

Summary

Advice 09-2007 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC concerning the medical attestation of persons involved in the production, the processing and the use of foodstuffs.

The Scientific Committee was asked to give an advice on several aspects of the use of a medical certificate for persons working in the food chain. The advice was prepared by a combined workgroup consisting of representatives from the Scientific Committee of the FASFC and the Superior Health Council.

It was stated that a medical “food safety” certificate is useful especially for persons working in the food industry who get in touch with foodstuffs which don’t get any further treatment. Nevertheless it is emphasized that respecting good hygienic practices is fundamental to guarantee the safety of foodstuffs.

In regard to the frequency in which this certificate has to be issued, a distinction has to be made between the moment of recruitment of personnel and the resumption of professional activity after illness.

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the application of this medical certificate has to be accompanied with a list of food born contagious disorders. It is also suggested to publish an information brochure for medical doctors (both working in industrial medicine as in general practice), in which possible disorders and their most important characteristics are listed.

It is recommended to publish a second brochure designated for operators in the food chain in which mainly good hygienic practices are listed with regard to foodborn transmissible disorders.

Finally, with regard to the problem of hepatitis A, the Scientific Committee is of the opinion that if preceding immunity cannot be shown, each person who comes into contact with unpacked foodstuffs, needs to be vaccinated.

The full text is available on <http://www.favv-afsc.fgov.be/wetenschappelijkcomite/adviezen/2007.asp> in French and Dutch.