

Ethoxyquin

Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2316/98 authorizes the use of antioxidants such as ethoxyquin (EQ) in animal feed.

Their maximum limit, alone or in combination with other antioxidants, is set at 150 mg/kg per feedstuff.

- Ethoxyquin is used to prevent spontaneous combustion of fish meal during maritime transport.

- **Ethoxyquin levels in fish feed are controlled by NIFES, mandated by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority (Mattilsynet).** Over the last ten years, average values have fallen significantly, because producers of feed for fish have reduced the proportion of fish meal.

- There are no upper limits for ethoxyquin in fish meat but the Acceptable Daily Intake (ADI) is 0.005 mg per kilo body weight per day (source: WHO).

- **Tests conducted in Norway show that a large portion of the salmon (300 g) contributes less than 15% of the of the ADI.**

- In 2016, the EFSA, after being invited to re-assess the safety of ethoxyquin used in animal feed, was unable to reach a conclusion about the safety of this antioxidant, due to gaps in the data.

- The Norwegian authorities are monitoring the situation carefully, while awaiting conclusive results as soon as possible, in order to adapt the legislation accordingly.