Advice 13-2021 of the Scientific Committee established at the FASFC on re-assessment of the ratings of adverse effect of hazards mentioned in the control programme of the FASFC: prohibited substances and drug residues

Terms of reference

The Scientific Committee is asked to re-assess the scores of the adverse effect related to the various hazards (parameters) that are monitored by the FASFC in the food chain (program of analyses of the control programme). More specifically, it is asked :

- to determine or re-assess the scores assigned for grading the severity of the adverse effects related to the hazards, diseases and parameters in the food chain ;
- to re-assess, if the Scientific Committee finds it necessary, the approach to be followed in setting the severity rating of the adverse effects of pesticide residues.

This opinion concerns the scores for the adverse effects of hazards (parameters) and parameter profiles (set of parameters) for the sections 'prohibited substances' and 'drug residues' of the monitoring programme.

Method

The opinion is based on expert opinion, scientific literature and EFSA opinions and reports.

Conclusion

The Scientific Committee proposes a limited number of modifications to the current list of adverse effect rates for the parameters belonging to the sections 'prohibited substances' and 'drug residues' of the control programme.

For the parameter "stilbenes", the Scientific Committee recommends that, in view of their known genotoxicity and carcinogenicity, the current adverse effect rating be increased from "3" to "4" on a scale of "1" (no or little adverse effect) to "4" (very important adverse effect).

Some parameter profiles are used in case of suspected non-compliant treatment or treatment with a prohibited substance. As these parameter profiles are not used in the statistically-based monitoring programme, it is not necessary to take into account a scoring for their adverse effects. If a rating for these parameter profiles is still considered, the Scientific Committee recommends that the adverse effect rating be raised from the current "3" rate to "4" for the following parameter profiles:

- 'Suspected Injection site sampling';
- 'Suspected Muscle Tissue sampling';
- 'Suspected Faeces sampling';
- 'Suspected Urine sampling'.

The reason is that some of the parameters analysed in these profiles include one or more parameters with a rate '4'. Therefore, it is recommended to align the rate of the profile with the highest rate of the individual parameters.

Following the same reasoning, the Scientific Committee also recommends to assign a rate of '4' to the parameters profiles listed in the FASFC table under the names 'Suspected Milk' and 'Suspected Kidney' and for which a rate has not yet been assigned.

In view of the known toxicity of the parameter "pyrethroids" and the fact that animal products contribute to the exposure of the population, the Scientific Committee proposes to maintain the current rating for the adverse effects of pyrethroids. In addition, the Scientific Committee agrees with the maintenance of pyrethroids in the residues monitoring programme, despite the very low rates of non-compliance in products of animal origin in Europe.

For those parameters that have not yet been assigned a adverse effect rating, the Scientific Committee recommends the following ratings :

- a rating of '3' for the parameter 'flumethrin' ;
- a rating of '3' for the parameter profiles listed in the AFSCA table under the names "Anti-ectoparasitica", "Anti-ectoparasitic liver", "Anti-ectoparasitic fat", "Anti-ectoparasitic milk".

Recommendations

The Scientific Committee recommends to adapt or update the terms of the definitions of the adverse effect ratings in the procedure 2009/78/PCCB "Methodology for the elaboration of the FASFC control programme: Analyses and inspections" so that they reflect a logical and coherent gradation for the adverse effects of the hazards of the control programme.
The Scientific Committee recommends to adapt or assign the adverse effect ratings to the parameters of the "prohibited substances" and "drug residues" sections as proposed in this opinion.

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