

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 2014, previous COT advice has been used in relation to cadmium, lead, methylmercury, potassium, bracken, caffeine, cyanide in bitter apricot kernels, 2,4-dinitrophenol, soya milk, marine biotoxins and combined effects of mixtures of chemicals.
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/2016/09, which provides the background.

Domoic Acid in King Scallops (*Pecten Maximus*)

4. The 2014 COT statement on domoic acid in King Scallops helped inform a policy review led by FSA colleagues in Scotland (Food Standards Scotland since 01 04 2015). The outcome of that policy review was set out in a letter to Interested Parties dated 31/03/2015. In addition, the UK presented the COT findings to a meeting of the EU Bivalve Molluscs Working Group on 15/01/2016 as part of on-going discussions relating to official controls on scallops.

EFSA public consultation on a draft scientific opinion on the safety of caffeine

5. The COT comments were submitted to EFSA and presented at an EFSA stakeholder meeting. The final EFSA opinion was published in May 2015.

COT statement on adverse effects of high levels of vitamin D

6. The COT statement, which was finalised in January 2015, was submitted to the SACN secretariat as a contribution to their review of the Dietary Reference

Values for vitamin D. The draft SACN report was published for public consultation in the summer of 2015, with the final report expected in Spring 2016.