Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia
Stock Feed Manufacturers' Council of Australia Inc.
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8.3.1. Management of Broken or Damaged Bags.

Standard

Are broken or damaged bags of finished product segregated and dealt with to ensure they are not supplied to clients?

Purpose

A process to control broken or damaged bags shall be implemented to ensure they do not arrive to customer.

Reason

Broken or damaged bags carry more than one feed safety risk.

1. Pests:
   Material leaking from damaged bags attracts pests. Pests can damage neighbouring bags, and also introduce microorganisms.
2. Mycotoxins:
   Where damaged or broken bags are stored and transported to customers, the environment produces favourable conditions for mould and mycotoxins.
3. Cross-Contamination from incompatible material:
   Material leaking from RAM or Medicated finished product introduces a risk to the environment. There exists a potential cross-contamination risk to other bagged product.
4. Economic Loss:
   Loss of finished product at bulk-bagged volumes is an economic loss to the operator.

What is Acceptable?

<u>Managing damaged bagged product</u>

The operator shall design a system to mitigate the risk of damaged bags leaving the mill. The following fact sheets shall be viewed collectively to ensure the appropriate management of broken or damaged bags.

1. Storage of bagged finished product shall be in a clean and clearly labelled storage area. Fact Sheet 2.3.9 lists key points to ensure the risk to bagged product is eliminated.
2. Loading of bagged finished product onto pallets may damage or cause rips to bags. This should be managed through fact sheet 8.2.9. The operator loading from pallets onto delivery trucks shall also ensure bagged product is checked for integrity and signs of damage.
3. Loading of bagged finished product shall be without risk or damage. A detailed transport & loading procedure can be found on fact sheet 9.1.1.

In addition to the fact sheets above, the operator shall introduce a checkpoint at the conclusion of each production run. It shall perform visual check or bagged finished product to check for signs of damage, poor packaging integrity, holes as part of release for sale checks.

<u>Segregating Damaged bagged product</u>

Damaged or broken bags detected during filling, inspection or loading shall be immediately segregated and labelled accordingly. Where the damaged product is of RAM or medicated material, immediate cleaning and sanitising shall be carried out. The principles from cross-contamination control may be applied, as per Fact Sheet 2.6.2.

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The operator shall conduct a risk assessment to ensure the material is safe for rework and re-bagging. High risk material shall take into consideration Fact Sheet 2.10.7, rework for RAM material. For general rework procedures, see Fact Sheet 8.4.1.

Non-conformance

An internal non-conformance may be issued, where the root cause is found to be related to storage area, packaging integrity/quality, packaging line. The non-conformance report shall ensure the appropriate action follows. This may be a Corrective Action (Fact Sheet 10.2.1) or Recall (Fact Sheet 10.3.1).