

Sappi granted feed safety assurance for pelletin

Sappi SA has been granted GMP+ safety assurance certification for its lignin-based animal feed additive, demonstrating compliance with the highest standards of quality assurance and risk management in the animal feed industry.

Lignin, a major component of wood and an abundant organic polymer, provides a multitude of functionalities especially in the industrial and agricultural sector. Sourced from the wood pulping process as a side stream, Sappi Southern Africa uses it to produce an additive in animal feed manufacturing. The company recently achieved GMP+ Feed Safety Assurance (FSA) 2020 certification for Pelletin, the name of the lignin-based additive. This makes Sappi the second organisation in Africa to attain this prestigious certification.

GMP+ is the world's largest and most rigorous animal feed certification scheme, focused on the contribution of safe animal feed throughout the entire production chain, with an emphasis on quality assurance and risk management in the production and trade of animal feed. Sappi Southern Africa's certification is for 'Trade in Feed', while the 'Production of Feed Additives' certification has been issued to the Sappi Tugela Mill.

"Sappi's certification gives Pelletin a competitive edge in the global lignin market, as it demonstrates its compliance with the highest standards of quality assurance and risk management in the animal feed industry," says Jason Knock, general manager, Lignin at Sappi Southern Africa. He adds that this is vital for the health and welfare of livestock and the safety of food products derived from them, as well as the issue of food security in the country.

The importance of lignin is growing, and it is becoming an indispensable additive

where sustainable natural alternatives for oil-based products are desired. Lignin is recovered from the pulping process of paper and board manufacturing and is a prime example of the bioeconomy.

"As a technical lignin, Pelletin primarily functions as a binder in the production of compound animal feeds and acts as a natural glue that binds the feed ingredients and additives together. This makes for a cost-effective compound feed pellet with enhanced durability and strength," explains Knock.

The combined anti-caking and dispersing properties of the product promote mixing uniformity and homogenous blending of all feed ingredients, acting as an effective lubricant reducing friction in the pelleting process, as well as reducing wear and tear

on the manufacturing equipment.

Sappi Biotech has a rich history in the lignin market spanning almost 100 years, making it one of the very first companies to market and sell lignin for industrial applications.

"We are delighted to receive this internationally recognised certification, which confirms that our products meet the highest standards of quality and safety in the animal feed sector. This is testament to the hard work and dedication of our team at the Tugela Mill, who have successfully passed the rigorous audits required for GMP+ certification. We are committed to maintaining and improving our standards and processes to ensure the satisfaction and trust of our customers," Knock concludes.

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Pelletin acts as a binder in animal feeds and is used to make cost-effective compound feed pellets with enhanced durability and strength.



Sappi is 100% committed to making products from sustainable resources. Plantation compartments of different ages, for example, ensure a sustainable supply of timber for its wood pulp-based product range. Credit. PHOTO: Sappi.