

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

Paper for Information: FSA Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs) update

This paper provides Members with an update on the work of the Food Standards Agency's Scientific Advisory Committees (SAC) and other items of general interest.

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF) <http://acaf.food.gov.uk/>

ACAF held its last meeting on 3 June 2010 in York. The main items discussed at this meeting are shown below together with some future agenda items.

- Biofuels
- Packaging material in animal feeds
- The use of trace element additives to fortify animal feeds
- Maximum Residue limits for nicarbazin products

Details on the above items will appear on ACAF's website shortly.

Future agenda items:

September (Provisional)

- Climate change impact on feed production
- Forward work plan and horizon scanning

December (Provisional)

- Update on nicarbazin products.

Interviews for a new microbiologist took place on 19 January 2010. ACAF will be announcing the outcome of the interviews shortly, so that the successful candidate can attend the next meeting on 22 September 2010.

Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF) <http://acmsf.food.gov.uk/>

The ACMSF last met on 25 March. The meeting for 3 June 2010 was cancelled.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 23 September 2010 at Aviation House, London.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

<http://www.acnfp.gov.uk/>

The next meeting of the ACNFP will be held on 7 July.

ACNFP have one discussion item on the agenda which may be of interest to COT members and one information paper.

- The discussion item is a preparation for the Horizon Scanning meeting which is scheduled to be held in November. The Horizon Scanning meeting is expected to include an item on Nanotechnology.
- The Information item is on FSA funded research, in relation to Novel foods.

Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN)

<http://www.sacn.gov.uk/index.html>

The last meeting of SACN was on 7 June. Recent work has been around the Iron report which will be published in a month or so, the energy report and early nutrition reports which were discussed at their last meeting and will be published at the end of the year.

SACN have recently advertised for 7 new members to start in February 2011, the deadline for applications was 1st June 2010.

SACN also have a series of subgroups:

- **Child and Maternal Nutrition** - further details can be found at:
http://www.sacn.gov.uk/meetings/sub_groups/maternal_child_nutrition/index.html
- **Energy Requirements Working Group** - further details can be found at
http://www.sacn.gov.uk/meetings/working_groups/energy_requirements/index.html
- **Iron** - further details can be found at:
http://www.sacn.gov.uk/meetings/working_groups/iron/index.html
- **Carbohydrates**, next meeting is 3rd September 2010 and further details can be found at:
http://www.sacn.gov.uk/meetings/working_groups/carbohydrate/index.html
- **Folate – Cancer Subgroup** - further details can be found at:
http://www.sacn.gov.uk/meetings/working_groups/folate_cancer/index.html

Updates from these subgroups will provided following their next meetings.

Social Science Research Committee (SSRC)

<http://ssrc.food.gov.uk/>

The Social Science Research Committee (SSRC) met on 27 April 2010. At this meeting the committee discussed:

- analysis of the Food Issues Survey which is in the field at the moment
- provisional recommendations from a rapid review of the evidence of cultures and behaviours in food businesses
- a request for advice on how to access social science evidence to underpin meat controls work

Subsequently, SSRC members are being invited to contribute to work on uncertainty and risk following on from COT work in this area. The SSRC secretariat will provide regular updates on how this is progressing, and through the COT secretariat facilitate any necessary discussions.

The Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC)

<http://www.iacoc.org.uk/meetings/index.htm>

The next meeting is 22nd July 2010. Anticipated items for the July meeting include a scoping paper on the review of new literature data on gene-environment interactions and the carcinogenicity of nanoparticles.

The COC has published a statement on 'Risk Assessment of the effects of Combined Exposures to Chemical Carcinogens'.

The Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COM)

<http://www.iacom.org.uk/meetings/index.htm>

COM is discussing revision of its guidance on testing for genotoxicity. There has been interest in this work both in the UK and abroad. The COM has derived a format for publishing generic guidance on the interpretation of genotoxicity tests and also recently published a statement on approaches to evaluating thresholds for *in-vivo* mutagens.

General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS)

<http://gacs.food.gov.uk/gacsmeets/>

Minutes of last meeting, 4th March are available on the GACS website. The next GACS meeting will be held on 19 October 2010.

**Secretariat
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