
Voluntary code of practice for the labelling of ‘non feed’ microbial products used in animal surroundings

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1. Preamble

This labelling code was created by the Cooperation AMAEE (Association for Microorganisms in Animal Environment – Europe). The elaboration of the Code is the result of a widely open process based on an initial call for expression of interest to join the initiative to EU operators identified as producing, marketing and/or distributing products falling under the scope of the initiative. This Code was created by the experts of the eight companies that decided to engage into the initiative.

2. Introduction

While they are marketed in the EU since decades for feed use, live microorganisms for non-feed use in animal husbandry are still at their early stage of development. They represent innovative products and do meet a number of policy objectives set in the EU Green Deal, the Farm to Fork Strategy, and the Sustainable Development Goals set at global level. Their benefits relate to the sustainability of animal production, the improvement of animal welfare, the reduction of the use of antibiotics and the fight against antimicrobial resistance.

Five main types of applications are identified:

- Management of effluent (e.g. manure/slurry);
- Maintenance of the quality of animal bedding;
- Installation of positive biofilms on the surfaces of husbandry buildings;
- Maintenance of skin health;
- Bioremediation (maintenance of water quality) in aquaculture settings.

While some microbial based products, due to their specific applications/claims and/or presentation, are marketed through existing European or National legislations; there are no specific labelling requirements for the marketing of such products under applicable law when they are not covered by existing regulatory framework. Consequently, business operators are lacking labelling

recommendations and the information available to the users may vary from product to product which may, in some cases, be perceived as misleading or create situations of unfair competition where some business operators may provide limited product information in comparison to others.

In this context, producers and/or distributors that are placing such products on the EU market have joined forces to prepare a labelling¹ code of practice. Its purpose is to ensure transparent, consistent and meaningful information to the users of the products and to competent authorities.

3. Disclaimer

The Code is being made publicly available and may be used, in a non-discriminatory way, by all interested stakeholders, whether they were involved in its development or not. While it is recommended to operators to label their products according to the Code, its use remains purely voluntary.

The Code can be subject to modifications and improvements, notably based on comments from any operator and/user as well as from authorities and/or due to contextual evolution regarding the placing of the products on the EU market.

The Code was prepared to provide a common high-level ground for the labelling of products containing live microorganisms as active agents and used in animal husbandry for other purposes than animal nutrition. It is however not substituting to European or national legislations and/or frameworks that might apply when placing these products on the market.

The use of the Code for labelling remains under the sole responsibility of the operators using it. The responsibility of the companies involved in the creation of the Code should not be engaged in case of conflict; misuse and/or disagreement with any third party.

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¹ Scope of the code includes labels of product data sheets

4. Labelling recommendations

Information recommended to be mentioned on labels and ‘Product Data Sheet’ (PDS) of products containing live microorganisms as active agents and used in animal husbandry for other purposes than animal nutrition are presented in the **Table 1**. A distinction is made between the ‘Label’ (affixed to the product) and the PDS² that is provided on separate medium. Examples of labels are provided in the section 5 of the Code to illustrate the recommendations.

The level of information depends on the type of products and their composition. The information identified as to be included on the labelling documents should enable proper communication about the composition and the use of the products to operators, users and authorities.

Table 1. Labelling recommendation for products containing live microorganisms as active agents and used in animal husbandry for other purposes than animal nutrition.

Item		Label	PDS
Brand name		Required	Required
Category of user (professional/public)		Optional	Optional
Type of product/application		Required	Required
Target species		Required	Required
Claims		Optional	Optional
Composition	Complex of microorganisms³		
	Species/genus (indicative list)	Required ⁴	Required
	Origin / isolated from	Optional	Required
	Concentration : total CFU or READ ⁵ , min. guarantee	Required	Required
	Defined microorganisms⁶		
	Species	Required	Required
	Strain	Optional	Optional
	Concentration : total CFU, min. guarantee	Required	Required

² PDS = Technical information used in a B2B context. Marketing documents intended for final users are not under the meaning of PDS

³ For products containing non fully identified microorganisms.

⁴ Recommended to provide a description as precise as possible (and at least the main microorganisms present in the complex). Detailed listing of all microorganisms included should be the preferred approach whenever possible.

⁵ READ: 1 read = the DNA sequence corresponding to 1 strain of microorganisms read once. Each “read” corresponds to a different strain of microorganism.

⁶ Presence of GM strains has to be indicated and required premarket assessment according to the “deliberate release” directive. (Directive 2001/18/EC on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms).

Item		Label	PDS
	Concentration: CFU per genus/species, min. guarantee	Optional	Optional
	Other ingredients⁷		
	Name	Required	Required
	Function	Optional	Optional
	Concentration	Optional	Optional
Directions for use		Required	Required
Storage conditions		Required	Required
Shelf life		Required	Required
Safety information (if applicable: classification of microorganisms as per Dir 2000/54/EC, CLP, PEE, environmental risk management, UFI number)		Required	Optional ⁸
Warning phrase “Micro-organisms may have the potential to provoke sensitising reactions”		Required ⁹	Required
Date of production		Optional	n.a. ¹⁰
Expiry date/Use by date ¹¹		Required	n.a.
Batch n°		Required	n.a.
Net weight		Required	n.a.
Packaging information		n.a.	Optional
Producer	Name	Optional	Optional
	Address	Optional	Optional
	Contact (phone, e-mail, www)	Optional	Optional
Placer on the market/labelling responsible	Name	Required	Required
	Address	Required	Required
	Contact (phone, e-mail, www)	Optional	Optional

⁷ Other ingredients than the microorganisms subject to claims and/or benefits of the product (e.g. enzymes) as well as carriers and other components: listed by descending order of concentration in the product. Information on the function of each ingredient of the product such as carriers or flavourings is optional. Information on their concentration is also optional; unless a claim or a benefit is associated to this ingredient. In this case it is recommended to indicating its concentration.

⁸ Mandatory information if no SDS or equivalent is available for the product.

⁹ Unless data confirming absence of sensitising effect is available.

¹⁰ Not applicable.

¹¹ If expiry date of the product is linked to the production date (e.g. ‘best before xx months after production’), then date of production is required.

5. Examples of labels

1 – Bedding product with undefined complex of microorganisms

MICRO BED MIX

Microbial based product intended for the bedding of all animal species. For professional users only.

Composition

Limestone

Complex of microorganisms isolated from soil (lactic acid bacteria, *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* yeasts and *Streptomyces spp. fungi*) ≥ 1.0 x 10¹⁰ CFU/g

Directions for use: FREE TEXT.

Storage conditions and shelf life: keep in a cool and dry place in its original packaging. Shelf-life under these conditions is 12 months from date of production.

Safety information: micro-organisms may have the potential to provoke sensitising reactions. It is recommended to use breathing protection and gloves during handling.

Batch n°: printed on the packaging.

Date of production: printed on the packaging.

Net weight: 250g

MICROBED SAS, Carnival Street, 9 – 59420 France

2 – Bedding product with defined microorganisms (detailed CFU)

MICRO BED FARM

Microbial based product intended for the bedding of all animal species. For professional users only.

Composition

Limestone, sugar

Lactiplantibacillus plantarum ≥ 1.0 x 10⁸ CFU/g

Pediococcus pentosaceus ≥ 2.0 x 10⁸ CFU/g

Directions for use: FREE TEXT.

Storage conditions and shelf life: keep in a cool and dry place in its original packaging. Shelf-life under these conditions is 12 months from date of production.

Safety information: micro-organisms may have the potential to provoke sensitising reactions. It is recommended to use breathing protection and gloves during handling.

Batch n°: printed on the packaging.

Date of production: printed on the packaging.

Net weight: 250g

MICROBED SAS, Carnival Street, 9 – 59420 France

3– Bedding product with defined microorganisms (global CFU)

MICRO BED FARM PLUS

Microbial based product intended for the bedding of all animal species. For professional users only.

Composition

Limestone, sugar, eucalyptus powder

Lactiplantibacillus (formerly *Lactobacillus*) *plantarum* and *Pediococcus pentosaceus* $\geq 3.0 \times 10^8$ CFU/g

Bacillus subtilis $\geq 1.0 \times 10^8$ CFU/g

Directions for use: FREE TEXT.

Storage conditions and shelf life: keep in a cool and dry place in its original packaging. Shelf-life under these conditions is 12 months from date of production.

Safety information: micro-organisms may have the potential to provoke sensitising reactions. It is recommended to use breathing protection and gloves during handling.

Batch n°: printed on the packaging.

Date of production: printed on the packaging.

Net weight: 5kg

MICROBED SAS, Carnival Street, 9 – 59420 France

4 - Bedding product with defined microorganisms and enzymes

MICRO ENZ BED PRO

Microbial based product intended for the bedding of all animal species. For professional users only.

Composition

Limestone, clay, sugar

Lactiplantibacillus (formerly *Lactobacillus*) *plantarum* and *Pediococcus pentosaceus* $\geq 3.0 \times 10^8$ CFU/g

Cellulase ≥ 20 IU/g

Directions for use: FREE TEXT.

Storage conditions and shelf life: keep in a cool and dry place in its original packaging. Shelf-life under these conditions is 12 months from date of production.

Safety information: micro-organisms may have the potential to provoke sensitising reactions. It is recommended to use breathing protection and gloves during handling.



Cellulase

Warning: CLP warning sentences to be added.

Batch n°: printed on the packaging.

Date of production: printed on the packaging.

Net weight: 25kg

MICROBED SAS, Carnival Street, 9 – 59420 France