

Advice 18-2019 of the Scientific Committee established at the FASFC on weight factors for the indicators of the food chain safety barometers (version 2)

Background & Terms of reference

The barometers for food safety, for animal health and for plant health were developed in 2010 as a tool to provide consumers as well as food chain sectors a clear picture of the state and change of the safety of the food chain in Belgium. The concept is based on a set of indicators that allow measuring the safety of the food chain on an annual basis (SciCom opinions 28-2010, 09-2011 en 10-2011).

The barometers are calculated as the average of the differences in terms of percentage between the results of the indicators for two successive years. This calculation takes into account the relative importance of each indicator for food safety, animal and plant health respectively (SciCom opinion 11-2012).

An extensive revision has resulted in a new version (version 2) of the food safety barometer (SciCom opinion 06-2018), the animal health barometer (SciCom opinion 07-2018) and the plant health barometer (SciCom opinion 08-2018). In this way new sets of 22 food safety, 15 animal health and 11 plant health indicators were identified. So far, no weighting of indicators has been carried out in the new version, as was the case in the original version (version 1) of the barometers, resulting in a similar importance of each indicator in the calculation of the final result of the barometers.

In order to determine the weight factors for the indicators of the three barometers a similar procedure was followed as described in SciCom opinion 11-2012 (SciCom, 2012). The Scientific Committee questioned several interested persons or stakeholders on the importance they attach to the various indicators for food safety, animal health and plant health. The results of this survey are presented in this opinion.

Method

The weighting factors for the indicators of the 3 barometers (version 2) were calculated based on an elaborated consultation of responsible policy actors, experts and stakeholders of the food chain.

Conclusion

The Scientific Committee proposes that the weighting factors given in the present opinion are applied in the final calculation of the barometers version 2 in order to account for the relative importance of the indicators for food safety, animal health and plant health respectively.

The full text is available on this website in Dutch and in French.