



December 5, 2022

NOTICE TO COMMERCIAL FEED INDUSTRY

This fall, the Commercial Feed Regulatory Program's official almond hull sampling has a 35 percent violation rate. The maximum crude fiber allowance for almond hulls is 15.0 percent.

One of the causes of this high violation rate is the blending of almond shell back into almond hulls. The requirement for use of almond shell/almond hull and shell in a formula feed or mixed feed, such as adding almond shell to almond hulls, is outlined below California Code of Regulations Section 2773.5 (b) states: "When the following almond hull products are used in a mixed feed, the maximum percent shall be stated.

- (1) Almond hull and shell
- (2) Almond shell
- (3) Almond products containing more than 9.0 percent ash."

Anytime almond shell is added to commercial feed, it shall be stated on the label with the maximum inclusion percent stated.

This requirement applies to all firms utilizing this practice, including almond hullers and processors who remove almond shell while hulling and shelling. When a firm adds or blends shell back into its almond hulls or almond hull and shell, the firm is creating a formula feed as defined in Article 2 of the Food and Agricultural Code (FAC), Section 14930. Meaning the firm is required to declare the maximum percent of almond shell included in the feed on the label.

If almond shell is being added back into the feed, and sold as Almond Hulls or Almond Hull and Shell, and is not declared on the label accompanying the load, it will be considered adulterated per FAC Section 15041(c) "A commercial feed is adulterated if its composition differs from, or quality falls below, that which it is purported or is represented to possess by its labeling."

If a violation occurs and a firm does not have an almond hull shipping plan with crude fiber assays, showing that the plan will result in almond hulls that meet the crude fiber maximum guarantee, the inventory of almond hulls that are over 15.0 percent crude fiber will be subject to quarantine and only able to be shipped and labeled as almond hull and shell.

For additional information or questions please contact Mike Davidson, Supervising Special Investigator at (209) 649-3682.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY MS. LEAL JENNA LEAL

Environmental Program Manager I

