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INFORMATION

Relative to the use of additives of animal origin in polymer products

European Commission Decision 00/418/EC, Commission Decision 2001/2/EC, Commission Directive 2000/6/EC, APAG⁽¹⁾ report of April 2001

regulating the use and inactivation of materials presenting risks as regards transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE)

are giving directives for the elimination and recommended treatments to ensure complete inactivation of any TSE/BSE agent, regardless of the source and type of material of animal origin for, amongst others, products to be used in contact with food.

The plastics industry therefore does assume, when using additives of animal origin certified for food contact applications, that the above mentioned Directives / Recommendations have been followed.

In addition,

- during their production, the additives are subject to multiple extended high temperature temperatures above 200°C and high pressure processing steps, which exceeds the stringent requirements described in the Opinion of the Scientific Steering Committee of 26-27th March 1998 and the WHO/CDS/VPH 95.145, which are considered by scientific authorities as inactivation methods of the TSE agents
- the additional exposure of the plastics materials to temperatures ranging from 150°C to 300°C during half a minute to several minutes both, during compounding and in the final conversion process, represents an additional safety factor ensuring the protection of people's health in respect to TSE/BSE when using plastics materials in food contact.

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⁽¹⁾ The safety of tallow derivatives with respect to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy by APAG (The European Oleochemicals and Allied Products Group)