

**Advice 25-2008 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on acrylamide. Exposure of the Belgian population, contribution of different foodstuff and methodology for defining action limits (dossier Sci Com 2007/37).**

This advice considers the exposure of the Belgian consumer to acrylamide (AA) based on 2002-2007 AA monitoring data of the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain (FASFC) and consumption data (i) of the Belgian food consumption survey performed by the Scientific Institute for Public Health (2004) and (ii) from a nutrient intake study of Flemish pre-school children (2002-2003) conducted by the Ghent University (Department of Public Health) in collaboration with the Nutrition Information Center (NICE). The median exposure to AA, calculated by a probabilistic approach, is 0.2 µg/kg bw per day (P97.5 = 1.6 µg/kg bw per day) for adults and 0.6 µg/kg bw per day (P97.5 = 4.5 µg/kg bw per day) for children. On average, French fries (23% for adults / 19% for children), biscuits (13% / 36%) and bread (12% / 11%) are the main contributors to the AA exposure. Furthermore, also breakfast cereals (10%) and coffee (19%) appear to be relatively important AA sources for children and adults respectively.

In addition, the impact of a number of AA reducing scenarios (German minimalisation concept, scenarios for mitigation from the literature, signal values) on the AA exposure was evaluated. Based on the findings and the available information, concrete actions in cooperation with the food industry to reduce the AA content of foodstuff at risk, seems to be a more effective strategy than mere implementation of signal values. However, signal values can be a concrete means for urging the food industry to take measures in order to minimize the AA content of their products as much as possible. Considering that an important share of the AA exposure is due to prepared meals, the consumer and the catering industry need to be informed as well on the various possibilities for keeping the AA content of meals as low as possible.

In general, the AA exposure can be limited by a varied diet with a moderate consumption of French fries, crisps and coffee.

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