

**Opinion 15-2021 of the Scientific Committee established at the FASFC on the re-assessment of the ratings of adverse effect of hazards mentioned in the control programme of the FASFC: GMO, antibiotic resistance and microorganisms**

**Question**

The Scientific Committee is asked to determine or to re-assess the scores (on a scale from 1 to 4) of the severity of adverse effects related to hazards, diseases and parameters in the food chain that are monitored by the FASFC (analysis programme within the control programme). This opinion concerns the parameter profiles (set of parameters) of GMOs, microorganisms and antibiotic resistance of the control programme.

**Method**

The opinion is based on expert opinion.

**Conclusion**

The Scientific Committee proposes some changes of the scores of adverse effects of certain parameters applied in the 'GMO', 'Antibiotic Resistance' and 'Microorganisms' monitoring programme.

For the 'GMO' chain the Scientific Committee recommends to add genetically modified microorganisms (GMMs) as a new parameter. For the 'Antibiotic Resistance' chain, the Scientific Committee recommends to increase the score for the parameter profile 'Suspected E. coli ESBL/AmpC/Carba' from '2' to '3', since carbapenem antibiotics are used as last line therapy. The score of the parameter 'methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)' can be lowered from '3' to '2', as the probability of transmission via food consumption is low.

For the 'Micro-organisms' chain microbiological indicators should not be given a score for the importance for public health, but a score for the importance for the proper control of the food safety system. Fungi (count) is an indicator and it is proposed to increase the score for the proper control of the food safety system from 2 to 3. Concerning the parameter 'Cronobacter spp. (detection)', the Scientific Committee recommends to raise the current score from '2' to '4' as it concerns a very serious hazard with high lethality in infants. The score for the harmful effect of qualitative parameters, such as lactic acid bacteria (count) and Streptococcus thermophilus (detection), can be lowered to '1' as they do not represent a risk to public health. The score for Yersinia enterocolitica pathogen (detection) can be increased from '2' to '3', as this is a pathogen that can cause serious disease, but is only lethal in very exceptional cases. Finally, the Scientific Committee recommends that obsolete parameters and parameter profiles be removed from the master data.

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