

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

EFSA consultation on draft guidance on the use of the weight of evidence approach in scientific assessments

Introduction

1. The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has launched a public consultation on draft guidance prepared by its Scientific Committee on the use of the weight of evidence approach in scientific assessments.
2. The draft guidance applies to all areas of work under EFSA's remit. It is intended to provide a flexible framework within which those methods which most appropriately fit the purpose of the individual assessment can be applied.
3. The draft guidance addresses problem formulation, the assembly of the evidence, weighing and integrating the evidence, uncertainty analysis and reporting the results of the assessment. It defines reliability, relevance and consistency in terms of their contributions to the weighing the evidence. Annex 1, section A2 illustrates the proposed approaches for chemical risk assessments (for human health).
4. The draft guidance is attached at Annex A. The deadline for submitting comments is 1st May.

Questions on which the views of the Committee are sought

5. Members are asked to consider the following questions:
 - i) Do Members have comments on the draft guidance that should be transmitted to EFSA? If so, the Secretariat will compile the comments and circulate to Members before submitting them on behalf of the COT.
 - ii) Do Members have general comments on the use of weight of evidence and on any implications of the draft guidance for the work of the COT?

**Secretariat
March 2017**

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CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

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evidence approach in scientific assessments**

The draft guidance released for consultation by EFSA.

Note: The document in the Annex is not included in the published version on the COT website, but can be downloaded from the EFSA website at <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/consultations/call/170306-0>

**Secretariat
March 2017**