



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION REPRESENTING THE TRADE IN CEREALS, RICE, FEEDSTUFFS,  
OILSEEDS, OLIVE OIL, OILS AND FATS AND AGROSUPPLY

COMITÉ DU COMMERCE DES CÉRÉALES, ALIMENTS DU BÉTAIL,  
OLÉAGINEUX, HUILE D'OLIVE, HUILES ET GRAISSES ET AGROFOURNITURES

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## **Aflatoxin B1 in Maize from South-Eastern Europe**

### ***Feed Hygiene: a responsibility across the supply chain***

COCERAL acknowledges the recent RASFF alerts on Aflatoxins B1 levels in Maize from South Eastern European origin.

Aflatoxin-producing fungi members of *Aspergillus* are common and widespread in nature. They can colonize and contaminate grain before harvest or during storage. Host crops are particularly susceptible following prolonged exposure to a high-humidity environment or damage from stressful conditions such as drought.

The trading community remains highly vigilant to the management of mycotoxins in their activities. Traders continue monitoring with due diligence to ensure the delivery of safe feed materials, in compliance with the European legal framework. The recent incidents of increased Aflatoxin content in grains should be treated as isolated cases giving an opportunity to review and discuss together with the whole supply chain the top-of-the-pyramid approach.

COCERAL supports risk management based on scientific evidences and encourages a supply chain approach, *from and to the farm with all those in between*, as a result of the joint responsibility in the feed hygiene implementation.

COCERAL calls for closer coordination between all the food and feed chain stakeholders when precautionary measures, based on founded safety risks, are envisaged in period of crisis.

**COCERAL** is the European association of cereals, rice, feedstuffs oilseeds, olive oil, oils and fats and agrosupply trade. It represents the interest of the European collectors, traders, importers, exporters and port silo storekeepers of the above mentioned agricultural products. COCERAL's full members are **31 national associations** in **19 countries** [Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Luxemburg, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands and the UK] and **1 European association** [Unistock] With about **2700 companies** as part of COCERAL national members, the sector trades agricultural raw materials destined to the supply of the food and feed chains, as well as for technical and energy uses. COCERAL has an associated member in Switzerland.