

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

Paper for Information:

FSA Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs) update – February 2017 meeting

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 is due to meet on 23 February 2017 and provisional agenda is as follows:

Refuse Derived Fuels

The Committee will be asked to discuss and agree recommendations on existing controls and any potential safety issues with respect to the transport and storage of refuse derived fuels at ports.

A description of the UK (and Irish) fishmeal and fish oil industry with reference to production methods and global supplies

Members will receive a presentation on the issues on the production of fishmeal.

Feed additives

Members will receive an oral update on activities carried out by the ACAF Secretariat following the presentation provided by ACAF Member Geoff Brown on feed additives that was provided at the October 2016 meeting. Members will be asked to consider how they wish to proceed on the issue of over supplementation.

Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)

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

The Committee met on 26 January 2017. The following items were on the agenda:

- A systematic review of AMR bacteria in pork, poultry, dairy products, seafood and fresh produce at UK retail level. The Committee received a presentation from Ana Mateus of the Royal Veterinary College on the findings of this study.
- Mycobacterium bovis and possible health risks associated with meat. The Committee were asked to comment on a draft risk assessment.
- Changes to plant protection product and biocide MRLs: potential impact on food safety. The Food Standards Agency updated Members on progress concerning several inter-related negotiations including the amendment of

chlorate MRLs, the development of a procedure for setting biocide MRLs and finalisation of the legal definition for endocrine disrupting chemicals, all of which could impact on the availability and use of disinfection products for food and feed processes.

- Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group. The Committee were updated on the outcome of the EFIG meeting held on 6 December.

Recruitment

Four new members attended their first meeting: Dr Rohini Manuel (clinical microbiologist), Dr Gwen Lowe (public health medicine), Mrs Emma Hill (caterer) and Miss Heather Lawson (expert in environmental health).

There are 2 outstanding vacancies: the Chair, and an expert in Consumer Affairs.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

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

The next meeting of the ACNFP is scheduled to be held on Thursday 9 February. The Agenda is still being finalised but is expected to include applications for:

- *Eurycoma Longifolia* (Tongkat Ali)
- DHA-rich algal oil from *Schizochytrium sp* extension
- Bonolive®
- Algae dried biomass from *Haematococcus pluvialis*
- Chia Seeds in yoghurt – An extension of use

The last meeting of the Committee was held on 24 November and was in the form of a telecom to discuss an extension of use application for DHA Rich Algal Oil from Schizochytrium species.

A telecom was held between meetings, on 9 January, to discuss an extension of use application for beta-glucan and a substantial equivalence application for phytosterols.

General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS)

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

The last GACS meeting was held on 24 March 2016. The agenda, papers and final minutes are published^[1]. The GACS is being replaced by a new FSA Science Council which is being established in response to Recommendation 3 of the Triennial Review. The GACS and its working groups will continue to operate within their current remit until such time as they hand over to the new Council once it is established. There are no further meetings of the GACS planned and the Committee continues to operate by correspondence.

^[1] <http://gacs.food.gov.uk/gacsmeets/>

New FSA Science Council

Recruitment for the new independent FSA Science Council launched on 11 November and closed on 5 December 2016. Further details are available at the following link <https://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/news/2016/15680/applications-open-for-new-independent-science-council>

Meetings of SAC Chairs

Alongside plans to establish the Science Council, we are also looking to maintain effective communication, engagement and co-ordination across SACs, and particularly between SAC Chairs, as this will no longer happen through GACS meetings. As a first meeting under the new arrangements, a workshop with SAC Chairs is planned for February 2017.

**Secretariat
February 2017**