

Rapid advice 14-2016 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the fixation of action levels for fumonisin B1+B2 in cereals and cereal-based products other than maize

Background & Terms of reference

Fumonisin is a mycotoxin that may contaminate cereals. Fumonisin B1 is hepatotoxic, nephrotoxic and has a neurodegenerative potential.

Given the presence of fusariosis in the cereal harvest in 2016, the FASFC wishes to include fumonisin B1 and B2 in cereals other than maize in the 2016 and 2017 monitoring program. However, no action limits have been set for fumonisin B1 and B2 in cereals and cereal products other than maize.

The Scientific Committee is requested to define action limits for the sum of fumonisin B1 and B2 in cereals and foodstuffs derived from cereals other than maize in view of carrying out analysis on these mycotoxins in infant food, wheat, rye, oats, wheat flour, rye flour, bread, oat groats, breakfast cereals, cookies (and cereal bars) and bran cereal.

Methodology

The Scientific Committee based itself on a methodology described in the document "Inventory of actions and action limits and proposal of harmonization in the framework of official controls - Part 1 Action limits for chemical contaminants" (AFSCA, 2014) in order to define action limits.

Results

The action limits have been calculated by dividing the provisional maximum tolerable daily intake of 2 µg/kg body weight per day for fumonisins B1, B2 and B3 by the 97,5th percentile of consumption of the different foodstuffs. Some calculated values were then adjusted to be consistent with the maximum levels set by the Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 on maize and maize products.

Conclusions

The Scientific Committee has proposed action limits for infant foods based on cereals and for wheat, rye, oats, wheat flour, rye flour, bread, oats groats, breakfast cereals, cookies (and cereal bars) and bran cereal. These action limits are based on the chronic risks linked to dietary exposure to fumonisin B1 and B2.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french.