

Opinion 20-2020 of the Scientific Committee established at the FASFC on the Day-care module, a supplement to the generic self-checking guide G-044 for the B2C sector

Terms of reference

The Scientific Committee is asked to evaluate the revision of the "Day-care" module, a supplement to the generic self-checking guide G-044 for the B2C sector, and to verify whether it adequately and correctly addresses the hazards related to the activity. In addition, some questions are asked regarding some specific parts of the module.

Method

The advice is based on expert opinion and scientific literature.

Conclusions

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that in general the revision of the module " Day-care " of the generic self-checking guide for the B2C sector adequately and correctly addresses the hazards related to the activity. The Scientific Committee formulates a number of important remarks and suggestions.

In view of the fact that children in day-care have their own materials (bottles, teats, etc.) provided by their parents the Scientific Committee agrees that bottles and teats should not be sterilized after each use if there are no medical indications for using a sterile feeding bottle. However, to prevent biofilm formation on the teats, screw caps or in the edges of the bottle, it is recommended that the material is regularly sterilized at home, for example on a weekly basis. In addition, the Scientific Committee suggests a visual check for damage or precipitation when the bottles are rinsed out in the day-care center. If any spare feeding bottles remain in the day-care center, it is also recommended to sterilize these feeding bottles regularly. If a feeding bottle is used by more than one child, sterilization after each use is recommended.

The Scientific Committee recommends keeping expressed breast milk refrigerated for a maximum of 2 days in total. If the milk is brought to the day-care center, temperature fluctuations are possible and the breast milk should be consumed within 24 hours. If the breast milk is frozen, it is important to do this immediately after expressing. The Scientific Committee proposes to add a Critical Control Point (CCP) for the storage process of breast milk. It is recommended that the day and hour of expressing and, if frozen, the day and hour of freezing are indicated on the breast milk packaging.

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the storage period of bottled water used for the preparation of infant formula can be extended to 2 or 3 days of chilled storage after opening the bottle, if there is no medical reason justifying the use of sterile materials and water from unopened bottles. In addition, the Scientific Committee makes a number of specific comments to improve the draft text.

The Scientific Committee recommends that the recommendations set out in this opinion be taken into account when revising the "day-care" module.

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