

Advice 17-2016 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the analysis program of the FASFC in regard to microbiological contaminants in milk, eggs, preparations made from milk or eggs, egg products and milk products

Background & Terms of reference

In the context of the evaluation of the analysis program of the FASFC by the Scientific Committee, it is asked to evaluate possible trends based on previous results. Furthermore, it is asked to comment on the relevance of the choices and the application of the statistical approach, on the relevance of the choices of the parameter/matrix combinations and the selected sampling points. Moreover, the Agency asks to clarify the modalities which would allow to set up a multiannual program.

Methodology

The trend of the results of the analysis program of the FASFC for the period 2012-2015 are statistically evaluated (SciCom, 2015). The evaluation of the sampling sizes of the parameter/matrix combinations was based on the results of this trend analysis as well as on expert opinion. The evaluation of the relevance of the choices and the application of the statistical approach, of the relevance of the choices of the parameter/matrix combinations and the sampling sites and the clarification of the modalities to set up a multiannual program was based on expert opinion.

Results

The Scientific Committee approves the choice of the approach based on the principle of vigilance, but proposes however to further evaluate its methodology in a separate dossier. Some optimizations are proposed concerning the distribution of the number of samples on the different parameter/matrix combinations and concerning the distribution of the number of samples on the different sampling sites. The setting up of a multiannual program depends in the first place on pursued objectives by risk manager.

Recommendations

The Scientific Committee formulates recommendations on the relevance of the choices and the application of the statistical approach, on the relevance of the choices of the parameter/matrix combinations and the selected sampling sites (distribution of the samples and the control efforts) and on the establishment of a multiannual program. Some additional recommendations are formulated.

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