

COC Joint Ongoing Topics 2021

In this guide

[In this guide](#)

1. [About the Committees](#)
2. [Committee on the Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment -Preface 2021](#)
3. [COT Evaluations 2021](#)
4. [Updated COT Evaluations 2021](#)
5. [Committee Procedures](#)
6. [COT Ongoing Work 2021](#)
7. [COT Working Groups 2021](#)
8. [2021 Membership of the Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment](#)
9. [Declaration of COT members interests during the period of this report- 2021](#)
10. [Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment-Preface 2021](#)
11. [COM Ongoing Work 2021](#)
12. [COM Evaluations 2021](#)
13. [COM Horizon Scanning 2021](#)
14. [2021 Membership of the Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment](#)
15. [Declaration of COM members interests during the period of this report 2021](#)
16. [Committee on the Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment - Preface 2021](#)
17. [COC Evaluations 2021](#)
18. [COC Joint Ongoing Topics 2021](#)
19. [COC Horizon Scanning 2021](#)
20. [COC Working Groups 2021](#)
21. [COC Guidance Statements 2021](#)
22. [2021 Membership of the Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment](#)
23. [Declaration of COC members interests during the period of this report 2021](#)
24. [Annex 1 - Terms of Reference](#)

- 25. [Annex 2 - Code of Conduct for members of the COC/COM/COT](#)
- 26. [Annex 3 - Openness](#)
- 27. [Annex 4 - Good Practice Agreement for Scientific Advisory Committees](#)
- 28. [Annex 5 - Glossary of Terms](#)
- 29. [Annex 7 - Previous Publications](#)

Relevance and Reliability of Evidence

3.18 The topic of 'biological relevance and statistical significance' has been raised as an area of interest during Committee horizon scanning activities for a number of years. A scoping paper was presented at the Joint COC/COM meeting in November 2020 also attended by some COT members, which outlined some of the more relevant and significant work that has been published on this issue in recent years. It was agreed that the general public would benefit from guidance that provided clarity on how the expert Committees evaluate data with respect to consideration of biological relevance and statistical significance.

3.19 A document providing a brief outline of the Committee evaluation process focussing on the relevance and reliability of data was drafted and discussed by COC and COT in 2021. During the COC and COT discussions it was proposed that two documents be developed. One aimed at the lay audience about the process used by the Committees to evaluate evidence and reach conclusions, which could possibly be presented on the website rather than formally as a statement. A second document aimed at a more informed audience on statistical significance testing and consideration of biological relevance, for which the current draft would be the basis.

3.20 This topic will be discussed further, including by COM.