SciCom

Scientific Committee of the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain

Advice 17-2017 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the control program of drug residues

Background & Terms of reference

In Belgium, the surveillance of the food chain is based on the control program of the FASFC. The drafting of the control program and its modification rely on European regulations and assessment of relevant risks. Within this context, the Scientific Committee was requested to evaluate the 2017 drug residue control program as well as the control results from 2012 to 2015 (proportions of non-conformities, trends). Further on it was also asked to evaluate the statistical bases of the control program related to drug residues in animal samples, food and feed, the guaranteed drug levels in medicated feed and the guaranteed additive contents in feed (coccidiostats and antibiotics).

Methodology

The advice of the Scientific Committee is based on expert opinions and on a statistical methodology for trend analysis. To compare with the situation in other member states, the 2014's technical report of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) as well as the 2015's report on surveillance and control plans for feed and vegetal food in France (DGAL) were used.

Results and conclusions

The results of the control plan for drug residues in the Belgian food chain (period 2012-2015) show a significant decreasing trend in the detected proportions of non-conformities (particularly, a significant decreasing trend for coccidiostats). For the latter, Belgium shows similar trends as those observed by EFSA.
The Scientific Committee approves the control program of 2017.
Remarks and recommendations were given on trends, comparisons with other member states (particularly with France), the statistical approach in the control program, the gaps or matrix/danger combinations not yet covered.
Concerning recommendations, the attention was drawn to control antibiotic residues in the context of the development of antimicrobial resistances.

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