



# Directorate-General for Health & Food Safety

## Update on regulatory activities following the EFSA opinion on dioxins and DL-PCBs- November 2018

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# Dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs

- EFSA opinion on the Risk for animal and human health related to the presence of dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in feed and food  
TWI of 2 pg TEQ/kg bw/week
- Recommendation that the current WHO<sub>2005</sub>-TEFs (TEF=Toxic Equivalence Factors) should be re-evaluated in order to take into account new in vivo and in vitro data. In particular, more insight into the relative potency of PCB-126 in humans is required.
  - **The Commission shall address to the WHO a formal request for a review of the WHO<sub>2005</sub>-TEF values. Contact have already taken place with WHO and such a review could take place early 2020**

# Dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs

- Need for an updated risk-benefit assessment of fish consumption that takes exposure to PCDD/Fs and DL-PCBs into account.
  - **The Commission shall request EFSA to perform risk-benefit of fish consumption in relation to the presence of PCDD/Fs and DL-PCBs, in support to Member States in defining fish consumption advice (and put it in a wider context). Finalisation of the risk benefit assessment after the review of the TEF values.**
- The Commission shall request EFSA to ensure that all occurrence data currently available in the EFSA database can be within short notice converted to the new TEF values once available
- Review of maximum levels: current available occurrence data indicate that a review of the maximum levels is appropriate and needed. The review of the maximum levels only to be finalised once new TEF values are available but, in the meantime, preparatory discussions shall take place in the working group “Persistent Organic Pollutants in Food”

# Dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs

- Update of Commission Recommendation (EU) 2016/688 of 2 May 2016 on the monitoring and management of the presence of dioxins and PCBs in fish and fishery products from the Baltic region, taking into account the new occurrence data.
- Review of Commission Recommendation 2013/711/EU of 3 December 2013 on the reduction of the presence of dioxins, furans and PCBs in feed and food in view of a review of action levels (as the consequence of the review of the maximum levels) and possible reinforcement on investigations to identify the source of contamination/ measures to be taken to reduce or eliminate the source of contamination.

# Review MLs/Als dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs

- Available occurrence data on dioxins and PCBs in feed and food in the EFSA database indicate that there is scope for a very significant reduction of the current maximum levels for dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs in feed and food.
- However, it is important that with the lowering of the maximum levels the impact on the analysis is carefully considered.

# Review MLs/Als dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs

- The EURL for halogenated persistent organic pollutants (POPs) in feed and food has been requested to analyse the consequences of the achievability of lower levels with the currently used screening and confirmatory methods of analysis and possible consequences for analytical performance criteria.
- A comprehensive report has been prepared by the EURL The EURL has been requested to follow this up within the network of National Reference Laboratories (NRLs).



European  
Commission

**Thank you  
for your  
attention !**