

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

### **Allergen risk assessment for adventitious contamination of soya in wheat flour milled and consumed in the UK**

#### **Background**

1. At the last COT meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020, a risk assessment on the adventitious contamination of soya in wheat flour milled and consumed in the UK was presented in light of current industry due diligence monitoring data and reference dose values for soya protein allergy.
2. Following the committee's review and discussion, the risk assessment has been updated (see Annex A) to address comments made and includes the key conclusions/messages to risk managers as agreed at the previous meeting. These are as follows:
  - a. The use of a set allergen action level to inform decisions on risk communication of soya contamination in wheat flour by food businesses selling raw/bulk product intended for further processing is not appropriate due to variation in the level of inclusion in final products, consumption amounts, and the potential effects of processing on the allergenicity and detectability of soya.
  - b. This current application of a set action level at the raw ingredient supply level may be hindering communication of risk through the supply chain and the ultimate decision on communicating risk to the final consumer via a precautionary allergen statement e.g. 'may contain'.
  - c. Risk management considerations need to be explored including business to business communication of robust quantitative cross contact information throughout the supply chain to the final product producer. Other sources of soya contamination in the supply chain should be assessed and communicated at each stage in the supply chain.

#### **Questions on which the views of the Committee are sought**

3. The Committee are asked:

This is a covering paper for discussion.  
It does not reflect the views of the Committee and should not be cited.

- a) Does the updated risk assessment address the points raised by Committee members during the previous meeting and in subsequent email correspondence?
- b) Is the Committee now satisfied to approve of the risk assessment as the final version?

**Secretariat**  
**September 2020**