

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD

DISCUSSION PAPER

Update on a Risk assessment for the use of *Mycobacterium bovis* BCG Danish Strain 1331 in Cattle: Risks to public health

This paper provides an outline of a risk assessment study that was conducted at Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) Weybridge to assess the risks to public health of the possibility of CattleBCG vaccine being present in the food chain and, in particular, in milk and beef products. The Food Standards Agency would like to bring this risk assessment to the Committee's attention and seek any comments.

Background

1. In June 2014 ACMSF information paper ACM/1162¹ updated the Committee on the initiative by Defra and the Welsh Government to develop a CattleBCG vaccine that will contribute to the TB eradication programme. This included the commissioning of a study to design large-scale field trials to assess the performance of the vaccine alongside a diagnostic test to Differentiate between Infected and Vaccinated Animals (DIVA) and a risk assessment on the safety of certain milk and meat products from vaccinated cattle entering the food chain.
2. The risk assessment concludes that the impact of adopting a CattleBCG vaccination programme on general public health is predicted to be *Negligible* via milk, milk products and beef products. The risks to severely immuno-compromised people are increased but still deemed to be *Negligible*, although in caution a risk estimate of *Negligible-Very Low* is assigned for regional BCG disease in immuno-compromised people consuming beef products derived from cattle entering the food chain less than 3 months after vaccination with CattleBCG.
 - The Agency would welcome comments from ACMSF on this risk assessment.

¹ ACMSF Information Paper ACM/1162: Risk assessment for the use of *Mycobacterium bovis* BCG Danish Strain 1331 in Cattle: Risks to public health. Available at: http://acmsf.food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/mnt/drupal_data/sources/files/multimedia/pdfs/committee/acmsf/acm_1162_mbovis.pdf