

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES

PAPER FOR INFORMATION

A GENERIC APPROACH TO THE SAFETY ASSESSMENT OF MICRO-ORGANISMS USED IN FOOD / FEED AND THE PRODUCTION OF FOOD / FEED ADDITIVES

Issue

This paper provides Members with an update on the above opinion, which was published by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) Scientific Committee in June 2005.

Background

1. In 2003 the European Commission, advised by a working group composed of members of three of its scientific advisory committees, consulted on a working paper concerning a generic approach to the safety assessment of micro-organisms used in food and feed. The working paper looked at the practicality of a generic approach to the safety assessment of micro-organisms used in food and feed. This generic approach included the concept of a Qualified Presumption of Safety (QPS) which could be applied to groups of related micro-organisms.
2. The ACNFP considered this paper in May 2003 (ACNFP/60/2), when Members stressed the importance of basing evaluations on carefully defined taxonomic units, and noted that the molecular methods used must be of a high quality. The Committee also identified the need for more clarity as to who would be taking responsibility for running the scheme. Members' comments were forwarded to colleagues who were responding on behalf of the Food Standards Agency.
3. When responsibility for safety assessments was formally passed to EFSA, EFSA Management asked its Scientific Committee to consider whether the QPS approach could be applied. The Scientific Committee took into account the comments of stakeholders and its Opinion is attached. The Opinion includes recommendations to EFSA about the next steps leading to practical implementation of this approach.

Secretariat
September 2005

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NOVEL FOODS AND PROCESSES

Opinion from the Scientific Committee on a request from EFSA related to a generic approach to the safety assessment of microorganisms used in food / feed and the production of food / feed additives.

http://www.efsa.eu.int/science/sc_committee/sc_opinions/972/sc_opinion_ej226_qps_en1.pdf

**Secretariat
September 2005**