

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD
DISCUSSION PAPER

Risk assessment for the use of *Mycobacterium bovis* BCG Danish Strain 1331 in cattle: Risks to public health

Background

1. In June 2015¹, the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF) was asked to comment on a risk assessment prepared by the Animal and Plant Health Agency that assessed the risks to public health from the possibility of Cattle BCG vaccine being present in the food chain and in particular, milk and beef products (risk assessment was for Members Use Only). The risk questions to the Committee were:
 - What is the risk of human illness with CattleBCG due to the consumption of a typical serving of milk and milk products?
 - What is the risk of human illness with CattleBCG due to the consumption of a typical serving of beef products?
2. ACMSF's discussion² on the risk assessment raised several queries for APHA to consider which included the following:
 - Is the strain of Cattle BCG being assessed a standard human BCG organism or is it cattle adapted? Members also asked for information on what dose is given to cattle and how this compares to a standard human dose.
 - Is oral ingestion the only potential route of transmission of Cattle BCG or could handling/preparation of meat from vaccinated animals also play a role in transmission via the cutaneous or ocular routes?
 - The risk estimate should be recalculated using alternative scenarios such as pasteurisation failures.
3. APHA have produced an addendum (ACM/1310a) to the risk assessment presented to members in June 2015 (ACM/1181).

The Committee is asked to:

¹ https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acm_1181_mbovis.pdf

² <https://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/acmsf85june2015.pdf>

- **Provide comments on the revised risk assessment and whether the queries raised in the earlier discussion have been addressed.**

**Secretariat
October 2019**