

COMMITTEE ON TOXICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

PAPER FOR INFORMATION

Update on actions taken subsequent to COT advice

1. COT statements have been published and, where appropriate, forwarded to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to inform its evaluations. COT opinions are frequently cited by the relevant Government Departments and Agencies in dealing with correspondence.
2. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) routinely uses the Committee's conclusions and opinions in risk assessments following food safety incidents, responding to queries from consumers and in assessing emerging risks. For instance in 2019, previous COT advice has been used in relation to vitamins in food supplements and infant formula, ochratoxin A in cereal bars and raisins, insecticides in animal feed, a feed additive in cattle, non-permitted colours, chlorine washes in salads and fluorine.
3. This paper contains brief information on other actions taken subsequent to completion of recent COT discussions. This should be read in conjunction with the draft text of the Annual Report (paper TOX/2020/10), which provides the background.

COT statement on manganese

4. A poster on manganese exposure in infants and young children was taken to Eurotox in September 2019. The final statement and lay summary have subsequently been published.

Statement on chemicals in the diets of infants and young children

5. An over-arching statement has been published in 2019 which included a brief description of the discussion and conclusions for many of the topics covered under this request. The remainder of the topics will be published in an addendum to this over-arching statement in 2020.

EFSA public consultations

6. The COT have submitted comments to EFSA on:

Update of the risk assessment of di-butylphthalate (DBP), butyl-benzyl-phthalate (BBP), bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP), di-

isononylphthalate (DINP) and diisodecylphthalate (DIDP) for use in food contact materials. The final EFSA opinion was published in December 2019.

Other consultations

7. In the summer of 2019, the Department of Health and Social Care undertook a consultation on the possible fortification of wheat flour with folic acid to improve folate status and reduce the incidence of neural tube defect affected pregnancies. The 2018 COT consideration of the tolerable upper intake level of folic acid was included as part of the supporting information. The outcome of the consultation has not been agreed.

Secretariat

January 2020