

12 March 2013

James Laycock
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Post Collections

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Attention: James Laycock<james@blueprintplanning.com.au>
By e-mail only

Dear Sir,

Re: National Vendor Declaration (Cattle): Question No. 2 – Have the cattle in this consignment ever in their lives been fed feed containing animal fats?

Further to your recent request for further information from Transpacific Cleanaway in regard to matters arising from the above *National Vendor Declaration (Cattle)* question I wish to advise of the following:

Description of the composting process in regard to the breaking down (pasteurisation and catabolism) of fats (any fats)

During composting, two basic processes occur:

1. All material is pasteurised, killing all pathogenic organisms (except the *Tetanus* bacterium which forms heat resistant spores). The Gore™ cover technology maintains conditions that exceed minimum pasteurisation requirements (AS 4454:2012) by several orders of magnitude.
2. The material is catabolised i.e. it is chemically broken down by multiple species of micro-organism. Because of the typical wide diversity of micro-organisms present, a large range of different enzymes are released which enable the organisms to extract energy and nutrients from the full range of organic material. Fats are particularly favoured as they are a rich source of energy. During the composting process, they (and any pathogens they may contain) are completely destroyed and chemically rendered down to carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water (H₂O). Only solid pieces of lignin, cellulose (i.e. wood) and tannin stabilised polymers are resistant enough to survive one pass through this process.

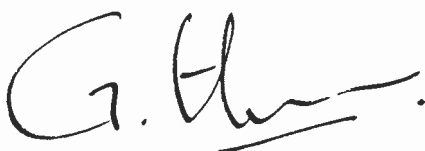
There is no trace of any fats in properly made compost. The Gore™ composting cycle, attaining temperatures over 65°C, being turned twice, and with the process lasting for eight weeks followed by appropriate maturation, unequivocally produces 'properly made compost'. Note that in poorly run facilities, incorrect preparation of the composting feedstock (too wet, inadequate porosity, unsuitable C:N ratio, and proportionately too much fatty material added to the solid matrix), often exacerbated by poor or no aeration, can lead to the persistence of fat. Such product cannot be classed as quality compost.

Proposed testing and certification of compost product

Compost product will be periodically and randomly tested by an independent NATA¹ registered laboratory to demonstrate an absence of fats. Transpacific Cleanaway will provide sufficient documentation to enable any interested party to answer "No." to *National Vendor Declaration (Cattle)* Question No. 2 – Have the cattle in this consignment ever in their lives been fed feed containing animal fats?

Should any further information be required I can be contacted on 02 8700 2114.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Hemm', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Geoff Hemm, BSc (Hons)
Organics Processing Manager
Recycling Facilities

¹National Association of Testing Authorities. NATA is the authority that provides independent assurance of technical competence through a proven network of best practice industry experts for customers who require confidence in the delivery of their products and services. NATA provides assessment, accreditation and training services to laboratories and technical facilities throughout Australia and internationally.