

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE MICROBIOLOGICAL SAFETY OF FOOD

Update from other Scientific Advisory Committees

Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs (ACAF)

A vacancy for a microbiologist has recently been advertised. The closing date for applications was 3 November 2009 and a paper sift will be carried out shortly with interviews taking place in early 2010.

The next meeting of ACAF is on 3 December. The following items are on the provisional agenda:

- a presentation from Neil Leach of Defra's Livestock and Livestock Products section on the review of the Animal By-products Regulation 1774/2002/EC.
- an update on a range of issues relating to mycotoxins (e.g. future controls, mycotoxin binders).
- discussion to agree work the Committee can take forward following the GACS horizon scanning workshop held in June 2009.
- discussion of the formal Action Plan submitted to the Food and Veterinary Office (European Commission) following its audit mission to the UK in June 2009 on feed law enforcement.
- oral updates on topical GM issues.

Committee on Toxicity (COT)

At its meeting on 27 October meeting the Committee discussed:

Second statement on Landfill sites – Third draft (TOX/2009/32)

Idiopathic Environmental Intolerance (IEI) (Multiple Chemical Sensitivity): Evidence for a toxicological mechanism. Overview of studies of Polymorphisms relevant to toxicological mechanisms. (TOX/2009/33)

Methylglyoxal - draft statement (TOX/2009/34)

Pathway Analysis Software for the Interpretation of Complex Datasets (TOX/2009/35)

Draft minutes of the meeting can be found on the COT website:

A statement on the COT workshop on 21st Century toxicology held in February 2009 has also been published at:

<http://cot.food.gov.uk/cotstatements/cotstatementsyrs/cotstatements2009/cot200903>

In November interviews were held for 2 non-specialist and 2 specialist members to take up post on 1 April 2010. Two posts also need to be filled following the resignation of Dr David Bell and Dr Geraldine McNeill.

The next COT meeting will be held on 15th December. The following items are on the **draft** agenda:

1. 'Prospective Cohort Study Of Sheep Dip Exposure And 'Dipper's Flu': Review of Outstanding Government Funded Research (Reserved Business)
2. Second statement on Landfill sites – Final draft (Reserved Business)
3. Methylglyoxal - draft statement
4. Idiopathic Environmental Intolerance (IEI) (Multiple Chemical Sensitivity): Evidence for a toxicological mechanism. Overview of studies of Polymorphisms relevant to toxicological mechanisms.
5. WRAP – Dioxin report/release
6. Developmental Neurotox
7. EFSA Arsenic

COT will be holding their annual out of town meeting at Oulton Hall, Leeds on 2 & 3 Feb 2010.

General Advisory Committee on Science (GACS)

The GACS holds its next, open meeting on 4 March 2010. Items provisionally up for discussion include:

- Report back from the Working Group on risk assessment and risk management
- Report back on the first SACs Annual Conference and cross-government lay members event (both taking place on 27 November)
- Horizon scanning – outputs and cross-cutting issues
- Feedback from ACAF Chair on the independent review of the ACAF

**Secretariat
December 2009**