

Advice 21-2012 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the optimization of the methodology of the control program: sampling size for the study of trends

This advice results from a self-tasking dossier aimed at formulating recommendations to optimize the methodology of the control program of the FASFC in order to enable the study of trends. In this regard a distinction has to be made between trend watching and trend analysis. It is examined to what extent the results of the control program can be used for trend analysis.

On one hand, a model is developed to calculate the sampling sizes needed in order to statistically determine, at a particular assumed initial prevalence, the existence of a trend (trend analysis).

On the other hand, a model is developed to calculate the sample sizes in order to confirm, with a particular confidence, an observed trend in a particular prevalence during subsequent years. These models are applied to several case studies.

Finally, the Scientific Committee recommends to include trend watching or trend analysis for appropriate contaminant/matrix combinations in the long term evaluation of the results of the control program.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".