

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD

Information Paper

Responses to questions raised at the December 2005 meeting

At the December 2005 meeting Mr Alan Proctor asked whether the use of poultry manure or poultry litter as an animal feed was permitted. Mr Alan Long asked whether mushroom compost made from poultry manure was subjected to pasteurisation as part of precautionary measures to protect consumers. A reply from Defra to these questions is attached for information.

**Secretariat
June 2006**

INFORMATION FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD (ACMSF) ON POULTRY MANURE AND POULTRY LITTER

RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS FROM MR ALAN PROCTOR AND MR ALAN LONG AT THE OPEN QUESTION SESSION PART OF THE ACMSF MEETING ON 1 DECEMBER 2005

Is the use of poultry manure or poultry litter as animal feed permitted?

The Animal By-Products Regulation (EC) No. 1774/2002 categorises animal by-products (ABPs) in three groups in order of risk. Poultry manure (which is defined as with or without litter) is classified as category 2 high risk material and disposal routes permitted do not include use in animal feed.

When poultry manure is used for the production of compost, is it subjected to pasteurisation as part of general precautionary measures to protect consumers?

The Animal By-Products Regulation (EC) No. 1774/2002 generally requires category 2 material to be rendered or incinerated. Rendered material can then be used in the production of compost or biogas in a plant approved under the regulation.. In addition the Regulation permits, where the competent authority considers there is no risk of spreading any serious transmissible diseases, manure and litter to be applied to land or used without processing as raw material in a bio-gas or composting plant. Therefore, in normal circumstances these uses are permitted. There is no requirement to process this material beforehand.

In the event of a disease outbreak, and following an assessment of the risk posed, Secretary of State may impose restrictions on the application of manure to land. The disposal of this material would then need to be in accordance with its risk category under the legislation i.e. as category 2 material it would have to be rendered or incinerated.

In addition during phase 2 of the production of compost for mushroom growing there is a pasteurisation process. Details can be found in "Secretary of State's Guidance for Mushroom Substrate Manufacture paragraph 3.15 page 8.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/airquality/lapc/pgnotes/pdf/pg6-30.pdf>

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