

Guidelines for Methylsulfonylmethane (MSM) in Animal Feeds

Methylsulfonylmethane, commonly referred to as MSM, is an ingredient that can be found in human food supplements. This ingredient has developed some name recognition among consumers based on the increased availability in supplement products. MSM is a unique product because of the court case of Vitality Systems, Inc., Gaston, Oregon. The court ruled MSM in combination with any other substance intended for use in food for animals is an unapproved food additive; however, when in the “pure” form MSM was found not to be a food additive and was legally acceptable to sell.

According to this ruling we can not approve registration of any product containing MSM in a commercial feed. Our office registers commercial feeds; thus, removing the pure MSM substance from being classified as a commercial feed could allow your product to be sold. Pure MSM product labels can not be labeled with “feeding directions”, nutritional guarantees, or other information that states or implies the product is intended to be fed or mixed in feed or otherwise represented as a commercial feed.

For Example:

The heading “feeding directions” should not be used as a heading on the product label. The word feed or mix with feed or similar verbiage should not be used to indicate or otherwise recommend to consumers of how to use a pure MSM product. It is recommended that the following suggestions or similar language be used:

- Can be given to horses: Use 1 tablespoon (0.5 ounces) morning and evening for 6 days, then 1 tablespoon (0.5 ounces) per day.
- Can be provided to horses: Use 1 tablespoon (0.5 ounces) morning and evening for 6 days, then 1 tablespoon (0.5 ounces) per day.
- Can be used in horses: Provide 1 tablespoon (0.5 ounces) morning and evening for 6 days, then 1 tablespoon (0.5 ounces) per day.

Note: This is an interim policy applicable only for Kentucky. It has no application in other states and does not alter existing AAFCO requirements or FDA statutory authority or preclude action by other regulatory agencies. This policy will be utilized as the basis for Kentucky registration and labeling pending development of national requirements that will supercede this policy.

Questions pertaining to this policy should be directed to the Feed Program Coordinator or Product Registration Specialist at 859-257-5887 or 859-257-4496, respectively, with the Division of Regulatory Services at the University of Kentucky.

This policy is updated from the previous version dated October 14, 2004.