

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD**  
**INFORMATION PAPER**

**Update from the Scientific Advisory Committees**

**The Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)**

The ACAF met on 27 October when the following issues were discussed.

**Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) material being stored at ports, awaiting export**

The Committee considered a paper outlining the existing controls and potential safety issues with respect to the transport and storage of refuse derived fuels. The FSA Assessor updated the Committee on the enquiries undertaken so far and explained that awareness of the issues had been raised in Brussels and with assurance bodies, and representative enforcement bodies had also been alerted. Additionally, visits had been made to two ports and Defra and DAERA had provided input. Further visits are planned with the view to providing the committee with a final paper at its February 2017 meeting.

The ACAF Secretariat had also contacted the recently formed 'RDF industry group' and Harriet Parke, (RDF group secretariat) provided the Committee with a presentation on the work of the group adding that the group was seeking to develop a Code of Practice to ensure good practice at each step of the RDF supply chain.

**Maximum permitted levels (MPL) for trace elements and feed additives**

The Committee's views were sought on communication with different sectors of the feed industry in order to emphasise the importance of compliance with MPLs set for trace elements and feed additives. The issue of potential over-supplementation of animals, through numerous different feed sources (e.g. forage, compound feed, boluses and drenches etc.) was noted and concern was expressed at the scale of non-compliance of products, such as those which exceed MPLs even when used on their own, or products with inadequate labelling, with some internet sales adding to the challenge of compliance. The Committee agreed that this was an important issue and that it could develop several work strands to help mitigate any potential risks.

**Insect protein as a potential animal feed**

Dr Elaine Fitches (Durham University) provided the Committee with an update on the research being undertaken and commercialisation activities. Dr Fitches said that that nutritional quality of insect larvae was comparable to fishmeal.

Extensive safety screening suggests minimal risks and that potential risks can be mitigated through the screening of insect rearing substrates and/or processing of insect meals. Feeding trials suggested that insect meal and/or refined insect protein is a suitable replacement for fishmeal and/or soymeal in fish, poultry and pig diets. Dr Fitches also provided details of consumer perception surveys undertaken to discover whether people would be accepting of insects in animal feed and food and to identify reasons for any objections raised. The surveys were also designed to gain a better understanding of current consumer perceptions about eating animals fed on existing and novel proteins. Both surveys indicated a high support for use of insects in animal feed but also a desire for more information. The Committee was interested to hear about the developments and agreed that it would like to receive further updates.

ACAF are scheduled to meet on 23 February 2017. Items on the provisional agenda include:

- Refuse Derived Fuels
- A description of the UK (and Irish) fishmeal and fish oil industry with reference to production methods and global supplies
- Pet food issues

### **Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Practices (ACNFP)**

The next meeting of the ACNFP is scheduled to be held on Thursday 9 February. The Agenda is still being finalised.

The last meeting of the Committee was held on 24 November and was in the form of a teleconference to discuss an extension of use application for DHA Rich Algal Oil from *Schizochtrium* species.

A teleconference was held between meetings, on 9 January, to discuss an extension of use application for beta-glucan and a substantial equivalence application for phytosterols.

### **The Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Foods, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT)**

The COT had a meeting on 6 December and agenda items discussed were as follows:

- Shisha pipes
- A review of potential risks from iodine in the diets of infants aged 0-12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years.

- Third draft statement on maternal and infant dietary exposures and risk of development of atopic outcomes and autoimmune disease (reserved business).
- Review of potential risks from vitamin A in the diets of children aged 1 to 5 years and updated exposures for infants
- Review of potential risks from nickel in the diet of infants aged 0 to 12 months and children aged 1 to 5 years
- Toxicological evaluation of novel heat-not-burn commercial products: Overview summary of data submitted (reserved business)
- Final Draft Statement on potassium-based replacements for sodium chloride and sodium-based additives.

The next meeting will be on 7 February 2017 and agenda is being finalised.

### **Recruitment**

The COT had a recruitment exercise in November and conducted interviews in December to replace 9 members who will finish their term in March 2017.

**Secretariat**  
**January 2017**