



APR 05 2012

Ms. Leah Wilkinson
Director of Ingredients and State Legislative Affairs
American Feed Industry Association
2101 Wilson Blvd, Suite 916
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Ms. Wilkinson:

This letter responds to your December 21, 2011 letter submitted by email on behalf of the American Feed Industry Association, Enzyme Technical Association, National Grain and Feed Association, and Pet Food Institute. The letter requested that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Food and Drug Administration and the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) be extended one year. The current MOU will end on September 1, 2012.

I am pleased to inform you that the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and AAFCO have mutually agreed to extend the MOU for one year ending on September 1, 2013. We anticipate that after this extension period has ended, CVM will transition from being the active reviewers of individual Ingredient Definition submissions to serving as a liaison and advisor to the Ingredient Definition Committee. Also, due to increasing resources needed to address food additive petitions and generally recognized as safe notices, at a time prior to September 1, 2013, CVM will stop accepting requests to review new Ingredient Definition submissions. We anticipate this will occur about February 2013, which will provide CVM a six month period to complete any pending Ingredient Definitions.

We believe this additional year will allow adequate time for transition to new processes that are being developed. If you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Dr. Sharon Benz, Director, Division of Animal Feeds, by phone at 240-453-6864 or by email at sharon.benz@fda.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Bernadette Dunham, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Director
Center for Veterinary Medicine
Food and Drug Administration

cc:

Dr. Robert Waltz, President, Association of American Feed Control Officials