

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

Paper for Information:

FSA Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs) update – May 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 met on 23 February 2017: Items discussed included:

Refuse Derived Fuels (RDF) – previously the Grain and Feed Trade Association (GAFTA) had raised concerns about the potential risk of handling and storage of domestic waste material at ports, to be exported and used in energy generation. At the February meeting, the FSA assessor updated the committee on enquiries undertaken and suggested recommendations for consideration and agreement. A member of the Secretariat to the RDF Industry Group also updated the committee on the progress of the industry code of practice and advised that a final draft version would be available shortly and for endorsement by regulators and ACAF. The committee agreed to discuss further at the next ACAF meeting planned for June 2017.

A description of the UK (and Irish) fishmeal and fish oil industry with reference to production methods and global supplies - Toby Parker gave an overview presentation in which he provided details of production processes and benefits of fishmeal and fish oils; UK and Irish fishing ports, raw material intake and sales. The committee thanked Mr Parker for his interesting and educational presentation.

Feed Additives – following a previous presentation by Geoff Brown, committee members were asked for views on ways to communicate with feed industry sectors to emphasise the importance of compliance with maximum permitted levels set for trace elements in feed. Based on the responses received, it was clear that an industry guidance document was required. It was therefore proposed that a short, medium and long-term strategy should be adopted that would help to change behaviours in maintaining compliance, involving relevant industry bodies and local authorities.

Update on triennial review of Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs) reporting to the FSA - Dr Patrick Miller (Head of the Agency's Chief Scientific Adviser's Team) advised that the decision to exit the EU has implications for the FSA's approach to the review, including the specific recommendations in respect of ACAF and the Advisory Committee on Novel Food and Processes. FSA's future needs for expert advice in these areas will depend on the outcome of

negotiations on the UK's future relationship with the EU, and on the UK's regulatory approach after exiting the EU. The FSA has therefore decided to pause implementation of these recommendations for now, until the picture on future needs is clearer.

The next meeting will take place at the FSA Wales offices in Cardiff on 14 June 2017. Items on the agenda include:

- Refuse derived fuel;
- Feed Delivery Model in Wales – Presentation;
- Feed Additives; and
- Pet Food Issues – Presentation.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (**ACNFP**)
<http://www.acnfp.gov.uk/>

Recent Agenda for the ACNFP's meeting on 27 April were:

Full Applications:

Bonolive® (an extract of olive leaves)
DHA Rich Oil
Oligonol

Substantial Equivalence Applications :

Oleoresin from Dried biomass from *Haematococcus pluvialis*
Phytosterol Ester
Chia Seeds

Consultations on full applications from other Member States:

UV Treated Mushrooms with increased vitamin D content
Shrimp peptide concentrate

Also the initial planning for an open meeting took place.

The next meeting of the ACNFP is on 13 July 2017.

General Advisory Committee on Science (**GACS**)
<http://gacs.food.gov.uk/gacsmeets/>

GACS

The General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS) was formally dissolved on 31 March 2017. The dissolution comes following the Triennial Review of six Food Standards Agency Scientific Advisory Committees, which concluded that the GACS be replaced by a new, high level Science Council. The last meeting of the GACS was held on 24 March 2016. The Committee's annual report covering the two year period up to March 2017 has been published¹.

¹ https://gacs.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/gacs_8th_report_2015_to_17.pdf

Science Council

The new FSA Science Council came into being on 1 April 2017. Appointments to the Council have been announced².

Workshop of SAC Chairs

An FSA workshop of the Chairs of the FSA's SACs took place on 22 February 2017. This was the first in a planned ongoing series of meetings to maintain and develop co-ordination between SACs and their engagement with FSA. These meetings build on the communication between SAC Chairs which took place through their being ex officio members of GACS. The workshop minutes will be published in due course.

Secretariat May 2017

² <https://science-council.food.gov.uk/>