adequate to prevent accumulation within mill buildings of steam, dust and other airborne contaminants?

Assessed through site walk through and demonstration of no accumulation of dust or condensation on mill walls, bins and equipment.

Purpose

To ensure the appropriate size and quantity of dust extraction equipment is installed and maintained in the facility.

Reason

An extraction system should be capable of controlling the level of combustible or health and feed-hazard dust created within the mill. Dust particles can cause fire and explosion after contact with an ignition source, such as overheated motors, gears and bearings. This is high risk when dust is travelling in the air or accumulated on surfaces.

An accumulation of dust acts as a carrier of microorganisms or other ingredients such as RAM or medicated, therefore acting as a source of contamination in other feeds.

General hygiene and cleanliness is essential in maintaining Good Manufacturing Practice. Operators have a responsibility in maintaining clean and hygiene working facilities to reduce feed safety hazards.

An excess of dust particles when inhaled, are a serious health hazard to employees. Respiratory problems arise when inhaled into lungs, causing acute or long-term illness.

What is Acceptable?

This fact sheet should be viewed in conjunction with 2.2.4 to 2.2.7 (equipment maintenance) and 2.6.1 (cross-contamination controls).

The operator shall conduct a risk assessment of the facility and employees. Risk assessment should take into consideration the concentration of dust produced within storage and production areas and the health risks to it's employees. Particularly employees who are asthmatic or suffer from a respiratory illness or have antibiotic intolerances.

Dust waste or rework

The dust produced from feeds containing RAM or medicated ingredients should be processed in a sequence that reduces the risk of cross-contamination into other feeds, or discarded. If rework or reprocessing is approved, then procedures need to define the boundaries of rework. A risk assessment and validation are required to provide confidence that rework/reprocessing of dust extract does not pose a feed safety risk. Refer to Fact Sheet 8.4.1 regarding rework.

Equipment & Maintenance

All equipment used within the facility should be deliberate in achieving it's intended purpose. Validations are required as discussed in Fact Sheet 2.2.1. Maintenance of equipment should form part of the operator's preventative maintenance program as discussed in Fact Sheets 2.2.4 to 2.2.7.

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