

**Advice 14-2021 of the Scientific Committee established at the FASFC on the reassessment of the severity rating of adverse effects associated with hazards with respect to plant health as part of the FASFC analysis program**

**Question**

The Scientific Committee has been asked to determine or reassess the severity rating of adverse effects associated with hazards with respect to plant health as part of the FASFC analysis program.

**Background**

Most of the phytosanitary analyzes programmed by the FASFC are imposed by the European phytosanitary regulation. This requires the taking and analyzing of samples from some of plants, plant products and other objects, either in case of official observation of symptoms, or on a systematic basis. For other "parameter/matrix" combinations, the FASFC determines a number of analyzes to be carried out annually on the basis of a statistical approach in particular in order to detect the latent presence of some quarantine organisms. This approach takes into account, amongst others, the severity of the adverse effects associated with phytosanitary hazards.

**Method**

The advice is based on expert opinion and on several scientific references.

**Advice**

With regard to quarantine organisms, the objective of the European phytosanitary regulation is to eradicate them when they are introduced or present but not widely disseminated in the EU. In view of this eradication goal, the Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the maximum score of 4 should be attributed to the severity of the adverse effects of all quarantine pests. In this way, the minimum control prevalence of 1% according to the method for the development of the FASFC analysis program will not be exceeded.

In addition to quarantine organisms, some pests are subject of harmonized European emergency control measures. For all of these harmful organisms, the Scientific Committee is also of the opinion that the maximum score of 4 should be attributed to the severity of their adverse effects.

**Uncertainties**

The uncertainties in this advice are those inherent to an expert opinion.

**Conclusions**

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the maximum score of 4 should be attributed to the severity of the adverse effects of all quarantine pests as well as those of all harmful organisms of plants and plant products subject to harmonized European emergency control measures.

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