

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 2017, previous COT advice has been used in relation to vitamins and minerals, chlorine and chlorine dioxide, metals in the infant and adult diet, iodine in milk, fipronil and arsenic in rice milk.
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/2018/XX), which provides the background.

COT statement on potassium based replacements for sodium chloride and sodium based additives.

4. The statement was published in November 2017 along with the joint COT-SACN Working Group report on potassium based replacements which undertook a risk-benefit assessment of these compounds, the SACN statement on benefits and a paper discussing the modelling of potassium intakes. A recommendation was made to Ministers that the benefits of potassium based replacements for sodium were likely to outweigh the risks.

Statements on chemicals in the diets of infants and young children

5. A number of statements have been published as part of the Committee's review of chemicals in the diets of infants and young children up to 5 years of age. Once the evaluations are complete, the statements will form part of the report of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) review of complementary and young child feeding focusing on children age 1 to 5:

[Addendum to the 2015 COT statement on potential risks from polybrominated diphenyl ethers \(PBDEs\) in the infant diet](#)

[Statement on the potential risks from excess iodine](#)

[Addendum to the 2013 COT statement on potential risks from vitamin A](#)

EFSA public consultations

6. The COT have submitted comments to EFSA on:
 - a. Guidance on the risk assessment of substances present in food intended for infants below 16 weeks of age. The final EFSA guidance document was published in May 2017.
 - b. Guidance on the assessment of the biological relevance of data in scientific assessments. The final EFSA guidance document was published in August 2017.
 - c. Guidance on the use of the weight of evidence approach in scientific assessments. The final EFSA guidance document was published in August 2017.
7. The COT also reviewed the EFSA public consultation on a Draft EFSA protocol for a systematic review on health outcomes related to the age of introduction of complementary food for the scientific assessment of the appropriate age of introduction of complementary feeding into an infant's diet – an update. No comments were submitted.

Secretariat

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