

## **Rapid advice 22-2009 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the presence of cocaine in Red Bull Simply cola (dossier 2009/23)**

In Germany, traces of cocaine were found in Red Bull Simply Cola, a soft drink that contains coca leaves extracts. Cocaine is a natural constituent of coca leaves. Cocaine affects primarily the central nervous system and the cardiovascular system, and is potentially addictive. Cocaine is a narcotic and for food a zero tolerance is applicable. However, out of practical considerations and in the context of food control an action limit needs to be determined.

Based on the available technical and toxicological information, the Scientific Committee proposes an action limit of 0.1 µg/l for the detection (LOD) and of 0.5 µg/l for the quantification (LOQ) of cocaine in beverages. These values can be determined or detected with the current equipment and contain no toxicological risk. Given the very low levels of cocaine, the Committee draws the attention to the importance of a sensitive and reliable analytical procedure and of equipment targeted to the ppb-level. Matrix effects, storage conditions, extraction procedure, instability of the internal standard, etc. can influence the analytical outcome.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".