

Global Regulatory Standard & Trade Facilitation

Speakers:

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Nowadays, feed business operators' operational activities take place in a rather complex legal and business environment. Third Party Certification (TPC) against a feed safety scheme has become an important feature for the feed sector. Although TPC is voluntary, it constitutes an important requirement for a feed business operator to gain market access.

Besides its market value, a credible Third Party Certification could also be a useful tool in hands of competent authorities, regarding e.g. planning of the official controls or "granting" market access to products or operators. Third Party Certification is not meant to substitute the responsibilities of competent authorities, but has been increasingly recognized by a number of them as an important element, which not only supports their enforcement role, but can also help setting state-of-the-art practices at global level and, as such, facilitate understanding and exchanges worldwide.

A number of Feed Safety Systems (Schemes) and many independent Industry Standards are available; however, their detailed aspects often differ. This leads to inconsistencies in their application and interpretation throughout the feed chain's different stages. Moreover, there is a lack of synergy between the Feed Safety Systems and the companies' codes.

For the industry, this may lead to duplication of work and could also create further obstacles to their supplier selection process. Thus it is important for the feed schemes to develop mutual recognition arrangements, which will allow to eliminate any TBT (Technical Barriers to Trade) and to avoid duplication of the certifications and the audit costs.

To enhance better understanding of the harmonization process of the private sector standards, practical examples will be given, based on experience gained from the establishment of mutual recognition arrangements between FAMI-QS and GMP+ International.