Official Journal
of the European Union

EN
L series

2026/2129

25.9.2026

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2026/2129

of 24 September 2026

concerning the renewal of the authorisation of L-cysteine hydrochloride monohydrate as a feed additive for cats and dogs and repealing Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2306

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition ([1]), and in particular Article 9(2) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 provides for the authorisation of additives for use in animal nutrition and for the grounds and procedures for granting and renewing such an authorisation.

(2) L-cysteine hydrochloride monohydrate was authorised for 10 years as feed additive for cats and dogs by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2306 ([2]).

(3) In accordance with Article 14(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003, an application was submitted for the renewal of the authorisation of L-cysteine hydrochloride monohydrate for cats and dogs, requesting the additive to be classified in the additive category 'sensory additives' and in the functional group 'flavouring compounds'. That application was accompanied by the particulars and documents required under Article 14(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003.

(4) The European Food Safety Authority ('the Authority') concluded in its opinion of 18 November 2025 ([3]) that the applicant has provided evidence that L-cysteine hydrochloride monohydrate remains safe for cats and dogs as well as for the users and the environment under the conditions of use currently authorised. The Authority further concluded that L-cysteine hydrochloride monohydrate should be considered an irritant to skin, eyes and mucous membranes. Any exposure is considered a risk. The Authority stated that the application for renewal of the authorisation does not include a proposal for amending or supplementing the conditions of the original authorisation that would have an impact on the efficacy of the additive. Therefore, it concluded that there is no need for assessing the efficacy of the additive in the context of the renewal of the authorisation. The Authority considered that there is no need for specific requirements of post-market monitoring.

(5) The Reference Laboratory set up by Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 considered that the conclusions and recommendations reached in the assessment carried out regarding the method of analysis of L-cysteine hydrochloride monohydrate as a feed additive in the context of the previous authorisation are valid and applicable for the current application. In accordance with Article 5(4), point (c), of Commission Regulation (EC) No 378/2005 ([4]), an evaluation report of the Reference Laboratory is therefore not required.

(6) In view of the above, the Commission considers that L-cysteine hydrochloride monohydrate satisfies the conditions provided for in Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003. Accordingly, the authorisation of that additive should be renewed. In addition, the Commission considers that appropriate protective measures should be taken to prevent adverse effects on the health of the users of the additive. Those protective measures should be without prejudice to other workers' safety requirements under Union law.

([1]) OJ L 268, 18.10.2003, p. 29, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2003/1831/oj.
([2]) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2306 of 10 December 2015 concerning the authorisation of L-cysteine hydrochloride monohydrate as a feed additive for cats and dogs (OJ L 326, 11.12.2015, p. 46, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2015/2306/oj).
([3]) *EFSA Journal* 2025;23:e9783, https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2025.9783.
([4]) Commission Regulation (EC) No 378/2005 of 4 March 2005 on detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the duties and tasks of the Community Reference Laboratory concerning applications for authorisations of feed additive (OJ L 59, 5.3.2005, p. 8, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2005/378/oj).

(7) The Commission considers that safety reasons do not require the setting of maximum content for L-cysteine hydrochloride monohydrate. In order to allow better control, the recommended maximum content should be indicated on the label of the additive. Where the recommended maximum content is exceeded, certain information should be indicated on the label of the premixtures concerned.

(8) As a consequence of the renewal of the authorisation of L-cysteine hydrochloride monohydrate, Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2306 should be repealed.

(9) Since a new requirement for the labelling of the additive is introduced by this Implementing Regulation, it is appropriate to provide for a transitional period for interested parties to prepare themselves to meet that new requirement resulting from the renewal of the authorisation.

(10) The measures provided for in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Renewal of the authorisation

The authorisation of the substance specified in the Annex, belonging to the additive category 'sensory additives' and to the functional group 'flavouring compounds', is renewed subject to the conditions laid down in that Annex.

Article 2

Repeal

Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2306 is repealed.

Article 3

Transitional measures

1. The feed additive L-cysteine hydrochloride monohydrate as authorised by Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2306 and premixtures containing that additive which are intended for cats and dogs, and which are produced and labelled before 15 April 2027 in accordance with the rules applicable before 15 October 2026 may continue to be placed on the market and used until the stocks concerned are exhausted.

2. Compound feed and feed materials containing the feed additive referred to in paragraph 1, which are intended for cats and dogs and which are produced and labelled before 15 October 2028 in accordance with the rules applicable before 15 October 2026 may continue to be placed on the market and used until the stocks concerned are exhausted if they are intended for non-food producing animals.

Article 4

Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels, 24 September 2026.

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN

ANNEX

Identification number of the additive	Name of the additive	Composition, chemical formula, description, analytical method	Species or category of animal	Maximum age	Minimum content	Maximum content	Other provisions	End of period of authorisation
					mg of active substance/kg of complete feed with a moisture content of 12 %			
Category: Sensory additives. Functional group: Flavouring compounds.								
2b920	L-cysteine hydrochloride monohydrate	*Additive composition* L-cysteine hydrochloride monohydrate Solid form *Characterisation of the active substance* L-cysteine hydrochloride monohydrate L-cysteine hydrochloride monohydrate produced by hydrolysis of keratin from poultry feathers. $C_3H_7NO_2S{\cdot}HCl H_2O$ CAS number: 7048-04-6 Purity: min. 98,5 % assay *Analytical method* (1) For the identification of L-cysteine monohydrochloride in the feed additive: — Food Chemical Codex 'L-cysteine monohydrochloride monograph' For the determination of cysteine in the feed additive: — Ion-exchange chromatography coupled with post-column derivatisation and optical detection (IEC-VIS/FLD)	Cats and dogs	—	—	—	1. The additive shall be incorporated into the feed in the form of a premixture. 2. In the directions for use of the additive and premixtures, the storage conditions and the stability to heat treatment shall be indicated. 3. On the label of the additive the following shall be indicated: 'Recommended maximum content of the active substance of complete feed with a moisture content of 12 %: 25 mg/kg.' 4. The functional group, the identification number, the name and the added amount of the active substance shall be indicated on the label of the premixture where the use level on the label of the premixture would result in exceeding the recommended maximum content referred to in point 3.	15 October 2036

Identification number of the additive	Name of the additive	Composition, chemical formula, description, analytical method	Species or category of animal	Maximum age	Minimum content	Maximum content	Other provisions	End of period of authorisation
					mg of active substance/kg of complete feed with a moisture content of 12 %			
		For the determination of cysteine in premixtures: — Ion-exchange chromatography coupled with post-column derivatisation and optical detection (IEC-VIS) – Commission Regulation (EC) No 152/2009 ([2])					5. For users of the additive and premixtures, feed business operators shall establish operational procedures and organisational measures to address the potential risks resulting from their use. Where those risks cannot be eliminated by such procedures and measures, the additive and premixtures shall be used with personal breathing, eye and skin protective equipment.	

([1]) Details of the analytical methods are available at the following address of the Reference Laboratory: https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/eurl-fa-eurl-feed-additives/eurl-fa-authorisation/eurl-fa-evaluation-reports_en.

([2]) Commission Regulation (EC) No 152/2009 of 27 January 2009 laying down the methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of feed (OJ L 54, 26.2.2009, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2009/152/oj).