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Background

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1. The mycotoxins T-2 and HT-2 were previously assessed by the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT) in 2018 (COT, 2018) and 2021 (COT, 2021), reviewing their presence in the diet of infants and young children and the potential implications of combined mycotoxin exposure, respectively. The assessment in 2018 was based on a 2015 mycotoxin survey of oat-based products (FSA, 2015), and the estimated overall chronic dietary exposure to T-2 and HT-2 from consumption of oats and oat-based products was below the tolerable daily intake (TDI) for all age groups ranging from 4 months to adults aged 19 years and above, including high level consumers. Therefore, T-2 and HT-2 exposures from the results of this survey did not indicate a risk to consumer health. The COT, however, was unable

to complete a risk assessment on the potential risk(s) from combined exposure to mycotoxins, mainly due to the lack of information on co-occurrence in food (COT, 2021).

2. In 2020, the European Commission (EC) proposed establishing maximum levels (ML) for the mycotoxins T-2 and HT-2 in foods, which were lower than levels already set out in the European Commission Recommendation [2013/165/EU](#). Following the proposal, [maximum levels](#) came into force in the European Union (EU) on the 1st of July 2024. These MLs were established for the sum of T-2 and HT-2 toxins only. MLs were not established for the modified forms of T-2 and HT-2 (such as neosolanol (NEO) or 4,15-diacetoxyscirpenol (DAS)) due to limited occurrence data, and the absence of a suitable routine method available for their analysis. In light of the new EU maximum levels, the COT was asked by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to assess the level of risk to UK consumers from dietary exposure to T-2 and HT-2 mycotoxins only.

3. As part of this work, the COT considered “the existing health-based guidance values (HBGVs) for T-2 and HT-2 mycotoxins set by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA)” in February 2023 ([TOX/2023/04](#)). The COT considered the evidence base for both evaluations and concluded that they continued to be content, based on the scientific evidence, to align with the HBGVs derived by EFSA in 2017.

4. To assist the COT with the new assessment of the risk of T-2 and HT-2 from food, the FSA and Food Standards Scotland (FSS) undertook a call for evidence from July 2023 to October 2023. While T-2 and HT-2 have been detected in products of animal origin (POAO), likely as a result of contamination of feed (EFSA, 2017c), the EU did not change the maximum legislative level for products of animal origin (POAO) and the FSA/FSS did not include occurrence data for meat and dairy products in its data call. Following the new European ML for T-2 and HT-2, the data call focussed on the collection of occurrence data for T-2 and HT-2 from the cereals supply chain, from field level to ready to eat (RTE) food products. As the EU did not establish maximum levels for the modified forms of T-2 and HT-2 (such as NEO or DAS) due to limited occurrence data, and the absence of a suitable routine method available for their analysis, NEO and DAS were not included in the call for evidence and have not been further considered here. A discussion paper, focussing on the exposure from T-2 and HT-2 was presented to the COT in July 2024 ([TOX/2024/24](#)) and in March 2025 ([TOX/2025/14](#)), following feedback from the Committee.

5. This statement discusses the risk for T-2 and HT-2 mycotoxins in food, focussing on the exposure from the consumption of cereal grains and, where available, products thereof, i.e. foods prepared from recipes containing cereal grains.

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Introduction

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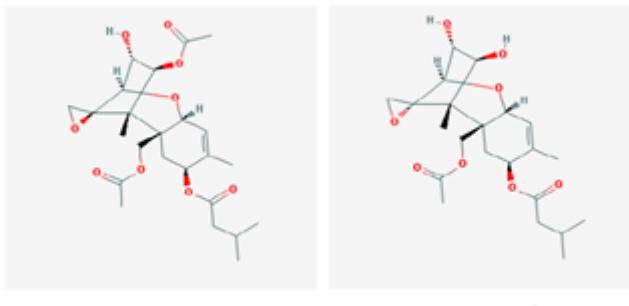
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Type A trichothecenes

6. T-2 and HT-2 are type A trichothecenes which are produced by a variety of Fusarium and other fungal species. Fusarium species grow and invade crops and produce T-2 and HT-2 under cool, moist conditions prior to harvest. They are found predominantly in cereal grains, and in particular oat grain, barley grain and wheat grain and products thereof, i.e. foods prepared from recipes containing cereal grains. (JECFA, 2016).

7. The chemical structures of T-2 and HT-2 are shown below in Figure 1.



T-2 toxin

HT-2 toxin

Figure 1 gives the chemical structures of the mycotoxins T-2 and HT-2. Figure 1 is shown in grey, black and red line with red and grey text on a grey background.

Figure 1. Chemical structures of T-2 and HT-2 (PubChem, 2025).

Occurrence data

8. As part of this assessment, occurrence data on T-2 and HT-2 (only) in food were acquired through a nationwide call for evidence (FSA, 2023). This call was issued by the FSA and FSS in July 2023 and officially closed in October 2023. However, the FSA and FSS continued to receive data up until February 2024. The data call focussed on cereal grains both pre- and post- cleaning/dehulling, and finished products including, where possible, data that spanned multiple years to reflect any annual variability of T-2 and HT-2 levels. The data received ($n = >8000$) covered the UK harvest seasons from 2004 to 2023. Sampling data for RTE food products were also submitted for 2013 ($n=60$), 2014 ($n=60$) and 2024 ($n=90$).

9. The FSA and FSS received occurrence data on T-2 and HT-2, only, either as the sum of T-2 and HT-2 or as the individual mycotoxins. The level of detail provided by the respondents and the format varied, but the data included occurrence levels in processed and unprocessed cereal grains, cereal products and a small number of RTE foods. The occurrence data submitted to the FSA and FSS were predominantly on unprocessed/raw materials, which were yet to undergo any cleaning. Occurrence data on grains submitted by industry as 'already processed' refers to grains that have been dehulled and cleaned, but remain as a commodity, that is they have not been incorporated in any RTE foods. Submitted data on RTE foods included biscuits, rusks and cookies, extruded cereal seed or root-based products, cereal bars, infant formula milk-based powder, oat porridge, muesli, mixed breakfast cereals, bread and rolls.

10. The data were collated, cleaned and assured by the FSA. The quality assurance (QA) methodology aligned with the main principles outlined in the Treasury Guidance (Aqua Book; UK HM Treasury, 2015) and the guidelines in the Government Data Quality Framework (UK Government Data Quality Hub, 2020) on data quality rules.

11. Prior to the data cleaning, a verification exercise was undertaken by the FSA to account for missing limit of quantification (LOQ) and/or limit of detection (LOD) values and sample type categorisation. For these amendments, assumptions were made based on the descriptors and values included by the submitters, such as the descriptors provided for commodity types based on the sample identification codes. The following criteria were applied to include data without compromising scientific integrity. Data were included when all of the following criteria were satisfied:

- Datapoints with reported LOQ > 0.
- Datapoints where the FoodEx (EFSA, 2025) code could be defined.
- Sample codes referred to products destined for human consumption (not feed).

12. To estimate the median lower bound (LB) sum of T-2 and HT-2, values that were at or below the LOQ were assumed to be zero. To estimate the median upper bound (UB) occurrence levels, values that were at or below the LOQ were assumed to be at the LOQ; values above the LOQ were used as reported.

13. For grains, only data on the sum of T-2 and HT-2, which were analytically determined in samples, were considered in the exposure assessment to allow for a direct comparison with the group HBGV (which is for the sum of both mycotoxins). For RTE products all reported values were considered, including individual T-2 or HT-2 occurrence data, due to the limited data available.

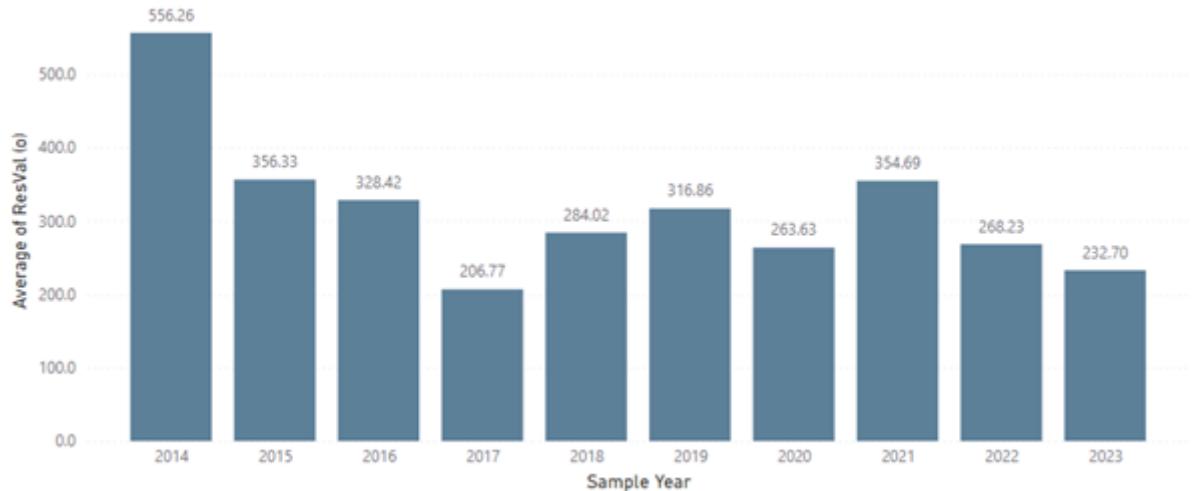
Seasonal variability

14. The presence of T-2 and HT-2 in crops is dependent on the weather at key growth stages, such as flowering, and can demonstrate large annual variability. While there are good agricultural practices deployed to manage the presence of mycotoxins in general, they have not proven to be effective for T-2 and HT-2, given the large dependence on climate/weather. Currently, liquid chromatography mass spectrometry (LC-MS) and gas chromatography-mass

spectrometry (GC-MS) are the primary techniques employed for testing T-2 and HT-2 contamination levels in the laboratory. Commercially available rapid diagnostics kits delivering the simultaneous measurement of T-2 and HT-2 toxins, and most of the other tests available are immunochemical methods including enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays (ELISA), lateral flow devices (LFDs)/dipstick assays and fluorescence polarisation immunoassays (FPIA) (SafeFood, 2024). However, recent assessments by industry report large variability between the methods developed, and performance characteristics such as limits of detection (LODs) and, limits of quantification (LOQs) are often lacking (SafeFood, 2024). This makes it difficult to reliably detect these toxins in samples. In addition, currently available test kits would not automatically be 'fit for purpose' (SafeFood, 2024) as rapid tests must be accurate, reproducible and provide the required sensitivity for regulatory compliance.

15. The data from the call for evidence covers the years 2004-2024, which spans a period either side of the Commission Recommendation 2013/165/EU from 2013 on the presence of T-2 and HT-2 toxin in cereals and cereal products. Generally, the highest average levels of the sum of T-2 and HT-2 received via the data call were reported in the years 2008 to 2014, with lower levels being detected thereafter. The year 2014 is still recognised as a year with a particularly high prevalence of T-2 and HT-2. A study by Xu et al. (2014) showed that in the UK, accumulation of T-2 and HT-2 mycotoxins in field oat grains was positively correlated with warm and wet conditions during early May and dry conditions thereafter, when toxin levels likely remained high because dry weather reduced their leaching or loss from the plant. As the occurrence of T-2 and HT-2 can be attributed to seasonal variation, reviewing levels across a longer period of time is particularly important.

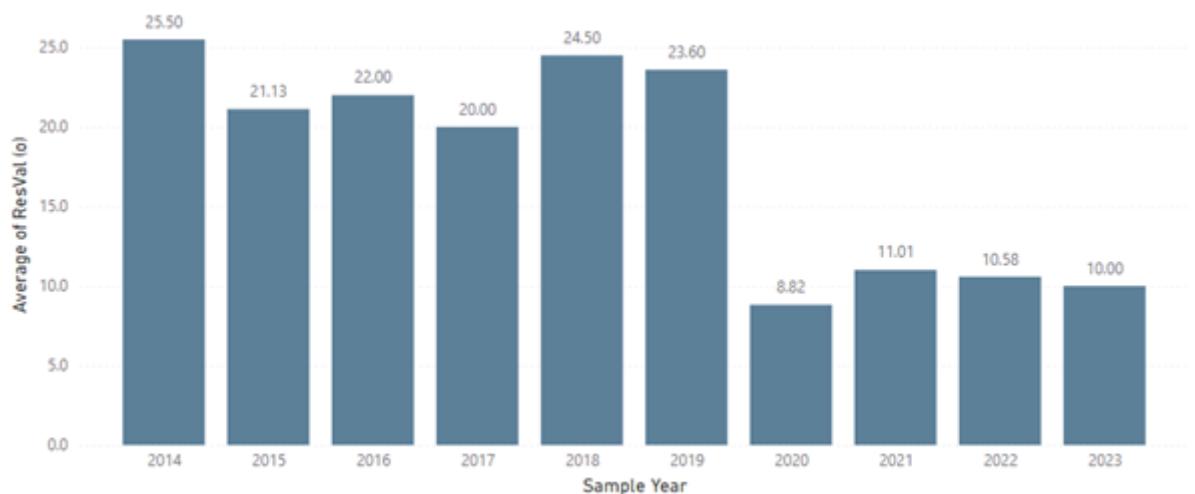
16. Figures 2a-c provide a visualisation of the annual occurrence data for the sum of T-2 and HT-2 in three cereal grains (oats, barley, and wheat), for unprocessed grain submitted via the call for evidence. The average values in these graphs are the median values per year. To get a more representative analysis of current exposure patterns, only the last 10 years of occurrence data were included (2014- 2024); the occurrence data from before 2013, the year the initial food safety [Recommendation](#) came into force, were excluded.



This figure is a histogram showing annual levels of T-2 and HT-2 in three cereal grains (oats, wheat and barley).

Number of samples: 2014 (n = 440), 2015 (n = 617), 2016 (n = 244), 2017 (n = 397), 2018 (n = 367), 2019 (n = 604), 2020 (n = 727), 2021 (n = 480), 2022 (n = 634), 2023 (n = 195).

Figure 2a. Average sum of T-2 and HT-2 concentration per year for unprocessed oat grains.

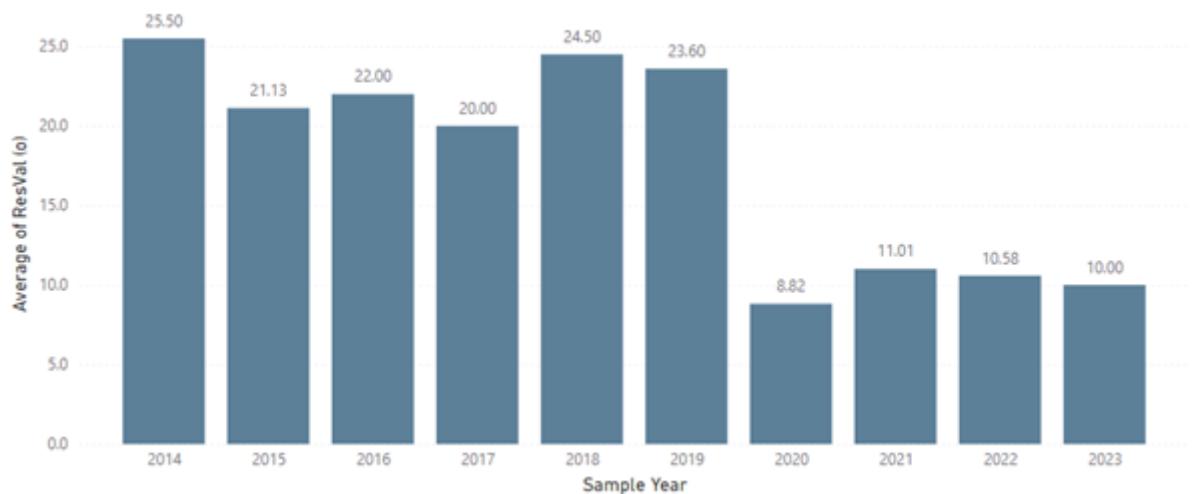


This figure is a histogram of median T-2 and HT-2 levels in unprocessed barley for the years 2014-2023.

Number of samples: 2017 (n = 6), 2018 (n = 21), 2019 (n = 6), 2021 (n = 123), 2022 (n = 123), 2023 (n = 65).

Figure 2b. Median of T-2 and HT-2 concentration per year for unprocessed barley grains.

*ResVal(o) – concentration in $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$.



This figure is a histogram of median T-2 and HT-2 levels in unprocessed barley for the years 2014-2023.

*ResVal(o) – concentration in $\mu\text{g}/\text{kg}$.

Number of samples: 2014 ($n = 4$), 2015 ($n = 8$), 2016 ($n = 8$), 2017 ($n = 1$), 2018 ($n = 6$), 2019 ($n = 5$), 2020 ($n = 11$), 2021 ($n = 168$), 2022 ($n = 163$), 2023 ($n = 28$).

Figure 2c. Average sum of T-2 and HT-2 concentration per year for unprocessed wheat grains.

17. It is important to note that the Figures are purely a visualisation of how the measured levels of mycotoxins changed across the different years. The level of information provided by industry in response to the call for data varied greatly, hence no one factor which was driving the changes observed in the mycotoxin levels across the different years could be identified. The annual variability depicted in Figures 2a-c could be based on factors such as i) climate, i.e. changes in the weather from one year to the next, ii) sampling time and storage, from time of harvest to time of measuring its mycotoxin levels, as well as the way and length the samples were stored and iii) increase in sampling.

Reduction factors for unprocessed cereal grains

18. Unprocessed oat grains intended for human consumption comprise of an outer hull which is the part of the grain that is often most contaminated. However, this outer hull is removed during processing, and this so-called ‘de-hulling’ process therefore significantly reduces the level of contamination.

19. A literature search was conducted to identify information on the reduction of T-2 and HT-2 mycotoxin levels in cereal grains during processing. A ‘reduction factor’, when used in exposure calculations, takes into account the expected decrease in T-2 and HT-2 levels in unprocessed cereal grains once they are processed, i.e. cleaned and de-hulled. Applying reduction factors would therefore allow for a more accurate representation of consumer exposure to T-2 and HT-2 and result in a more realistic exposure assessment. Several reduction factors for the sum of T-2 and HT-2 for oat grains were identified in the scientific literature ranging from 66 to 100 % (Meyer et al., 2022; Schwake-Anduschus et al., 2010; EFSA, 2011a; Pettersson 2008). For this assessment, a reduction factor of 85 % from Meyer et al. (2022) was applied; this means that all T-2 and HT-2 occurrence values for unprocessed oats were reduced by 85 %.

20. The factor of 85 % was chosen as it was the most scientifically robust as well as from the most recently conducted study. Although the reduction factor of 85 % was specifically for large oat kernels, Meyer et al. (2023) noted that “milling oats are traded to contain less than 10 % of thin oats below 2 mm slotted hole sieve” (up to 90 % of the oats may be composed of larger kernels). Therefore this reduction factor was considered to be of relevance for this exposure assessment.

21. As some cultivars of oat and barley are hulless, Polišenská et al. (2020) noted that “special attention should be paid to the risk of their contamination by *Fusarium* mycotoxins, as the rate of mycotoxin reduction during processing could be much lower than that for hulled cereals”. However, in the UK, hulless cultivars of oats are typically used for animal feed and not for human consumption.

22. No reduction factors were identified for maize or barley. The limited information available suggested that the starting levels and incidence of T-2 and HT-2 in wheat and maize were very low and hence limited data were available on their fate or how their levels changed during manufacturing of RTE food products (Scudamore, 2009). One publication by Pascale et al. (2011) calculated an overall reduction of T-2 and HT-2 toxins by 54 % following the processing of durum wheat. However, the samples used in this study were artificially inoculated with *Fusarium*, and as such the high concentrations of T-2 and HT-2 in this study were

unlikely to reflect concentrations under natural conditions. Furthermore, the percentage reduction might not be linear and might be less at lower levels of contamination. Given the limited information it was therefore unclear whether, or to which percentage, processing reduces T-2 and HT-2 contamination in wheat, maize or barley under natural conditions.

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Toxicity

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23. The toxicity of T-2 and HT-2 has been reviewed previously by EFSA (2011a, 2017c), JECFA (2002, 2016, 2022) and the SCF (2002). All Committees agreed that these trichothecenes had both acute and chronic effects.

24. The primary acute effect of T-2 and HT-2 toxicity is emesis, where the effect is Cmax-dependent (related to peak concentration) and has been observed upon single oral and intraperitoneal exposures to T-2 and HT-2 in mink (Wu et al., 2016). The primary chronic effects of T-2 and HT-2 toxicity are haematotoxicity, immunotoxicity and reduced body weight gain. Exposure to T-2 for three weeks resulted in reduced total leucocyte counts in male rats (Rahman

et al., 2014), while exposure for 12 weeks resulted in reduced body weight gain in juvenile pigs (Rafai et al., 1995a,b). Both acute and chronic effects occurred in a dose-dependent manner at a similar dose range (1.8 – 3.3 µg/ kg bodyweight (bw)), with similar durations and exposure routes. The apparent difference in sensitivity to acute or chronic effects arises from different uncertainty factors (UF) which have been applied when deriving the corresponding HBGVs.

25. T-2 and HT-2 also demonstrated dermal toxicity, developmental and reproductive toxicity, and neurotoxicity; however these effects occurred at higher doses.

Toxicokinetics

26. The toxicokinetics of T-2 and HT-2 have been reviewed previously by JECFA (2001) and EFSA (2017a), however, there was very little information on the *in vivo* absorption of T-2 and HT-2 in animals after oral administration.

27. Pfeiffer et al. (1988) administered radiolabelled T-2 at two doses (0.15 and 0.60 mg/kg) to male rats via three routes (oral, intravenous, dermal). Urine and faeces were collected over six days and the results demonstrated that excretion was rapid and largely complete within 72 hours for oral and intravenous routes but slower following dermal exposure. Overall, T-2 was predominantly excreted in faeces, with rats eliminating the toxin and its metabolites in a faeces-to-urine ratio of approximately 5:1.

28. In mice and rats orally administered (tritium-labelled) T-2 was rapidly eliminated via faeces and urine. In mice, the toxin was rapidly distributed to the liver, kidney and other organs, without accumulating in any organ. In rats, T-2 was excreted via faeces partly as HT-2 toxin, NEO and three unidentified metabolites (Matsumoto et al., 1978). When tritiated T-2 was administered directly into the small intestine of male rats, 40 to 57 % of radioactivity was found in bile and blood, suggesting an extensive hydrolysis to HT-2 and other metabolites during the rapid intestinal absorption of T-2 (Coddington et al., 1989).

29. The metabolism of T-2 and HT-2 in humans and other species is complex and was previously reviewed by EFSA (2011a). In brief, phase 1 metabolites arise from either hydrolysis of ester groups, hydroxylation, or de-epoxidation. These reactions may also occur in combination. In 2017, EFSA decided to review relevant new data on T-2 and HT-2 and noted that glucuronides are the most prevalent mammalian phase 2 metabolites of T-2 and HT-2 (EFSA, 2017a). In 2022, EFSA reviewed the toxicokinetics and fate of T-2 and HT-2 in

ruminants. The Panel noted that “Results of *in vivo* studies with cows point to a rapid absorption, an extensive biotransformation to several less toxic metabolites and a rapid excretion of the parent compound and its metabolites, with negligible tissue accumulation and transfer to milk” (EFSA, 2022). Therefore, accumulation of T-2 and HT-2 in animal tissues and milk is not expected to occur at a significant level.

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Health Based Guidance Values (HBGVs)

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30. An acute reference dose (ARfD) is the estimated amount of a substance in food or drink that can be ingested in a single meal or day without appreciable health risk to the consumer. The tolerable daily intake (TDI) is the estimated amount of a substance that can be ingested daily over a lifetime without posing a significant health risk.

EFSA's group acute reference dose (ARfD)

31. In 2017, EFSA established a group ARfD of 0.3 µg/kg bw for T-2, HT-2, and neosolaniol (NEO), based on a study by Wu et al. (2016) examining emesis in mink. Minks were selected as a suitable model for human vomiting due to their similar response to emetics like emetine. In the study, fasted female mink were administered varying oral and intraperitoneal (i.p.) doses of T-2 and HT-2, and emetic responses were monitored. The lowest oral dose causing vomiting was 0.05 mg/kg bw (75 % affected), with a no observed adverse effect level (NOAEL) of 5 µg/kg bw, a lowest observed adverse effect level (LOAEL) of 50 µg/kg bw, and an estimated dose causing an effect in 50% of the population (ED50) of 20 µg/kg bw.

32. EFSA performed a benchmark dose (BMD) analysis using PROAST software and selected a lower 95 % confidence limit on the benchmark dose for a 10 % response (BMDL10) of 2.97 µg/kg bw as point of departure (POD). Applying a UF of 10 for intraspecies variability (but none for interspecies differences due to similar emetic sensitivity between mink and humans), EFSA derived a group ARfD of 0.3 µg/kg bw. NEO was included based on equipotency data in ducklings. EFSA assumed dose additivity between T-2, HT-2, and their modified forms but noted the possibility of antagonistic or, less likely, synergistic effects of their co-occurrence.

33. The COT agreed with EFSA's ARfD in 2018 but raised concerns about the wide BMD confidence interval, the lack of an interspecies factor for toxicokinetics, and the exclusive use of female mink. A later update to the PROAST software generated a higher model-averaged BMDL10 of 12.2 µg/kg bw, but due to uncertainties around model averaging, the more conservative EFSA value was retained.

EFSA's group TDI

34. In 2017, EFSA established a group tolerable daily intake (TDI) of 0.02 µg/kg bw for the sum of T-2, HT-2, and NEO toxins. This decision was based on their structural similarities, similar toxicological profiles, and the fact that HT-2 is a direct metabolite of T-2. EFSA applied relative potency factors (RPFs) of 1 for T-2 and HT-2, and 0.3 for NEO, using mainly *in vivo* data and a conservative rounding approach.

35. The TDI was derived using data from a 90-day rat study by Rahman et al. (2014), in which male Wistar rats were given feed containing 0, 0.5, 0.75 and 1 mg T-2/kg (equivalent to 0, 45, 68 and 90 µg T-2/kg bw/day, respectively) via the diet, daily. The study reported dose-dependent reductions in white and

red blood cells and platelets, along with clinical signs of toxicity. EFSA selected total leucocyte count as the critical endpoint and derived a BMDL10 of 3.3 µg/kg bw/day, applying a total UF of 200 (10 for interspecies and 10 for intraspecies variability, and 2 for subchronic to chronic extrapolation).

36. EFSA had previously proposed a TDI of 100 ng/kg bw/day in 2011 based on a pig study by Rafai et al. fed a diet containing purified T-2 (1995a,b), but the Rahman study was considered more relevant due to its longer duration and clearer haematological effects. EFSA also included phase I metabolites in the group TDI, assuming dose addition, and applied RPFs accordingly.

37. EFSA however noted a number of uncertainties including the use of a subchronic study to set a chronic TDI, the lack of repeated-dose studies on HT-2, and the unspecified purity of the test material.

38. The COT endorsed EFSA's group TDI in 2018 during their review of infant and young child exposure.

JECFA's group ARfD

39. In April 2022, JECFA agreed that emesis was a common effect of acute trichothecene exposure in both humans and experimental animals. On this basis, the Committee established a group ARfD for T-2, HT-2 and DAS. JECFA applied the BMDL10 of 2.6 µg/kg bw for emesis in mink following acute gavage exposure to T2 or HT2 as the point of departure (POD). Based on the available evidence, the Committee decided that an uncertainty factor of 8 (2.5 for interspecies variability in toxicodynamics and 3.16 for intra-human variability in toxicodynamics) was sufficiently protective.

40. Based on the above, JECFA established a group ARfD for T2, HT2 and DAS of 320 ng/kg bw (rounded down). Considering the highly comparable nature of the methods used in studies concerning the emetic effects of T2, HT2 and DAS in mink, the Committee recommended a relative potency factor of 0.2 for acute exposure to DAS.

JECFA's group TDI

41. In April 2022, JECFA established a group TDI of 25 ng/kg bw for T2, HT2 and DAS, alone or in combination. JECFA concluded that the most sensitive, reliable and reproducible effects observed following repeated dietary exposure were reported in a 3-week toxicity study in juvenile pigs (Rafai et al., 1995a, b).

This study adequately characterised the test material and background exposure to common mycotoxins detected in feed and examined critical toxicological effects at relatively low doses (<25 µg/kg bw per day). JECFA also noted that juvenile pigs have been identified previously as a species sensitive to the emetic and haematotoxic effects of trichothecenes. Dose-response analysis of body weights, daily body weight gain and daily feed intake were conducted, and a BMDL10 of 1.8 µg/kg bw per day based on reduced daily body weight gain was selected as the most appropriate POD for establishing a group TDI. Considering that the critical effect (i.e. nausea-induced reductions in feed intake resulting in decreased body weight gain) was likely to be dependent on Cmax (the maximum concentration in plasma), and JECFA's low confidence in the overall toxicological database, an overall UF of 72 was applied (8 for the group HBGV, 3 for the extrapolation from subacute to chronic exposure, and 3 for other uncertainties in the database).

42. Although comparative longer-term data on T2, HT2 and DAS were not available, JECFA concluded that the relative potency factor of 0.2 for DAS was applicable for exposure durations longer than acute, (due to the similar critical effects observed following acute and repeated oral exposures), and hence should be applied in comparing dietary exposure to DAS with the group TDI.

COT HBGVs

43. In February 2023, in reviewing the existing HBGVs for T-2 and HT-2 mycotoxins and underlying weight of evidence by EFSA and the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives (JECFA), the COT was content to continue applying EFSA's HBGVs for future risk assessments. The values of the group HBGVs are almost identical between JECFA and EFSA, and the COT had previously been applying the HBGVs established by EFSA for risk assessments.

44. An overview of the key information underpinning the HBGVs for T-2 and HT-2 set by EFSA and JECFA on which the COT based its assessment is provided in Tables 1.

Table 1: Summary of the group HBGVs established by EFSA (2017) and JECFA (2022), for T-2 and HT-2.

HBGV	Value of HBGV	Value of critical endpoint	Adverse effect at critical endpoint	Uncertainty factor	Key study
EFSA					
ARfD (T-2, HT-2, NEO)	0.3 µg/kg bw	BMDL10 of 2.97 µg/kg bw	Emesis in mink.	10 (for intraspecies variability only) ^a	Wu et al. (2016) ^b
EFSA TDI (T-2, HT-2, NEO)	0.02 µg/kg bw	BMDL10 of 3.3 µg/kg bw	Reduced leucocyte count in rats.	200 (10 for interspecies variability, 10 for intraspecies variability, 2 for extrapolation from subchronic to chronic exposure).	Rahman et al. (2014) ^c
JECFA DAS	320 ng/kg bw (T2, HT-2 & DAS)	BMDL10 of 2.6 µg/kg bw	Emesis in mink.	8 (2.5 for interspecies variability in toxicodynamics and 3.16 for intra-human variability in toxicodynamics).	Wu et al. (2016) ^b
ARfD (equivalent to 0.32 µg/kg bw)					
JECFA TDI	25 ng/kg bw (T2, HT-2 & DAS)	BMDL10 of 1.8 µg/kg bw	Reduced body weight gain in pigs.	72 (8 for the group HBGV, 3 for extrapolation from subacute to chronic exposure, 3 for other uncertainties in database ^d).	Rafai et al. (1995a,b) ^e

a) No interspecies uncertainty factor was applied because humans were not considered to be more sensitive than mink to acute emetic effects.

- b) In the Wu et al. (2016) study, emetic responses were monitored for 6 hours post-dosing.
- c) The duration of the Rahman et al. (2014) study was 12 weeks, where 8 rats were sacrificed at each 2-week interval.
- d) JECFA noted that these uncertainties include: i) many of the studies investigated adverse effects at high doses, ii) the actual intake of the test material and the presence of other related mycotoxins in the basal feed was inadequately described, iii) none of the identified studies that reported the effects of low doses (for example, $\leq 25 \mu\text{g/kg bw per day}$) followed standard testing guidelines according to GLP standards, and iv) JECFA noted some discordance concerning some of the effects at low doses.
- e) The duration of the study conducted by Rafai et al. (1995a,b) was 3 weeks.

Annex A to TOX/2025/40

Exposure assessment

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45. Dietary exposures to T-2 and HT-2 in the population were estimated from consumption of cereal grains in the diet. However, as the occurrence data were predominantly from unprocessed grains, the approach to assessing exposure in foods as consumed is described below.

Methodology

46. Exposure assessments were conducted on a survey population basis using food consumption data (mean and 97.5th percentile) and the corresponding LB and UB median occurrence values calculated from the FSA call for information. Median occurrence levels were calculated for the sum of T-2 and HT-2 toxins (µg/kg) to avoid skewing the overall exposure, due to the wide concentration range of the reported occurrence levels. This was applied to all grains and the exposure “scenarios” for i) oat grains only, and ii) all grains (oats, wheat, and barley).

47. A single food group was created in the National Diet and Nutrition Survey (NDNS) for estimating exposure to the sum of T-2 and HT-2 from consumption of oat grains only. Exposure to the sum of T-2 and HT-2 from this food group was estimated from NDNS consumption data, using occurrence estimates under the following scenarios:

- Unprocessed oat grains,
- Unprocessed oat grains after application of a reduction factor of 85 %,
- Processed oat grains (submitted by industry as ‘already processed’); and,
- “oats combined” (the amalgamation of the occurrence data described in the second and third bullet points above).

48. Additional food groups were created for estimating exposure to the sum of T-2 and HT-2 from consumption of cereal grains other than oat grains: however, no scientifically robust reduction factors were identified for these cereal grains. In addition, median occurrence values from the data here were below the LOQ, hence the application of a reduction factor would not be expected to affect exposure estimates. The following scenarios were applied:

- Unprocessed wheat grains,
- Processed wheat grains,
- Unprocessed barley grains; and,
- Processed barley grains.

49. Acute and chronic exposures for all grains were estimated for the sum of T-2 and HT-2 (mean and 97.5th percentile).

50. For all RTE foods, the exposure assessments were on a consumer basis using mean and maximum occurrence levels as the datasets were not sufficient to calculate the median. Furthermore, for the majority of RTE foods, chronic and acute exposures to individual toxins (T-2 or HT-2 only) were calculated, as due to the data submitted by industry, occurrence data were only available for individual mycotoxins, but not their sum. The exception being infant cereal for which usable data were available for the sum of T-2 and HT-2 and hence estimated exposures to the sum of T-2 and HT-2 were calculated for this food group.

51. All exposures were estimated for the following age and population groups; the information was based on data from the Diet and Nutrition Survey of Infants and Young Children (DNSIYC) (DH, 2013) and NDNS (Bates et al., 2014, 2016, 2020; Roberts et al., 2018):

- Infants (4-18 month-olds),
- Toddlers (1.5-3 year-olds),
- Children (4-10 year-olds),
- Older children (11-18 year-olds),
- Adults (19-64 year-olds),
- Elderly (65+ year-olds),
- Adult vegetarians/vegans (19-64 year-olds), and
- Women of childbearing age (16-49 year-olds).

Results

52. Exposures from unprocessed oats only (which constituted the majority of the data received from industry) were very high, however these exposure estimates were unlikely to reflect a real-life scenario. Applying a reduction factor (85 %) to unprocessed oats significantly reduced the levels, and the resulting levels were similar to the very limited data for processed oats, as submitted by industry. This supported the use of the selected reduction factor of 85 %, but it also supported combined oats (unprocessed oats plus reduction factor, and processed oats) as being the most realistic exposure scenarios, for oats.

53. No reduction factors for unprocessed wheat or barley could be identified, and hence all grain exposure was based on the limited data available

from processed wheat and barley, as submitted by industry, as well as oats combined. The data showed that the overall exposure from all grains, here, was driven primarily by exposures from oats.

54. Brief summaries, highlighting the most important estimated exposures to the sum of T-2 and HT-2 from oats combined, all processed cereal grains (oats combined, wheat and barley), as well as RTE foods are presented in the following paragraphs. Full results of the exposure assessment can be found in Annex B (supplementary information).

55. Exposure estimates for T-2 and HT-2 in cereal grains were based on a commodity approach and calculated by using the median across the occurrence data. Exposure estimates for T-2 and HT-2 in RTE foods were calculated by using the mean and maximum occurrence level on a food-by-food basis, due to the limited number of samples. All exposure estimates used both the mean and 97.5th percentile consumption rates (across all age and food groups). To note, the exposure estimates from grains (commodity approach) were not added to exposure estimates from RTE foods to avoid double counting.

Estimated exposures to the sum of T-2 and HT-2 for oats combined and all processed grains

Chronic exposure

56. Oats combined, i.e. unprocessed oats corrected using a reduction factor of 85 % and processed oats as submitted by industry (Annex B; Table 5):

- The lowest chronic exposures to the sum of T-2 and HT-2 were in older children (11-18 years) with mean and 97.5th percentile exposures of 0.0015-0.0019 µg/kg bw (LB-UB) and 0.010-0.013 µg/kg bw (LB-UB), respectively.
- The highest chronic exposures were in infants (4-18 months) with mean and 97.5th percentile exposures of 0.0063-0.0083 µg/kg bw (LB-UB) and 0.039-0.051 µg/kg bw (LB-UB), respectively. Toddlers (1.5-3 years) had similar exposures to infants.

57. All processed grains, i.e. oats combined, processed wheat and processed barley as submitted by industry (Annex B; Table 5):

- The lowest chronic exposures to the sum of T-2 and HT-2 from all processed cereal grains occurred in older children (11-18 years), with mean and 97.5th percentile exposures of 0.0015-0.0039 µg/kg bw and 0.010-0.017 µg/kg bw,

respectively.

- The highest chronic exposures were in infants (4-18 months) with mean and 97.5th percentile exposures of 0.0063-0.010 µg/kg bw and 0.039-0.052 µg/kg bw, respectively.

Acute exposure

58. Oats combined, i.e. unprocessed oats corrected using a reduction factor of 85% and processed oats as submitted by industry (Annex B; Table 6):

- The lowest acute exposures to the sum of T-2 and HT-2 were in women of childbearing age (16-49 years) with mean and 97.5th percentile exposures of 0.0033-0.0043 µg/kg bw (LB-UB) and 0.020-0.026 µg/kg bw (LB-UB), respectively.
- The highest acute exposures were in infants (4-18 months) with mean and 97.5th percentile exposures of 0.014-0.018 µg/kg bw (LB-UB) and 0.078-0.10 µg/kg bw (LB-UB), respectively. Toddlers have similar exposures to infants.

59. All processed grains, i.e. oats combined, processed wheat and processed barley as submitted by industry (Annex B; Table 6):

- The lowest acute exposures to the sum of T-2 and HT-2 were in women of childbearing age (16-49 years) with mean and 97.5th percentile exposures of 0.0033-0.0082 µg/kg bw and 0.020-0.034 µg/kg bw, respectively.
- The highest acute exposures were in infants (4-18 months) with mean and 97.5th percentile exposures of 0.014-0.021 µg/kg bw and 0.078-0.10 µg/kg bw, respectively.

Estimated exposures from ready to eat (RTE) foods

60. Due to the limited occurrence data from the call for evidence, consumer-based exposure estimates from RTE foods were only calculated for specific populations groups, i.e. infants (4-18 months), toddlers (1.5-3 years), adults (19-64 years), and adult vegetarians/vegans (19-64 years). These population groups cover the most vulnerable (infants and toddlers) and highest consumption (adults and vegetarians/vegans, due to the foods being oat based).

61. The estimated exposures are the mean and 97.5th percentile exposures based on the mean and maximum concentration (mean-max concentration) of T-2 or HT-2 (separately) or the sum of both, where available (Annex B; Tables 11-16). Exposures to T-2 or HT-2 (separately) were included in this assessment as very

few datapoints were available for RTE foods overall and even fewer on the sum of T-2 and HT-2.

Chronic and acute exposure estimates for the sum of T-2 and HT-2

62. Chronic and acute exposure estimates for the sum of T-2 and HT-2, were only available for infants' cereals, and hence only infants and toddlers have been considered (Annex B; Tables 11-12):

- The highest mean and 97.5th percentile exposures, both for chronic and acute, were in infants (4-18 months).
- In infants, mean and 97.5th percentile chronic exposure estimates were 0.36-0.71 µg/kg bw (mean-max concentration), and 1.5-2.9 µg/kg bw (mean-max concentration), respectively.
- In toddlers, mean and 97.5th percentile chronic exposure estimates ranged from 0.22 µg/kg bw (mean) to 1.4 µg/kg bw (97.5th percentile).
- Acute mean and 97.5th percentile exposure estimates in infants were 0.71-1.4 µg/kg bw (mean-max concentration), and 2.6-5.2 µg/kg bw (mean-max concentration), respectively.
- Acute mean and 97.5th percentile exposure estimates in toddlers ranged from 0.52 µg/kg bw to 2.6 µg/kg bw, respectively).

Chronic and acute exposure estimates for T-2 or HT-2

63. Where data on the sum of T-2 and HT-2 in RTE foods were either not available, too limited and/or did not meet the inclusion criteria, the data on individually reported levels of T-2 or HT-2 were used to provide exposure estimates.

64. Chronic exposure estimates to T-2 only (Annex B; Table 13):

- The lowest chronic exposure estimates to T-2 from RTE foods were from plain muesli in infants with mean and 97.5th percentile exposures of 0.00030-0.00043 µg/kg bw (mean-max concentration), and 0.001-0.0015 µg/kg bw (mean-max concentration), respectively).
- The highest chronic exposure estimates to T-2 from RTE foods were from oat porridge in infants with mean and 97.5th percentile exposures of 0.033-0.10 µg/kg bw (mean-max concentration), and 0.17-0.51 µg/kg bw (mean-max concentration), respectively.

65. Acute exposure estimates to T2 only (Annex B; Table 14):

- The lowest acute exposure estimates to T-2 from RTE foods were from plain muesli in infants with mean and 97.5th percentile exposures of 0.00073-0.0011 µg/kg bw (mean-max concentration), and 0.0025-0.0036 µg/kg bw (mean-max concentration), respectively.
- The highest acute exposure estimates for T-2 from RTE foods were from oat porridge in toddlers, with mean and 97.5th percentile exposures of 0.11-0.34 µg/kg bw (mean-max concentration), and 0.27-0.85 µg/kg bw (mean-max concentration) respectively.

66. Chronic exposure estimates to HT-2 only (Annex B; Table 15):

- The lowest chronic exposure estimates for HT-2 from RTE foods was from puffs/curls type extruded snack, in adults, with mean and 97.5th percentile exposures of 0.00064-0.00064 µg/kg bw (mean-max concentration), and 0.002-0.002 µg/kg bw (mean-max concentration), respectively.
- The highest chronic exposure estimates for HT-2 from RTE foods was from infants' cereals, in infants, with mean and 97.5th percentile exposures of 0.70-0.71 µg/kg bw (mean-max concentration), and 2.9-2.9 µg/kg bw (mean-max concentration), respectively.

67. Acute exposure estimates to HT-2 only (Annex B; Table 16):

- The lowest acute exposure estimates to HT-2 from RTE foods as from puffs/curls type extruded snack, in adults, with mean and 97.5th percentile exposures of 0.0018-0.0018 µg/kg bw (mean-max concentration), and 0.0050-0.0050 µg/kg bw (mean-max concentration), respectively.
- The highest acute exposure estimates to HT-2 from RTE foods was from infants' cereals, in infants, with mean and 97.5th percentile exposures of 1.4-1.4 µg/kg bw (mean-max concentration), and 5.2-5.2 µg/kg bw (mean-max concentration), respectively.

Annex A to TOX/2025/40

Risk characterisation

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68. Trichothecenes, such as T-2 and HT-2 can cause chronic and acute adverse effects, with haematotoxicity and emesis being the critical effects, respectively. After considering the scientific evidence underpinning both the EFSA and JECFA assessments, the COT agreed in 2023 to continue applying the HBGVs established by EFSA in any future assessments: a group ARfD of 0.3 µg/kg bw for T-2, HT-2 and NEO and a group TDI of 0.02 µg/kg bw for T-2, HT-2 and NEO.

69. This statement provides an updated risk assessment on T-2 and HT-2 mycotoxins only, including an exposure assessment for UK consumers following the FSA and FSS call for evidence. It should be noted that the data received for processed wheat and barley was relatively small and exposures are dominated by oat data. Processed oat grains in this assessment were oats combined, i.e. unprocessed oat grains to which a reduction factor has been applied plus the limited data on processed oats industry submitted. The reduction factor of 85 % was selected from the literature and while it was supported by the limited data submitted by industry for processed oat grains, it could significantly vary, potentially leading to an underestimation of risk, especially in instances where T-2 and HT-2 occurred in 'hot spots'. Hot spots refer to specific geographic areas or locations where the levels of T-2 and HT-2 toxins in cereal grains are significantly higher than average.

70. All mean chronic exposure estimates to the sum of T-2 and HT-2 from oats combined (Annex B; Table 9) and all processed grains (Annex B; Table 9) were below the TDI of 0.02 µg/ kg bw/day and were therefore not of toxicological concern. While the majority of 97.5th percentile chronic exposure estimates for oats combined and all processed grains were also not of toxicological concern, exposures in infants and toddlers (oats combined) and infants, toddlers and

adults (all processed grains) exceeded the TDI up to 3-fold and therefore a toxicological concern cannot be entirely excluded. Exposures in vegetarians/vegans (oats combined; all processed grains) and older children (4-10 years; all processed grains) were at or close to the TDI but were unlikely to result in health concerns.

71. Acute exposure estimates for both oats combined, and all processed grains were below the ARfD across all population groups assessed, both at mean and high consumption, and are therefore not of toxicological concern (Annex B; table 10).

72. Results on grains from this assessment were in line with the COT's assessment on the risk of T-2 and HT-2 in the infant diet (COT, 2018). Based on a 2015 mycotoxin survey of oat-based products (FSA, 2015), acute exposures were all below the EFSA group ARfD and therefore not of toxicological concern, while for chronic exposures, the EFSA group TDI was exceeded. Hence, the COT concluded in 2018 that an effect on infant and toddler health could not be entirely excluded.

73. Chronic exposures from RTE foods (Annex B; Tables 13-15) suggest a potential concern to consumer health, especially in infants and toddlers, however also for some foods in adults and vegetarians/vegans, mainly oat porridge. Estimated chronic exposures to the sum of T-2 and HT-2, which was only available for 'infant cereals' exceeded the TDI 11-fold (toddlers) and 145-fold (infants) (Annex B; Table 11). Chronic estimated exposures for T-2 only were at the TDI in toddlers for high intakes (97.5th percentile) for wheat bread rolls, while mixed breakfast cereals resulted in exceedances up to 3-fold the TDI. Estimated exposures from oat porridge exceeded the TDI in all age groups and exposure scenarios, ranging from 2- to 8-fold in adults and vegetarians/vegans, and 2-fold to 26-fold in infants and toddlers. Chronic exposure estimates to HT-2 only exceeded the TDI in most RTE foods for infants and toddlers with exceedances ranging from 3- to 70-fold, and plain muesli and oat porridge in adults and vegetarians/vegans (exceedance 2- to 22-fold).

74. When considering the exceedances from RTE foods and the potential concerns for human health it is important to note that the submitted data on RTE foods was very limited; on average, sample numbers were <5, in the case of oat porridge <25. In addition, exposure estimates were calculated either on the sum of T-2 and HT-2 or in most instances on individual mycotoxins only. Hence, while the estimated exposures calculated from RTE foods may be an indication of potential foods of concern, they were subject to a high degree of uncertainty

which may not be representative. In addition, the large exceedances of the TDI that have been derived from RTE foods (22-, 26-, and 70-fold) were based on the maximum occurrence when the 97.5th percentile consumption rate was applied (Annex B; Tables 13 and 15). It is unlikely, that high consuming individuals would be exposed to foods at the highest occurrence levels continuously throughout their life, given the known seasonable variability of T-2 and HT-2 occurrence levels and their potential to occur in hot spots. The mean occurrence level combined with the mean consumption rate may therefore be more appropriate for assessing a realistic chronic exposure; these exposure estimates were much lower, indicating a lower risk.

75. Acute exposures to the sum of T-2 and HT-2 from RTE foods ('infant cereals') exceeded the ARfD, ranging from 2-fold to 17-fold in infants, and 2-fold to 9-fold in toddlers (Annex B; Table 12). Acute exposures to T-2 (only) from RTE foods were all below the ARfD, except for oat porridge in infants and toddlers with exceedances of up to 3-fold the ARfD (Annex B; Table 14). For HT-2 (only), 97.5th percentile adult consumers had exposures equal to the ARfD, whilst exposures in vegetarians/vegans exceeded the ARfD 3-fold, infants and toddlers exceeded the ARfD by 2-fold to 7-fold (Annex B; Table 16). While exceedances of the ARfD for adults, especially vegetarians/vegans were of potential toxicological concern, it is unlikely that an occasional exceedance would result in a concern for health. Exceedances in infants and toddlers would be of potentially concern if exposures were to occur at this level (especially in potential hot spots), due to their lower bodyweight and hence being more vulnerable. However, it should be noted that the sample number for oat porridge was < 25 and may therefore not be representative. In addition, no information was provided whether these samples were random, or sampling had occurred after a known incident or suspected higher contamination.

76. Comparing the exposure estimates from grains and RTE foods, RTE foods result in higher exposures to T-2 and HT-2, compared to processed oats or even unprocessed oats. However, exposures to processed grains were based on a commodity approach and calculated by using the median across the occurrence data, while exposures to RTE foods, due to the limited number of samples, were calculated on a food-by-food basis and using the mean and maximum occurrence levels. RTE foods provided a very limited snapshot of exposures to final food products and direct comparison to exposures from grains was therefore not possible. The analytical method used may further add to the uncertainties in the exposures from RTE foods, where a low level/non-detect was determined to be below the LOQ and the LOQ was used as the occurrence level to estimate

exposures. As some methods may not be very sensitive and have high LOQs, this would have resulted in relatively high “occurrence levels”. Using the mean and maximum as well as individual mycotoxins, rather than the sum of T-2 and HT-2 added further uncertainties.

77. Year-to-year variability in the occurrence of T-2 and HT-2 in cereal grains (Figures 2a-c) can lead to occasional high acute exposures, particularly during bad years or in localised hot spots. In contrast, chronic exposures to the sum of T-2 and HT-2 from grains were calculated on a commodity basis. Consumption was modelled based on all foods containing the grains and occurrence was calculated at the LB and UB median. Therefore, these were the most representative estimates of chronic exposure.

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Uncertainties and assumptions

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78. The risk assessment for T-2 and HT-2 in food included a number of assumptions and uncertainties, which relate to the preparation of the occurrence data, the calculation of the consumption data and exposure assessment, as well as the risk assessment itself. These uncertainties are listed below in further detail.

79. Uncertainties associated with the preparation of the occurrence data:

- When an LOD was not reported these data were included assuming all other acceptance criteria were met.
- When a result value was not reported it was assumed to be equal to the LOQ (when LOQ > 0).
- When a sample code description was not reported, the code was researched, and the description was filled in. Any changes to the codes over the years that the data covered would not be captured.
- Food codes were grouped in food groups for the purpose of the assessment on the basis of the FoodEx descriptions of the codes. When in doubt, assumptions were made as to which group the codes fitted best.
- In the UK and Ireland, it is common for grain to be delivered to the mill 'as harvested' i.e. uncleaned and unprocessed with the husk still intact. Where mycotoxin contamination was associated with the outer layers of the grain this may exhibit higher levels of contamination. A large proportion of data submitted as part of the data call were from such unprocessed grains which therefore may exhibit higher levels of contamination compared to cleaned, processed grains. Thus, a reduction factor of 85 % was applied to the sum of T-2 and HT-2 in unprocessed oat grains. It was assumed that this constituted a realistic reduction, although different reduction factors have been reported in the literature, potentially over or underestimating the reduction and subsequent exposure.
- No reduction factor was applied to unprocessed wheat and barley grains. The COT did not identify a scientifically robust reduction factor, however the occurrence data here for both unprocessed and processed forms also fell below the LOQ. Hence the application of a reduction factor would not be expected to affect exposure estimates.
- It is unknown when each sample was analysed relative to the time of harvest. Therefore, storage time of the samples may have varied before mycotoxin levels were measured and recorded.

80. Uncertainties associated with the calculations of the consumption and exposure assessment estimates:

- The description of food categories within the FoodEx food code system were not always aligned with the names given to similar foods in NDNS and DNSIYC. Therefore, some assumptions were made during the mapping of these foods to identify the closest match when searching the inhouse FSA recipes database for the most relevant food.

- For the RTE food groups, in some cases, there are a limited number of consumers (<60) as well as a limited number of samples. This may lead to unreliable exposure estimates. Consumer numbers less than 60 (<60) should be treated with caution as they may not be a true representation of the entire population.
- Samples on the sum of T-2 and HT-2 were only available for infant foods, for all other food samples either T-2 (only) or HT-2 (only) were available.
- For RTE food groups, there was uncertainty on whether concentrations were provided on a wet weight or dry weight basis, hence conversion factors were not applied while building the food groups. These included foods such as dried infant cereals and other dried food groups.
- NDNS does not include pregnant or lactating women, therefore data for women of childbearing age (16-49 years) were used as a proxy and therefore may not be representative of the maternal diet.
- The summation of exposures from individual grains, especially for acute exposures, was likely to overestimate actual exposure, particularly at the 97.5th percentile, as it was unlikely an individual would eat all grain foods in one single day, at that level.

81. Uncertainties associated with the risk assessment:

- The exposure assessment only included T-2 and HT-2 mycotoxins, however the group TDI and group ARfD established by EFSA also includes NEO. Uncertainty regarding the occurrence of NEO in cereal grains, as well as its exclusion from the exposure assessment might lead to an underestimation of total exposure and thus a possible underestimation of the corresponding health risk. Co-occurrence may lead to additive or synergistic effects, though the underlying mechanisms of interactions between individual mycotoxins in different combination(s) are yet to be fully elucidated and understood. Previous work undertaken by the FSA included a statement on the potential risk(s) of combined exposure to mycotoxins (COT, 2021) which assessed various mycotoxins including NEO, nivalenol (NIV), deoxynivalenol (DON), and DAS.
- Estimated exposures to T-2 and HT-2 were based on grains or products thereof only. Other potential sources of T-2 and HT-2, such as POAO were not considered, resulting in a potential underestimation of the full dietary exposure.
- For RTE foods T-2 only or HT-2 only were compared to a HBGV based on the sum of both mycotoxins.
- T-2 and HT-2 occurrence in cereal grains is significantly influenced by climate and levels can vary significantly from year to year (as indicated in

Figure 2a-c). Year to year variability may mean that individuals could be exposed to high levels of T-2 and HT-2 in one year compared to other years. Annual exposures have not been considered in this assessment.

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Conclusions

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82. The COT was asked by the FSA and FSS to assess the risk to UK consumers from dietary exposure to T-2 and HT-2 mycotoxins following the introduction of EU maximum levels and the collection of new UK occurrence data for cereal grains and a limited number of ready to eat (RTE) products.

83. Acute exposures to T-2 and HT-2 from processed cereal grains were below the group ARfD across all population groups and were therefore not a toxicological concern. Chronic exposures at mean consumption levels were also below the TDI and therefore not of toxicological concern. However, at high (97.5th percentile) consumption levels, chronic exposures in infants, toddlers, adults, and the elderly exceeded the TDI by up to 3-fold, and a potential health concern cannot be fully excluded, especially for young age groups. These findings are

broadly consistent with a previous COT assessment in infant and toddlers based on the 2015 mycotoxin survey.

84. For RTE foods, estimated exposures were considerably higher than for grains and frequently exceeded the TDI and, in infants and toddlers, the ARfD. This suggested potential health risks in these age groups, particularly for chronic high consumers. However, these results should be treated as indicative of potential foods of concerns only, as the available dataset was very limited and may not reflect general population exposure.

85. The Committee recommended that more extensive and representative occurrence data be collected, particularly for the sum of T-2 and HT-2 in RTE foods, to enable a more robust and reliable risk assessment. Testing throughout the cereal supply chain, from raw materials to finished products, would also help improve future assessments.

Secretariat

October 2025

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Abbreviations

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ARfD Acute reference dose

DAS 4,15- diacetoxyscirpenol

DNSIYC Diet and Nutrition Survey of Infants and Young Children

ELISA Enzyme-Linked Immunosorbent Assays

FPIA Fluorescence Polarisation Immunoassays

HBGV Health-based guidance value

HT-2 HT-2 toxin

LB Lower bound

LC-MS Liquid chromatography mass spectrometry

LFDs Lateral Flow Devices

LOD Limit of detection

LOQ Limit of quantification

Max Maximum

ML Maximum levels

NDNS National Diet and Nutrition Survey

NEO	Neosolaniol
QA	Quality assurance
RTE	Ready to eat
RPC	Raw primary commodity
T-2	T-2 toxin
TDI	Tolerable daily intake
UB	Upper bound
COT	Committee on the Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment
EAT	FSA's Exposure assessment team
EC	European Commission
EFSA	European Food Safety Authority
EU	European Union
FSA	Food Standards Agency
FSS	Food Standards Scotland
JECFA	Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives

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