



## FEED REGISTRATION FAQ

**1. “I am new to the animal food/pet treat business”, what do I need to do to follow South Carolina regulations?**

- » You will need to register your products with our department. Product registration requires a label that will need to follow the SC Commercial Feed Act requirements and meet federal regulations as well. For more information, please visit [agriculture.sc.gov/feed-safety-compliance](https://agriculture.sc.gov/feed-safety-compliance).

**2. Does SC have tonnage report/license fees?**

- » Currently, the South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA) does not require tonnage reporting or license fees.

**3. What are the labeling requirements for SC?**

- » Product labeling must be in accordance with the SC Commercial Feed Act and Commercial Feeding Stuffs regulations. SCDA may refuse the registration of a commercial feed if the name or ingredients are misleading to the consumer, if the ingredients are not approved, or the product makes misleading claims. At a minimum the label must contain the following:

- The net weight of the product
- The name, brand or trademark under which the product is sold
- The name and address of the manufacturer, jobber or importer
- The name of each and all ingredients contained in the product
- A statement of the minimum percentage of crude protein, the minimum percentage of crude fat and the maximum percentage of crude fiber

Please visit our website at [agriculture.sc.gov/feed-safety-compliance](https://agriculture.sc.gov/feed-safety-compliance) for Labeling Quick Guides for both Pet Food, Livestock, Medicated Feed, and Single Ingredient products.

**4. Where can I find a comprehensive list of approved ingredients?**

- » In South Carolina, we recognized ingredients that are: AAFCO defined, **Approved Food Additives, Generally Recognized as Safe**, or Common/Usual Ingredients. Public access to the most comprehensive list of these ingredients can be found here: [aafco.org/Publications/OP-Chapter-6-Public-Access](https://aafco.org/Publications/OP-Chapter-6-Public-Access)

**5. What is AAFCO?**

- » The Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) is a voluntary membership association of local, state, and federal agencies. AAFCO members are charged by their local, state, or federal laws to regulate the sale and distribution of animal feeds and animal drug remedies. Together, AAFCO has put together labeling guidelines and ingredient definitions for used in animal feed and pet food. For more information on AAFCO, you can visit [aafco.org](https://aafco.org).

**6. What products are exempt from registration?**

- » Per the South Carolina Commercial Feed Act, the term “commercial feed” means all materials distributed for use as feed or for mixing in feed except (a) whole hays, straw, cottonseed hulls, corn stover and ground corn cob and shuck; (b) raw and unprocessed fresh or frozen fish, beef, horse meat, poultry and by-products of these items, together with and including limestone and granite or similar substance, when they are not mixed with other materials; (c) unmixed whole seeds or grains of cereals when not mixed with other materials and when not in such damaged condition as to be unfit for feed purposes as determined by inspection.

**7. Do different sized packages require registration?**

- » No, as long it is the same formula throughout the different package sizes.

**8. Does my bone, chew or toy require registration?**

- » No, as long as the product labeling follows AAFCO SUIP #24 and does not make any claim that it is intended for use as an animal food, or that the product provides anything of nutritional value to the animal. If you are unsure if your product would be exempt from registration, please contact us at [feedregistration@scda.sc.gov](mailto:feedregistration@scda.sc.gov).

**9. Do I need to register my homemade pet treats if I'm going to sell online?**

- » Yes, but please be aware that although SCDA allows firms to make pet food or treats in your home kitchen at this time, it is not recommended. If SCDA received a complaint about your products from a consumer, you may be subject to a complaint follow-up and inspection of your home kitchen. Also, keep in mind that each state works differently with product registration/licenses, so if you wish to expand your product(s) in other states, you will need to reach out to those states for any feed requirements.

**10. Are there any requirements for making/selling pet food in a DHEC kitchen in SC?**

- » SCDA regulates the commercial sell of feed products in South Carolina. Since most human food establishments are under the jurisdiction of either DHEC or SCDA Food Safety, you would need to contact your facility regulator before making any pet treats in a human food facility. Once approved by your regulator, you may contact our department to proceed with feed product registration.

**11. Can I make animal food products with CBD?**

- » No. South Carolina Department of Agriculture is aware of the growing public interest in hemp and cannabis-derived products, including cannabidiol (CBD) and will follow the American Association of Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) and the **Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) position**: "FDA has concluded that it is a prohibited act to introduce or deliver for introduction into interstate commerce any food to which CBD has been added." Materials and products that are CBD infused need to be treated as drugs. There is no nutritional intended use for this compound at this point in time.

**12. How long does it take for my products to be reviewed/registered?**

- » Product registrations are reviewed in the order they are received. Typically this happens between 1 – 2 weeks, but it may be longer. As a side note, online registrations may have a quicker turn around than mailed in applications.

**13. When do I pay? "The portal did not give me an option to pay after submitting my products."**

- » After the application has been submitted through the online registration portal, it must be reviewed and approved by the SCDA Feed Registration Specialist. Once it's been approved an email will be sent notifying the registrant that payment for the products can be made and a link will be provided.

**14. When are renewals due? Are there any late fees?**

- » The registration status of all products expires December 31st of each year. There is a late fee of \$10 per product for any applicant that fails to make payment for a product within 15 days from the product being approved.

**15. How do I cancel my product registration in South Carolina?**

- » You can contact our department if you wish to cancel your feed registration for any reason (ex. out of business, not distributing in South Carolina, discontinued product(s), etc.). Although it's not required, we would appreciate written correspondence either via mail or email for any registration cancellation.

**16. My firm bought X company, are the products transferable or do they need a new registration?**

- » As long as the products are currently registered and no new changes have been made to the product's composition, the product could be transferable. If applicable, our department would require revised label(s) for Manufacturer's Name and Address.

**17. How do I update my business information? Do I need to contact the department?**

- » You can email [feedregistration@scda.sc.gov](mailto:feedregistration@scda.sc.gov) or make changes online when you sign in to your account.