

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

Consultation of the European Food Safety Authority on a Draft Scientific Opinion on Acrylamide in Food

Issue

1. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) issued a Draft Scientific Opinion on Acrylamide in Food for public consultation on 1 July 2014. The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is inviting the COC and COT to submit a response to the consultation.

Background

2. The COT and COC have not previously performed a risk assessment on acrylamide. In 2009, the COM issued a statement on the genotoxicity of acrylamide, which provided a comprehensive update of the mutagenicity review in an earlier EU risk assessment report¹.

3. The draft EFSA opinion addresses the risk to human health related to the presence of acrylamide in food and is included at Annex A. It incorporates data on acrylamide levels in different foods, estimation of dietary exposure, and review of toxicokinetic, toxicological and epidemiological data. The conclusions on mutagenicity are similar to those previously agreed by COM, supported by more recent research. The approach to risk characterisation for carcinogenicity is based up on the Margin of Exposure approach, consistent with the COC strategy for risk assessment of chemical carcinogens².

4. At its meeting on 17 July 2014, the COC discussed the sections of the draft opinion related to carcinogenicity. The draft minutes of the discussion will be provided to COT when available. It is proposed that a consolidated response will be submitted from the COT email address before the consultation closes on 15 September 2014.

Questions for the COT

5. COT members are invited to comment on any aspect of the draft opinion, but may wish to focus on the following sections:

¹ http://www.iacom.org.uk/statements/documents/COM09S1Acrylamide_000.pdf

² <http://www.iacoc.org.uk/guidancestatements/documents/G01overarchingstatementVersion4.pdf>

- i. Section 6: Human exposure assessment
- ii. Section 7.1: Toxicokinetics
- iii. Section 7.2: Biomarkers of exposure/effects
- iv. Section 7.3: Toxicity in experimental animals
- v. Section 7.4: Observations in humans
- vi. Section 7.5: Considerations of critical effects and possibilities for derivation of a health based guidance value
- vii. Section 8: Risk characterisation
- viii. Section 9: Uncertainty
- ix. Conclusions, recommendations and summary

Secretariat
August 2014

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CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT (COC)**

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Draft Scientific Opinion on Acrylamide in Food**

**Draft Scientific Opinion on Acrylamide in Food. EFSA Panel on
Contaminants in the Food Chain (CONTAM), European Food Safety
Authority (EFSA), Parma, Italy**

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It is available at: <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultations/call/140701.htm>