

**Stakeholder Meeting – Salt Target Review Consultation and
Urinary Analysis Results
Tuesday 22nd July 2008, 09:00 am
Conference room A&B AVH**

Attending Organisations: See Annex I

Welcome and Presentation

1. Corinne Vaughan gave a brief introduction explaining the purpose and outline of the meeting.
2. Tim Smith made a short speech thanking industry for its cooperation with the overall salt reduction campaign. Concentrating on progress, Tim Smith outlined the most recent urinary sodium analysis survey results and congratulated the food industry for its contribution to the reduction in estimated average population salt intakes to 8.6g per day. He also set out his view for the future, noting the requirement to go further with salt reduction. He concluded by strongly recommending that the food industry respond to the consultation on the revised salt targets.
3. Alette Addison gave a presentation setting out details of the urinary analysis results, the review process to date and the proposed changes to the salt targets as well as the further formal consultation process. This was followed by a presentation from Mark Browne who outlined the work that the Agency has been taking forward on engagement with the food service industry on salt reduction along, with other healthy eating messages.

Questions

4. Several questions followed the presentations. The first, from the BNF sought assurance that the method used in the recent urinary sodium analysis survey allowed for comparison with previous surveys. The BNF also questioned whether it was possible to identify details of intakes for men and women separately from the survey. The FSA explained that the methodology used in all the urinary analysis surveys it carried out allowed for a direct comparison between results and explained that the surveys were designed to give an overall population figure but that rough estimates of the salt intakes for men and women would be included in the final report. The FSA agreed to provide the BNF with further details outside the meeting.
5. On behalf of the Snack, Nut and Crisp Manufacturers Association, PepsiCo asked if the survey had measured blood pressure and the association between blood pressure and sodium intake. The FSA explained that survey was a cross sectional survey and as such causal relationships between participants' blood pressure and sodium intakes could not be examined.

6. The National Heart Forum enquired as to the progress on the intake target levels for children. The FSA explained that its current survey did not include children, but it was considering this aspect for inclusion in future surveys.
7. Addressing the FSA's work with catering/food service industry, Arla Foods asked which workplace caterers had made commitments to reduce salt. The FSA explained that a comprehensive list of companies with commitments were available on its website, including catering businesses and their supplies such as 3663, Compass Group, Sodexo and ARAMARK.
8. Consensus Action on Salt & Health (CASH) voiced concern that the FSA should be working to quantify the amount of salt in food supplied by the food service industry and cited an example where one meal contributed 27g salt per serving. The FSA explained that this data was not currently available but that it was currently working with companies to reduce salt levels. The FSA also added that it had increased its resources for catering work and would be addressing high salt levels directly with companies from all sectors of the food industry. The usefulness of the surveys that CASH carried to highlight the salt levels in some food eaten out of home was also commended.
9. Sainsbury's enquired as to the FSA plans for future consumer awareness work on salt. The FSA said that it had a 3 year commitment to take forward work to raise consumer awareness on health eating and that salt would be addressed within that.
10. CASH requested an update on what the FSA was doing about the different front of pack labelling methods being utilised across the industry. The FSA highlighted the work that it had been doing on front of pack labelling and the fact that it was supporting an independent review of the different methods, which would act as a springboard for establishing a more uniform approach. In response to a comment from CASH about the importance of speeding up this process for consumer clarity, the FSA noted the importance of having the evidence base in place from the review and highlighted the fact that most foods already carry salt content information.
11. The BRC asked for further detail on the proposal for targets for both 2010 and 2012. The FSA explained that the decision to set targets for 2012 was as a result of industry feedback about reformulation cycles already being in place for up to the end of 2009, leaving little time to make further reductions before the end of 2010. It was also emphasised that the proposed target changes for 2010 were a reflection of where the market had gone further than the current targets and that all the targets were set at challenging levels.

12.To close the meeting the FSA thanked those in attendance and encouraged anyone with additional questions to direct them to the salt reduction strategy team.

Annex 1 – Attending Organisations

3663 First for Food Service
AB World Foods (G Costa)
Arla Foods
ASDA
Association of Cereal Food Manufacturers
Birds Eye
BRAKES
British Heart Foundation
British Hospitality Association
British Meat Processors Association
British Nutrition Foundation
British Retail Consortium
Cereal Partners
Consensus Action on Salt & Health
Dairy Council
Dairy UK Ltd
Defra
Direct Table Food Ltd
Federation of Bakers
Food and Drink Federation
Frozen and Chilled Potato Processors Association
FSA Wales
Glenryck Foods Ltd
Kellogg Europe Trading Limited
Marks & Spencer Plc
Mars UK
McCain Foods (GB) Ltd
Musgrave Budgens Londis
National Consumer Council
National Heart Forum
PepsiCo UK and Ireland
PREMIER INTERNATIONAL FOODS
Princes Limited
Provision Trade Federation
Sainsburys
Stroke Association
Tesco Stores plc
The Nutrition Society
The Serious food company
Tulip Ltd
Unilever UK Limited
Waitrose Ltd
Which?