

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

72nd Meeting of ACAF on 23 February 2017

Information Paper

Update on the Work of other Advisory Committees

**Secretariat
February 2017**

UPDATE ON THE WORK OF OTHER ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Purpose

1. This paper outlines issues from other advisory committees that may be of interest to ACAF.

Advisory Committee on Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF)

2. 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 was 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; and
 - The Committee were updated on the outcome of the Epidemiology of Foodborne Infections Group meeting held on 6 December.
3. The next meeting is to be held on 29 June 2017.

Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP)

4. 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);
 - DHA¹-rich algal oil from Schizochytrium sp extension;
 - Bonolive®;
 - algae dried biomass from Haematococcus pluvialis; and
 - chia seeds in yoghurt – an extension of use.
5. The last meeting of the Committee was held on 24 November 2016 and was in the form of a telecom to discuss an extension of use application for DHA Rich Algal Oil from *Schizochytrium* species.

¹ Docosahexaenoic acid

6. A telecom was held between meetings, on 9 January 2017, to discuss an extension of use application for beta-glucan and a substantial equivalence application for phytosterols.
7. Details of both meetings are available on the ACNFP website: <http://http://acnfp.food.gov.uk>

The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE)

8. The Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment (ACRE) held an 'open' meeting in on 8 September 2016 in Edinburgh.
9. Since the previous meeting ACRE has considered EFSA advice on applications to import (but not cultivate) GM cotton and maize for food and feed uses and processing. In both cases ACRE agreed with the EFSA that the GMOs pose no greater risk to the environment than their non-GM counterparts. ACRE is also considering two GM trial applications and will issue their advice in due course.
10. The next meeting is to be a joint one with the HSE's Scientific Advisory Committee on Genetic Modification on 14 March 2016.
11. More information about ACRE is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/advisory-committee-on-releases-to-the-environment>

The Committee on Carcinogenicity (COC)

12. The COC met on 17 November 2016, and items discussed included:
 - IGF-1 Possible carcinogenic hazard to consumers from Insulin-like Growth Factor I (IGF-I) in the diet;
 - horizon scanning 2016;
 - G07 Guidance Statement – Alternatives to the 2-year Bioassay;
 - G07 Guidance Statement – Alternatives to the 2-year Bioassay, Part C, Emerging technologies: toxicogenomics and high-throughput screening; and
 - first draft statement on COC/G07: Part D, Alternative testing strategies for carcinogens incorporating results from short-term tests.
13. The next meeting is scheduled to take place on 23 March 2017 and provisional agenda items include:
 - horizon scanning 2017;
 - annual reports;
 - G07 Guidance Statement – Alternatives to the 2-year Bioassay;
 - G07 Guidance Statement – Alternatives to the 2-year Bioassay, Part C, Emerging technologies: toxicogenomics and high-throughput screening; and

- first draft statement on COC/G07: Part D, Alternative testing strategies for carcinogens incorporating results from short-term tests.

The Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COM)

14. Items discussed at the last meeting held on 20 October 2016 included:

- discussion of genotoxicity studies investigating emissions from incinerators; and
- quantitative approaches to the assessment of genotoxicity data.

15. The next meeting of the COM is scheduled for 23 Feb 2017. Provisional agenda items for the meeting include:

- horizon scanning 2017;
- annual reports; and
- quantitative approaches to the assessment of genotoxicity data.

The Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT)

16. The COT had a meeting on 6 December and agenda items discussed is as follows:

- Shisha pipes
- A review of potential risks from iodine in the diets of infants aged 0-12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years.
- Third draft statement on maternal and infant dietary exposures and risk of development of atopic outcomes and autoimmune disease (reserved business).
- Review of potential risks from vitamin A in the diets of children aged 1 to 5 years and updated exposures for infants
- Review of potential risks from nickel in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years
- Toxicological evaluation of novel heat-not-burn commercial products: Overview summary of data submitted (reserved business)
- Final Draft Statement on potassium-based replacements for sodium chloride and sodium-based additives.

17. The next meeting will be on 7 February 2017 and agenda is being finalised.

General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS)

18. The last GACS meeting was held on 24 March 2016. The agenda, papers and final minutes are published². 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.

New FSA Science Council

19. 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

20. 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.

Social Science Research Committee (SSRC)

21. The SSRC discussed the Triennial Review at the 17th meeting, the last meeting of the Committee in its current form. The FSA is implementing the Review's recommendations, currently by drafting the new terms of reference.

Appointments and Recruitment exercises

Appointments

ACMSF

- 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.

² ^[1] <http://gacs.food.gov.uk/gacsmeets/>

COT

The COT had a recruitment exercise in November 2016 and conducted interviews in December 2016 to replace 9 members whose term of appointments will end in March 2017.

**ACAF Secretariat
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