

ARA – GUIDELINES REGARDING RAW MATERIAL CONTAMINATION

Pre-amble

The rendering industry recycles the residue material from the production of fresh meat and poultry products

Some rendered fats are edible. Other rendered products are used in pet food, stock feed, aqua feed, soap and oleo chemical production or biodiesel. These products require the highest standards of safety and quality from rendered products.

The rendering industry is responsible for ensuring that its raw materials are free from foreign matter.

Plants accredited by the Australian Renderers Association are required to operate quality management systems. Similarly there needs to be minimum standards of raw material quality. The following guidelines should assist in relation to this.

Rendering - Raw Material Contamination

1. Rendered products are required to comply with strict specifications, including being free of foreign matter.
2. The specifications include allowable polythene levels in tallow, digestibility of meat bone meal, melamine levels, metal content etc.
3. In order to comply with the required specifications, raw materials should be fresh and free from contaminants and foreign matter.
4. Typical contaminants and foreign matter include plastics (including PVC and polystyrene), metal, rope and excess water.
5. Contaminants in raw materials are likely to degrade the end product and jeopardize the final markets.
6. Best practice rendering requires removal of contaminants prior to processing.
7. The removal of contaminants is costly and uncertain.
8. The industry standard recommends that raw material should not be contaminated at the source of collection.

9. The industry standard recommends that where raw materials are contaminated:
 - contaminants should be removed at the source
 - contaminated material be downgraded in value
 - contaminated material be deemed unsuitable for rendering
10. This is reasonable considering there are many countries where different parts of the same raw material are required to be removed and processed separately.

The industry undertakes to educate its suppliers about the negative impact of contaminated raw material.