

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD
DISCUSSION PAPER

Update from the ACMSF subgroup on representation of risks

Background

1. At a horizon scanning workshop in 2018, the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF) identified the need to develop a multi-dimensional risk assessment framework for use in risk assessments presented to and reviewed by the Committee relating to microbiological risks associated with food.
2. Members viewed that the current one-dimensional approach to risk assessment based on the probability of an adverse effect occurring (to estimate the level of risk) does not always support clear decision making and communication.
3. In November 2018, the ACMSF established a sub-group to address this issue specifically. The group is comprised of existing ACMSF members and members co-opted for their expertise in the area. The group met three times in November 2018, February and June 2019.
4. The group's terms of reference are as follows:
 - To propose a multidimensional representation of risk and total uncertainty that is suitable for food risks considered by ACMSF
 - The group's remit will include continued communication of its work and outputs to the ACMSF and the FSA
 - The group's remit will not include consideration of issues relating to risk management and risk communication (including perception).
5. The group is now in a position to present a first update of its work to the Committee. Dr Gary Barker will present the new approach suggested by the group for estimating risk, in terms of frequency, impact and uncertainty.

The Committee is asked:

- To provide comments on the subgroup's proposed framework

Secretariat
June 2019