

## 4.3.1. Bag Label Regulatory Requirements.

### Standard

Do bag labels in use meet regulatory requirements, including reference to the restricted animal feeding ban?

*Refer to clause 2.10.*

*There needs to be a system of approving bag artwork prior to printing and after receiving new bags and tags to ensure all bags and tags meet regulatory requirements.*

### Purpose

Labels are crucial for ensuring safety, traceability, and proper usage of feed. To address these factors, the operator must verify that all labels comply with regulatory requirements for the specific feed product.

### Reason

It is the responsibility of the operator to ensure its quality management and quality assurance program is capable of meeting bag labelling regulatory requirements.

Feed Manufacturers are subject to regulatory requirement under the *Biosecurity Act 2015*, as “manufactures or suppliers of any manufactured animal food material for use as a stock food or any food which is represented as being suitable for use as stock food”. As such, the minimum labelling requirements shall be met.

Feed manufacturers are also subject to standards relating to weed seeds, aflatoxins, pesticides, heavy metals antioxidants and minerals incorporated into stock feeds. Where applicable, labelling requirements shall also satisfy:

1. Uniform Standard for the Scheduling of Drugs and Poisons (SUSDP).
2. Section 2.1 of the Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) Code of Practice for the Labelling of Veterinary Chemical Products.
3. Ruminant Feeding Ban.

### What is Acceptable?

Regulatory labelling requirements vary and may be specific to a species or the state of manufacture. The operator shall have a set of procedures, or checklist that take into consideration the following guidelines:

1. [Guidelines for the Uniform Australian Standards for the Labelling & Content of Stock Feeds.](#)
2. [Guidelines for the Formulation and Labelling of Dairy Cow Transition Feeds](#)
3. [Feed Analysis Labelling Policy](#)
4. [“No Grain” Horse Feed Labelling Guideline](#)

#### Approving Bag Label

The approval process for labelled bags prior to printing can follow a checklist. The checklist should be specific to the feed being manufactured and have considered the guidelines listed above (if applicable). An example includes, but not limited to:

1. Correct artwork: Compare to specification, colour, logo etc.
2. Correct size and signal heading: Warning/signal headings are important when approving a label for RAM or medicated products.
3. Content Proof: Product Name, Safety Directions/First Aid, quantities and concentration, directions for use, withholding period, precautions or contraindications, disposal statement, storage instructions.
4. Net weight/volume: Are the correct units used and font size, ok?
5. Manufacturing & best before/use by dates (Shall have been validated as per Fact Sheet 8.1.3).
6. Manufacturer name & address: Australian contact details.
7. Printing material/Quality: See Fact Sheet 8.2.4.

The objective of approving bag artwork is to ensure predetermined specifications are met. Artwork should be stored ready to be assigned into production (Fact Sheet 8.2.7).

#### Feeds not containing RAM

The label must meet the minimum guidelines as listed above. Additionally, the label must contain the statement:

**“This product does not contain restricted animal material”**

Extracted from [‘ARFB – Australian Ruminant Feed Ban National Uniform Guidelines 2022-23’](#).

#### Feeds containing RAM

All labels of bags with stockfeed containing RAM must include the prescribed warning statement and lettering must be of the prescribed size, in accordance with state legislation.

**“This product contains restricted animal material —  
DO NOT FEED TO CATTLE, SHEEP, GOATS, DEER OR OTHER RUMINANTS”**

The statement must be in:

- a) a position where it can be clearly seen on the face of the label, and
- b) if the label is:
  - I. written or stamped on the outside of a stock feed’s container—letters a minimum 10 mm in height; or
  - II. fixed to the outside of a stock feed’s container—letters minimum 3 mm in height; or
  - III. for bulk feeds only a written notice given to a buyer - letters minimum 3 mm in height; and
- c) dark print on a light background.

Extracted from [‘ARFB – Australian Ruminant Feed Ban National Uniform Guidelines 2022-23’](#).

Any unlabelled bagged RAM shall be treated as per Fact Sheet 2.10.5.

#### RAM Bulk Products

Any RAM product sold in bulk are subject the regulatory requirements of the Australian Ruminant Feeding Ban. Operators shall ensure products sold in bulk are accompanied by the appropriate documentation.

“If your invoice follows the delivery, then you must include the appropriate warnings on your delivery docket and ensure this is delivered when the feed is unloaded. Information to be supplied for bulk deliveries is the same as that shown above for bagged feeds. The 3mm size of print is required.”

Extracted from [‘ARFB – Australian Ruminant Feed Ban National Uniform Guidelines 2022-23’](#).

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