

PositionPaper

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European Paper Industry's position on fatty acids contaminated with dioxins.

A dioxin scare was reported in Germany at the beginning of January. Dioxins were found in eggs and poultry from German farms in concentrations exceeding limits allowed under EU food law. Fatty acids contaminated with dioxins were mixed with other raw materials and supplied as animal feed to farms mainly in Germany. German authorities suspect criminal activity but are still investigating the contamination, which they believe dates back to March 2010.

The producer stated that these fatty acids were not meant for animal feed production but rather for technical purposes "such as paper manufacturing". This hasty response was later repeated by German authorities without any further investigations on the actual supply chain.

The paper industry does not, under any circumstance, accept dioxin-contaminated material being supplied to it by the chemical industry, and firmly disapproves of such an irresponsible practice whether intentional or not.

The European paper industry uses fatty acids in, for example, the paper recycling cleaning process. The paper industry has demanded confirmation from its chemical suppliers that contaminated fatty acids have never been used in materials supplied to the paper industry and to insist that procedures are put in place to avoid that such material can enter the paper industry's supply chain.

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