

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES

BEE VENOM FOR ADDITION TO HONEY

Issue

The Committee is invited to consider the text of the draft opinion for the authorisation of bee venom for addition to honey with the aim of finalising this opinion at the meeting.

Background

1. The Committee has considered this application made by Nelson Honey New Zealand Ltd. in July (by post), September and November 2009 (ACNFP/94/1, ACNFP94/1/Addendum, ACNFP 95/1).
2. While Members expressed concern relating to efficacy data from the clinical trial and the ability of honey to cause dental caries, the main area of concern related to potential allergenicity of bee venom.
3. Although Members accepted that strong warning labelling would in all likelihood be sufficient to protect individuals with an existing allergy to bee stings/bee products, Members remained concerned that oral consumption of bee venom may also have the potential to sensitise non-venom allergic individuals to bee stings. However, the Committee is asked to consider whether this uncertainty over sensitisation represents a risk that is greater or lesser than that from bee products that are accepted as part of the existing diet, before deciding whether to involve the precautionary principle of disallowing this application so that risk managers can decide on the appropriate course of action.
4. The Secretariat has drafted an initial opinion incorporating the points raised by the Committee during its discussions on this application (**Annex 1**). The Committee is asked to further review this text and to account for the above point with the aim of finalising the conclusion after the February meeting.

Committee Action Required

5. The Committee is asked to consider the draft opinion (**Annex 1**) and what overall conclusion should be added concerning the addition of bee venom to honey.
6. The Committee is also asked to review the text of the draft opinion and suggest any amendments.
7. Once finalised, the draft opinion will be published via the Agency's web-site for the usual 10-day public consultation. After the Committee has considered any comments that are received and its opinion is finalised, the final opinion will be forwarded to the Commission.

**Secretariat
February 2010**

Annex attached

Annex 1: Draft opinion on the authorisation of bee venom for addition to honey (Restricted)

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Draft opinion on the authorisation of Bee venom for addition to honey (Restricted)

**Secretariat
February 2010**