



May 14, 2013

NOTICE TO INDUSTRY

Compliance Policy for Almond Hulls

The California Department of Food & Agriculture's Commercial Feed & Livestock Drug Program is instituting an immediate zero-tolerance policy on all almond hull, and almond hull and shell violations. This is a result of the high violation rate (over 60 percent) of crude fiber on over one-hundred official samples of almond hulls, and almond hull and shell from the 2012 crop year. This policy is being implemented to reduce the official sample violation rate for products defined in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Section 2273.5. Almond Hulls, and will remain in effect until further notice.

Effective immediately, your inventory will be quarantined if your firm has a crude fiber violation and there is no quality assurance plan in place to ensure that product shipped meets the definition in CCR Section 2273.5. As a result of this, all almond hull products greater than 15 percent crude fiber shall be labeled and sold as almond hull and shell, or as almond shell if the crude fiber is over 29 percent.

The quality assurance plan should include laboratory results on crude fiber analyses performed by the firms private lab of choice that represents the inventory at your facility including, the different varieties at your facility or different auger legs. A comprehensive mixing plan needs to be developed so that all of the almond hull products are properly represented by the label.

Authority: Food and Agriculture Code, Section 15041 states, "*A commercial feed is adulterated in the following cases: (c) Its composition differs from, or quality falls below, that which it is purported or is represented to possess by its labeling.*"

California Code of Regulations, Section 2273.5. Almond Hulls states, "*(a) Almond hulls are obtained by drying that portion of the almond fruit which surrounds the nut. They shall not contain more than 13.0 percent moisture, nor more than 15.0 percent crude fiber, and not more than 9.0 percent ash. If they contain more than 15.0 percent but less than 29.0 percent crude fiber, they shall be labeled "Almond Hull and Shell," and the maximum percent of crude fiber shall be stated. If the crude fiber exceeds 29.0 percent, the product shall be labeled "Almond Shell." If the ash exceeds 9.0 percent, the term "and dirt" shall be included in the product name. Almond hull products shall be free of foreign material, including plastic, glass, and metal except in such trace amounts as unavoidably occur in good manufacturing practices.*"

(b) 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.*

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

Sincerely,

Gary Castro
Branch Chief

