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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) .../...

of XXX

concerning the renewal of the authorisation of a preparation of taurine as a feed additive for canidae, felidae, mustelidae, carnivorous finfish and other aquatic carnivorous species and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/722

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition¹, and in particular Article 9(2) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 provides for the authorisation of additives for use in animal nutrition and for the grounds and procedures for granting and renewing such an authorisation.
- (2) Taurine was authorised for 10 years as feed additive for all animal species by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/722².
- (3) In accordance with Article 14(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003, an application was submitted for the renewal of the authorisation of a preparation of taurine as a feed additive for canidae, felidae, mustelidae and carnivorous finfish, and for a new use in poultry and porcine species, requesting the additive to be classified in the additive category 'nutritional additives' and in the functional group 'vitamins, pro-vitamins and chemically well-defined substances having similar effect'. That application was accompanied by the particulars and documents required under Article 14(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003. The applicant later withdrew the application for poultry and porcine species.
- (4) The European Food Safety Authority ('the Authority') concluded in its opinion of 24 June 2025³ that the applicant has provided evidence that the preparation of taurine remains safe for canidae, felidae, mustelidae, carnivorous finfish, as well as for the consumers and the environment under the conditions currently authorised. The authority indicated that taurine at levels 0.05%–0.25% in complete feed is safe for cats with a margin of safety between 4 and 20. Based on the limited data set available from the literature on carnivorous finfish, it was considered that levels between 2.0% and 2.5% are safe. For the other species the panel concluded that that levels up to 0.2% taurine in complete feed are tolerated, but a margin of safety could not be provided.

¹ Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition (OJ L 268, 18.10.2003, p. 29, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2003/1831/oj>).

² Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/722 of 5 May concerning the authorisation of taurine as a feed additive for Canidae, Felidae, Mustelidae and carnivorous fish (OJ L 115, 6.5.2025, p. 18, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2015/722/oj).

³ EFSA Journal. 2025;23:e9540. <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2025.9540>.

The Authority further concluded that taurine is a skin and eye irritant, and a skin and respiratory sensitiser. Any exposure to that substance is considered a risk. The Authority stated that the application for renewal of the authorisation does not include a proposal for amending or supplementing the conditions of the original authorisation that would have an impact on the efficacy of the additive. Therefore, it concluded that there is no need for assessing the efficacy of the additive in the context of the renewal of the authorisation. The Authority considered that there is no need for specific requirements of post-market monitoring.

- (5) The Reference Laboratory set up by Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 considered that the conclusions and recommendations reached in the assessment carried out regarding the method of analysis of taurine as a feed additive in the context of the previous authorisation are valid and applicable for the current application. In accordance with Article 5(4), point (c), of Commission Regulation (EC) No 378/2005⁴, the evaluation report of the Reference Laboratory is therefore not required.
- (6) In view of the above, the Commission considers that the preparation of taurine satisfies the conditions provided for in Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003. Accordingly, the authorisation of that additive should be renewed. The Commission considers that for canidae, mustelidae, carnivorous finfish and other aquatic species a margin of safety could not be provided, therefore a maximum content need to be set for those species. Due to the impossibility to make an effective control to ensure compliance with the maximum content when the additive is used simultaneously in water and feed, the use in water should be permitted only in felidae. In relation to the species and categories of animals, the Commission considers that the previous authorisation covered, under the generic term “fish”, all aquatic species. There are studies on different species of crustaceans and molluscs for which taurine is required and there is no risk to authorise taurine for those species⁵. In addition, the Commission considers that appropriate protective measures should be taken to prevent adverse effects on the health of the users of the additive. Those protective measures should be without prejudice to other workers’ safety requirements under Union law.
- (7) As a consequence of the renewal of the authorisation of the preparation of taurine as a feed additive, Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/722 should be repealed.
- (8) Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/722 provides that taurine is allowed to be placed on the market and used as an additive consisting of a preparation, but the composition of such preparation has erroneously not been specified in the terms of the authorisation. A more accurate description of taurine authorised as a preparation at concentrations of 97% should be provided for, by specifying the composition of the

⁴ Commission Regulation (EC) No 378/2005 of 4 March 2005 on detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the duties and tasks of the Community Reference Laboratory concerning applications for authorisations of feed additive (OJ L 59, 5.3.2005, p. 8, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2005/378/oj>).

⁵ Effects of dietary taurine on growth, non-specific immunity, anti-oxidative properties and gut immunity in the Chinese mitten crab *Eriocheir sinensis*. Fish Shellfish Immunol. 2018 Nov;82:212-219. doi: 10.1016/j.fsi.2018.08.029. Epub 2018 Aug 18;
Effect of taurine on growth and immune response of Pacific white shrimp (*Litopenaeus vannamei*) cultured at different temperatures. Aquaculture, Volume 594, 15 January 2025, 741393. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2024.741393>;
Taurine promotes the rapid recovery of clams (*Ruditapes philippinarum*) after aerial exposure through the glutathione pathway and by inhibiting apoptosis. Aquaculture Reports Volume 42, 15 July 2025, 102845. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aqrep.2025.102845>.

additive authorised as preparation. In addition, since maximum levels of the additive are set out for canidae, mustelidae and carnivorous finfish, it is appropriate to provide for a transitional period for interested parties to prepare themselves to meet the new requirements resulting from the renewal of the authorisation.

- (9) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Renewal of the authorisation

The authorisation of the preparation specified in the Annex, belonging to the additive category ‘nutritional additives’ and to the functional group ‘vitamins, pro-vitamins and chemically well-defined substances having similar effect’, is renewed subject to the conditions laid down in that Annex.

Article 2

Repeal

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/722 is repealed.

Article 3

Transitional measures

1. The feed additive taurine as authorised by Implementing Regulation (EU) No 2015/722 and premixtures containing that additive which are intended for canidae, felidae, mustelidae and carnivorous fish, and which are produced and labelled before *[6 months after the date of entry into force of this Regulation – Date to be inserted by the Service responsible for the publication]* in accordance with the rules applicable before *[the date of entry into force of this Regulation – Date to be inserted by the Service responsible for the publication]* may continue to be placed on the market and used until the stocks concerned are exhausted.
2. Compound feed and feed materials containing the feed additive referred to in paragraph 1, which are produced and labelled before *[12 months after the date of entry into force of this Regulation – Date to be inserted by the Service responsible for the publication]* in accordance with the rules applicable before *[the date of entry into force of this Regulation – Date to be inserted by the Service responsible for the publication]* may continue to be placed on the market and used until the stocks concerned are exhausted if they are intended for food-producing animals.
3. Compound feed and feed materials containing the feed additive referred to in paragraph 1, which are produced and labelled before *[24 months after the date of entry into force of this Regulation – Date to be inserted by the Service responsible for the publication]* in accordance with the rules applicable before *[the date of entry into force of this Regulation – Date to be inserted by the Service responsible for the publication]* may continue to be placed on the market and used until the stocks concerned are exhausted if they are intended for non-food producing animals.

Article 4
Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN