

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD

DISCUSSION PAPER

RISK PROFILE IN RELATION TO TOXOPLASMA IN THE FOOD CHAIN

1. In December 2006 and March 2007 the FSA sought the views of the ACMSF on the significance of toxoplasmosis in the UK.
2. The ACMSF was asked to consider whether current evidence indicates a food safety issue that needs to be addressed, which food sources are most likely to present a significant risk and what further investigations may be necessary to obtain robust data on UK prevalence and foodborne sources of toxoplasmosis.
3. The issue was referred by the Committee to the *Ad Hoc* Group on Vulnerable Groups who met in December 2008 to begin their considerations on toxoplasma in the food chain. The Group met seven times over a period of 28 months.
4. The *Ad Hoc* Group considered information on the prevalence of toxoplasmosis in humans, estimates of the burden of disease in the UK and other countries, seroprevalence data in farmed and non-farmed animals and studies on the presence and survival of toxoplasma in foods. In order to review the relative importance of different sources they considered published information from outbreak reports and case control studies and the group also reviewed the consumer advice given by different countries in relation to reducing the risk of becoming infected with toxoplasma. The information reviewed was used to produce a risk profile for toxoplasma in the food chain.
5. Dr Rick Holliman (Chair, *Ad Hoc* Group on Vulnerable Groups) will introduce the draft final report produced by the Group.
6. Members are invited to:
 - Comment on the report
 - Agree to a public consultation on the draft report

Secretariat
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