

## CLEARWATER OFFICE

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**More than just feed**

Dear Client

### **Feed and Food Quality Assurance: Safe from Melamine**

Melamine was discovered in milk, milk by-products, eggs, and egg powder of Chinese origin during 2008. The major sources of melamine contamination were:

- Direct spiking of watered-down milk with melamine (to make the protein content appear normal)
- Melamine-spiked feed (to artificially increase the protein content of protein-rich feedstuffs)

Meadow Feeds has always been concerned about feed and food safety and, hence, procures high quality feed ingredients from reputable suppliers under contract. Certificates of analysis are provided by the suppliers, specifying the absence of prohibited substances and the below-threshold concentrations for undesirable, potentially harmful substances, as stipulated in the regulations of the Fertilizers, Farm Feeds, Agricultural Remedies and Stock Remedies Act (Act 36 of 1947). Meadow Feeds fully complies with this Act as certified in audits conducted by certified quality and food management systems such as ISO 9001:2008 and ISO 22000:2005 (HACCP). Scheduled and random testing for undesirable substances forms part of the quality control of ingredients and finished products, *inter alia* to confirm the absence of melamine contamination originating from the deliberate melamine-spiking of protein-rich ingredients.

The implementation and maintenance of comprehensive quality assurance and risk management systems, that ensure traceability, are associated with considerable investment in human capital and money. Despite these costs, Meadow Feeds remains committed to the supply of safe and healthy animal feed to our customers.

However, our clients also use feed ingredients not supplied by Meadow Feeds for on-farm blending into the feeds fed to their animals. Clients should be aware of the potential threat of melamine contamination from feedstuffs procured from other sources. Even farm-produced feed ingredients like pasture grasses, hays, and the like may become contaminated with melamine, absorbed from the soil via fertilizers that contain melamine or manures contaminated with melamine (the latter via application of larvacidal insecticides based on a melamine analogue).

**To complete traceability throughout the animal food production chain, it is imperative that farmers should also procure feeds, feed ingredients and related production inputs only from reputable suppliers with accredited quality assurance systems similar to those used by Meadow Feeds.**

Yours sincerely,

**P.H. HENNING**  
**TECHNICAL EXECUTIVE : RUMINANTS**  
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**A.B. CROCKER**  
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