

Food and feed law:

A review of changes in food and feed legislation and associated activity affecting the UK April – June 2015 Government Chemist Programme Report 17 July 2015





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April - June 2015

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Report no. LGC/R/2015/443

Approved by:

Date: 17 July 2015

Preparation of this report was funded by the UK National Measurement System.

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Introduction to 'Food and feed law' review series

This is the third in a series of quarterly reports that will provide regular updates on developments in food and feed law and related scientific and regulatory issues.

They form part of the Government Chemist project 'Support for the Government Chemist statutory function', which is one of the projects in the 2014-2017 programme. The primary purpose of the report is to track changes in food and agricultural legislation, concentrating on legislative changes that relate to chemical measurement and the role of the Government Chemist. It also includes general issues in food and feed to ensure contextual awareness.

The reports in this series will group the legislation into six broad categories; although the categories may not always be populated in every report.

The categories are:

- 1. Cross-cutting issues
- 2. Food safety
 - Including contaminants, food contact materials, and additives.
- 3. Consumer choice and prevention of fraud
 - Including composition and general labelling
- 4. Health and nutrition
 - Including nutrition labelling, nutrients and supplements.
- 5. Regulation
 - Regulatory activities and overarching provisions.
- 6. Feeding stuffs and fertilisers
 - Animal feed and fertilisers.

European measures are normally listed first, along with the implementing domestic legislation, followed by purely domestic legislation. English regulations are cited in the text; however for significant measures, where equivalent regulations have been made at the same time for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, devolved references are given. Potentially temporary and local measures, such as prohibition legislation for shellfish harvesting areas, have not been recorded.

Please note – legislation in force and made prior to June 2015 will not necessarily be reiterated herein. No responsibility can be taken for the use made of any view, information or advice given. In particular, any view, information or advice given should not be taken as an authoritative statement or interpretation of the law, as this is a matter for the courts.

Hyperlinks in the document were accessed and available at the date of this report.

For any specific legislation this document should be read with the actual measure. Readers must always come to their own view on legislation in force, with expert public analyst and/or legal assistance if appropriate.

The sources of information used have been Office of Public Sector Information (<u>OPSI</u>), Food Standards Agency (FSA) updates, European Food Safety Authority (<u>EFSA</u>) and the European legislative information database, <u>EUR-Lex</u>. Extensive use has been made of the explanatory notes that accompany each set of domestic regulations.

Executive summary

This report provides an update on developments in food and feed law and related scientific and regulatory issues for the period from April to June 2015.

During this quarter, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) rescinded its recall of cumin alleged to contain undeclared almond on 29 June 2015 as a result of an investigation by the Government Chemist at the request of FSA. Almond is a member of the large genus 'Prunus'. Following an extensive investigation the Government Chemist found that although limitations still remain in the state of the science that prevent the presence of almond being completely ruled out, the queried sample contained Prunus protein and DNA, the origin of which was consistent with a previously little known Prunus species, mahaleb rather than almond.

There have been significant changes to food and feed legislation in this quarter, which are detailed in this report. These include changes to regulations for various contaminants in foodstuffs including lead, inorganic arsenic and erucic acid. For the latter a prescribed method of analysis was dropped in favour of prescribed method performance characteristics allowing the most up to date procedures to be applied. Changes to legal limits for non-dioxin like PCBs in spiny dogfish were introduced and monitoring for scopolamine and atropine were advocated with comments on methods.

Changes to maximum residue levels (MRLs) were introduced for some pesticides and veterinary medicinal products and the Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015 were made revoking the previous statutory instruments and consolidating their provisions regarding maximum residue limits of veterinary residues in foodstuffs of animal origin.

The Country of Origin of Certain Meats (England) Regulations 2015 came into force regarding the provenance or country of origin of certain types of meats (fresh, chilled and frozen meat of swine, sheep, goats and poultry). These changes are intended to inform consumers and aid traceability in the food chain.

A number of Regulations were made authorising the placing on the market of food containing or consisting of certain genetically modified organisms (GMOs) or food and feed produced from those GMOs. However Commission Directive 2015/412 permitted Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in their territory. This devolves responsibility in this matter to Member States.

The Food Standards Agency published its latest Annual Report of Food Incidents. It showed that in 2014 the overall number of incidents was similar to those seen in recent years. The five largest contributors to the total number of recorded incidents in 2014 were microbiological contamination (24%), veterinary medicines (13%), environmental contamination (12%), natural chemical contamination (9%) and allergens (8%).

Animal feed hygiene, sampling and enforcement, and separately, composition, marketing and use regulations were introduced revoking and consolidating previous similar measures. Referral to the Government Chemist was among the many provisions re-made.

Legislation on food additives, import controls, compositional standards for condensed and dried milk, and for honey, and novel foods also feature in this report of changes.

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Cross Cutting Issues

Cumin alleged to contain almond

In October 2014, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency – Agence Canadienne d'inspection des aliments (CFIA-ACIA) discovered undeclared peanut and almond protein in products containing cumin following random testing for allergens. This led to widespread recalls of cumin products in North America. One set of recalls started in autumn 2014 and related to peanut and almond, and a second larger recall started in December 2014 for peanut only. The products involved were salsas, spices including paprika, and spice mixes and seasonings. Use of the latter in meat products led to their recall. Hummus was also affected. None of the North American recalled products were distributed in the UK. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) reported around a dozen allergic reactions; however the severity of them was not made clear.

On 31 January 2015, in the UK the Food Standards Agency (FSA) on a precautionary basis recalled ground cumin in which almond had been found. On 12 and 14 February, FSA issued two further recalls on undeclared almond protein in fajita meal/dinner kits and seasoning mixes. It appears that a batch of paprika was the likely source (Santa Maria). Denmark, Sweden and Norway also issued alerts / recalls.

The UK cumin case was referred by the Food Standards Agency to the Government Chemist for investigation in its referee analyst function. While this investigation was ongoing in the UK, the CFIA-ACIA, on 30 April 2015, rescinded the food recall warnings issued on 20 and 22 March 2015. CFIA-ACIA advised that additional testing had confirmed that the original laboratory results were false positives. New evidence was reported regarding the cross-reactivity of mahaleb, a spice obtained from a specific species (*Prunus mahaleb*) of cherry seeds, with the almond allergen test kit. CFIA-ACIA regarded it as highly likely that the positive sample results for the ground cumin and cumin-containing products were due to mahaleb contamination and not almond.¹

Almond is a member of the large genus 'Prunus'; *Prunus mahaleb* was previously little known in the UK but was said also to have been handled in the cumin supply chain. The Government Chemist was asked if it is possible to tell whether almond or mahaleb, or both, was present in the UK sample.

The analytical chemistry and molecular biology of Prunus species in spices are not well represented in the scientific literature. ELISA, the most commonly applied technique for the detection of food allergens, reacts to several common Prunus species, as do commercially available PCR DNA assays. There is no available DNA assay that appears specific to almond only.

In order to investigate the issue, a multidisciplinary team of scientists from the Government Chemist programme looked at routine ELISA tests used previously and applied advanced DNA and mass spectrometry techniques to determine the differences in DNA and protein structures that distinguish almond and mahaleb. Evidence from all three techniques was used to resolve the problem.

Prunus species protein was confirmed present in the UK cumin sample above the limit of quantification of three ELISA platforms with statistical significance. A specially developed real-

¹ http://www.inspection.gc.ca/about-the-cfia/newsroom/food-recall-warnings/complete-listing/2015-04-30/eng/1430432363404/1430432364107

time PCR method generated a response consistent with mahaleb DNA being present in the sample. The significant sequence homology across Prunus species prevented the simultaneous development of a set of DNA assays specific to almond and other common Prunus species. However chromatographic and mass spectrometric signals related to almond and / or mahaleb kernels suggest that mahaleb protein was present in the laboratory sample. No peptide occurring solely in almond kernel was detected.

Although limitations still remain in the state of the science that prevent the presence of almond being completely ruled out, the results of the investigation indicated that the queried sample contains Prunus protein and DNA, the origin of which is consistent with mahaleb rather than almond.

As a result of these findings, the UK Food Standards Agency also rescinded² the recall of a batch of ground cumin sold by the Bart Ingredients Company on 29 June 2015.

Food Safety

Contaminants

Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 remains the primary European legislation, the latest consolidated version of which was in September 2014.

Erucic acid

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 sets maximum levels for erucic acid in vegetable oils and fats intended as such for human consumption, foods containing added vegetable oils and fats, infant formulae and follow-on formulae.

Commission Regulation 2015/705³ was made in the quarter on methods of sampling and performance criteria for the methods of analysis for erucic acid in foodstuffs and repealed Commission Directive 80/891/EEC. No specific method is given; rather laboratory quality standards and the expected performance characteristics of a validated method are stipulated together with sampling plans and criteria for acceptance or rejection of lots and consignments.

Metals

Lead, Pb

Commission Regulation 2015/1005⁴ amended Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 with regard to lead, Pb:

- Reduce maximum permitted concentrations of Pb in infant formulae and follow-on formulae.
- Establish new Pb maxima processed cereal-based foods and baby foods for infants and young children, food for special medical purposes for infants and young children and drinks.
- New occurrence data allow some of the existing exemptions from default maximum levels to be dispensed with as no longer necessary, specifically, brassica other than leafy brassica, fresh legumes, most of the berries and small fruits. Existing maximum

² <u>http://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/news/2015/14105/cumin-recall-rescinded</u>

³ <u>http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:JOL_2015_113_R_0005&from=EN</u>

⁴ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2015.161.01.0009.01.ENG

levels are lowered for cephalopods, most fruiting vegetables, most fruit juices, wine and aromatised wine.

- For salsify, a root vegetable belonging to the dandelion family which is also known as the oyster plant, compliance with current maximum levels is difficult. Since consumption of this commodity is low and human exposure negligible, the maximum levels of Pb for salsify have been raised.
- Erratic findings of high levels of lead in honey have triggered enforcement action by Member States at differing levels of lead therefore a harmonised maximum level for lead in honey is set.

As consumption of tea and herbal infusions can be an important contributor to dietary exposure, a maximum level for these commodities is needed. However, in absence of data on dry tea leaves and dry parts of other plants for the preparation of herbal infusions allowing the establishment of such a maximum level, occurrence data are recommended to be collected for the possible establishment of a specific maximum level in the future.

Legislation related to processed cereal-based foods, baby foods for infants and young children and dietary foods for special medical purposes has been replaced necessitating changes to certain endnotes.

To allow time to adapt to the new maxima, the date of application of the new maximum levels of lead is deferred to 1 January 2016.

Inorganic Arsenic, iAs

Commission Regulation 2015/1006⁵ amended Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 as regards maximum levels of inorganic arsenic in certain foodstuffs. The maximum level for arsenic in some products has been reduced.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) produced an opinion on arsenic in food in 2009 which identified that a previous provisional tolerable weekly intake (PTWI) was no longer appropriate as inorganic arsenic causes cancer of the lung and urinary bladder in addition to skin, and that a range of adverse effects had been reported at exposures lower than those previously reviewed. Instead, a range of benchmark dose lower confidence limits for cancers of the lung, skin and bladder, as well as skin lesions were established. Exposures to inorganic arsenic for average and high level consumers in Europe are within the range of the benchmark values identified, and the possibility of a risk to some consumers cannot be excluded. EFSA identified high consumers of rice in Europe, such as certain ethnic groups, and children under three years of age, as the most vulnerable to inorganic arsenic dietary exposure.

Analysis for inorganic arsenic is reliable for rice and rice based products, allowing maximum levels for inorganic arsenic to be set for these products. The scientific information on the need for a specific maximum level for parboiled milled rice is very recent. Therefore, Member States are recommended to collect additional data before 1 January 2018 on the inorganic arsenic content of this commodity in order to confirm the need for a specific maximum level for this commodity and to reassess the maximum limit.

The occurrence data demonstrate that rice waffles, rice wafers, rice crackers and rice cakes can contain high levels of inorganic arsenic and these commodities can make an important contribution to the dietary exposure of infants and young children. Therefore, a specific maximum level for these commodities has been set.

⁵ <u>http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.161.01.0014.01.ENG</u>

Rice is an important ingredient in a broad variety of food for infants and young children. Therefore, a specific maximum level has been established for this commodity when used as an ingredient for the production of such food.

For information the limits set for inorganic arsenic, sum of As(III) and As(V), are:

Non-parboiled milled rice (polished or white rice)	0.2 mg kg ⁻¹
Parboiled rice and husked rice	0.25 mg kg ⁻¹
Rice waffles, rice wafers, rice crackers and rice cakes	0.3 mg kg ⁻¹
Rice destined for the production of food for infants and	0.1 mg kg ⁻¹
young children	

Rice, husked rice, milled rice and parboiled rice are as defined in Codex Standard 198-1995.

To allow time to adapt to the new maxima the date of application of the maximum levels of inorganic arsenic is deferred to 1 January 2016.

Professor Andy Meharg of Queen's University Belfast has carried out informative studies on Arsenic in rice.⁶ Government Chemist scientists also have considerable expertise in Arsenic analysis and speciation.⁷

Mycotoxins

In June 2015, Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/949⁸ was approved following FVO audits, the pre-export checks carried out for ochratoxin A in wheat and wheat flour from Canada and aflatoxins in groundnuts and almonds from the USA. Each consignment arriving at an EU Border Inspection Post (BIP) must be accompanied by a report containing the results of sampling and analysis performed in accordance with the provisions of Commission Regulation (EC) No 401/2006, or with equivalent requirements, by a laboratory approved for that purpose by the competent authority of the exporting country. As a consequence the frequency of sampling and analysis at the BIP can be reduced to less than 1 % of consignments.

Commission Regulation 2015/704⁹ amended Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 to increase the maximum level of non-dioxin-like PCBs in wild caught spiny dogfish (*Squalus acanthias*) to 200 ng/g wet weight as the current maximum level of 75 ng/g wet weight is not achievable on many occasions following good fishery practices under normal catch and growing conditions.

Tropane alkaloids - scopolamine and atropine

The presence of tropane alkaloids in genus *Datura* is well known. *D. stramonium* is widely distributed in temperate and tropical regions and for this reason its seeds have been found as impurities in linseed, soybean, sorghum, millet, sunflower and buckwheat and products thereof. The *D. stramonium* seeds cannot be easily removed from sorghum, millet and buckwheat by

⁶ <u>http://pure.qub.ac.uk/portal/en/persons/andy-meharg(7ec0f8da-1d21-4903-9a6f-9b1ac32afc44)/publications.html</u>

⁷ Garcia-Sartal, Cristina, Sutthinun Taebunpakul, Emma Stokes, María del Carmen Barciela-Alonso, Pilar Bermejo-Barrera, and Heidi Goenaga-Infante. "Two-dimensional HPLC coupled to ICP-MS and electrospray ionisation (ESI)-MS/MS for investigating the bioavailability in vitro of arsenic species from edible seaweed." *Analytical and bioanalytical chemistry* 402, no. 10 (2012): 3359-3369. http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00216-011-5483-4

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.156.01.0002.01.ENG

⁹ <u>http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:JOL_2015_113_R_0004&from=EN</u>

sorting and cleaning. Hence Commission Recommendation $2015/976^{10}$ concerns the monitoring of the presence of tropane alkaloids in food. The tropane alkaloids which should be monitored are scopolamine and atropine. The trade should be actively involved and sampling should follow procedures laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 401/2006. The method of analysis to be used for monitoring is preferably high performance liquid chromatography — mass spectrometry/(mass spectrometry) (LC-MS/(MS)) or, if this is not possible, gas chromatography — mass spectrometry (GC-MS). The Limit of Quantification (LOQ) for atropine (racemic mixture of hyoscyamine enantiomers) and scopolamine should be preferably below 5 μ g/kg and not higher 10 μ g/kg for agricultural commodities, ingredients, food supplements and herbal teas and should preferably be lower than 2 μ g/kg for finished foods (e.g. breakfast cereals) and 1 μ g/kg for cereal-based foods for infants and young children.

Food additives

Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 lays down a European Union list of food additives approved for use in foods and their conditions of use and Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1334/2008 lays down a European Union list of flavourings and source materials approved for use in and on foods and their conditions of use. Commission non-official guidance describes the food categories in Part E of Annex II to Regulation 1333/2008.¹¹ In this guarter, Annex II was amended three times by:

- Commission Regulation 2015/53¹² as regards the use of aluminium lakes of cochineal, carminic acid, carmines (E 120) in dietary foods for special medical purposes.
- Commission Regulation 2015/538¹³ as regards the use of benzoic acid benzoates (E 210-213) in cooked shrimps in brine.
- Commission Regulation 2015/649¹⁴ permitted the use of L-leucine as a carrier for tabletop sweeteners in tablets

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/596¹⁵ amended Regulation (EC) No 606/2009 that sets out the maximum permissible total sulphur dioxide content of wine to increase in the maximum total sulphur dioxide content for certain wines. The German authorities requested the increase to 350 milligrams per litre for wine produced from grapes harvested in 2014 in the wine-growing areas of the German Länder 'Baden-Württemberg', 'Bavaria', 'Hessen' and 'Rhineland Palatinate'. Warm and humid weather during harvest fostered the development of pests producing pyruvate, acetaldehyde and alpha-ketoglutaric acid that bind to sulphur dioxide and reduce its preservative action.

Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 1333/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council sets out a list of food additives approved for use *in* food additives, food enzymes, flavourings, nutrients and their conditions of use. Commission Regulation 2015/639¹⁶ amended the list to permit the use of silicon dioxide (E 551) in polyvinyl alcohol-polyethylene glycol-graft-co-polymer (E 1209).

¹⁰ <u>http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L</u>.2015.157.01.0097.01.ENG

¹¹ http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/fAEF/additives/guidance_en.print.htm

¹² http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.088.01.0001.01.ENG

¹³ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.088.01.0004.01.ENG

¹⁴ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:JOL_2015_107_R_0003&from=EN

¹⁵ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.099.01.0021.01.ENG

¹⁶ <u>http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L</u>.2015.106.01.0016.01.ENG

Food contact materials

The Commission published an assessment of the current situation concerning food contact materials for which there are no specific harmonised measures at EU level.¹⁷

Marine biotoxins

No new centrally published updates in this guarter.

Pesticides

Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 deals with the placing of plant protection products on the market. Regulation (EC) NO 396/2005 governs maximum residue levels (MRLs) of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin; Annexes II, III and V to the regulation were amended as follows in the quarter:

- Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/399¹⁸ on MRLs for 1,4-dimethylnaphthalene, • benfuracarb, carbofuran, carbosulfan, ethephon, fenamidone, fenvalerate, fenhexamid, furathiocarb, imazapyr, malathion, picoxystrobin, spirotetramat, tepraloxydim and trifloxystrobin in or on certain products.
- Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/400¹⁹ on MRLs for bone oil, carbon • monoxide, cyprodinil, dodemorph, iprodione, metaldehyde, metazachlor, paraffin oil (CAS 64742-54-7), petroleum oils (CAS 92062-35-6) and propargite in or on certain products.
- Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/401²⁰ on MRLs for acetamiprid, chromafenozide, cyazofamid, dicamba, difenoconazole, fenpyrazamine, fluazinam, formetanate, nicotine, penconazole, pymetrozine, pyraclostrobin, tau-fluvalinate and tebuconazole in or on certain products.
- Commission Regulation 2015/552²¹ on MRLs for 1,3-dichloropropene, bifenox, • dimethenamid-P, prohexadione, tolylfluanid and trifluralin in or on certain products. This list of products is very extensive and goes acrosss all types of foodtsuffs.
- Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/603²² on MRLs for 2-naphthyloxyacetic acid, acetochlor, chloropicrin, diflufenican, flurprimidol, flutolanil and spinosad in or on certain products.
- Commission Regulation 2015/896²³ on MRLs for *Trichoderma polysporum* strain IMI 206039, Trichoderma asperellum (formerly T. harzianum) strains ICC012, T25 and TV1, Trichoderma atroviride (formerly T. harzianum) strains IMI 206040 and T11, Trichoderma harzianum strains T-22 and ITEM 908, Trichoderma gamsii (formerly T. viride) strain ICC080, Trichoderma asperellum (strain T34), Trichoderma atroviride strain I-1237, geraniol, thymol, sucrose, ferric sulphate (iron (III) sulphate), ferrous sulphate (iron (II) sulphate) and folic acid in or on certain products.
- Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/149²⁴ amends the Annex to Regulation (EU) • No 37/2010 as regards the substance 'methylprednisolone'. This changes the MRLs for this substance in equine and bovine tissues and products.
- Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/150²⁵ amended the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 37/2010 as regards the substance 'gamithromycin'. This changes the MRLs for this substance in porcine and bovine tissues.

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.092.01.0020.01.ENG

¹⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/food/chemicalsafety/foodcontact/emerging_en.htm

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2015.071.01.0001.01.ENG 19

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.071.01.0056.01.ENG

²⁰ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.071.01.0114.01.ENG 21

²² http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.100.01.0010.01.ENG

²³ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.147.01.0003.01.ENG 24

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2015.026.01.0007.01.ENG

- Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/151²⁶ amended the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 37/2010 as regards the substance 'doxycycline'. This changes the MRLs for this substance the tissues of all food-producing species.
- Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/152²⁷ amended the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 37/2010 as regards the substance 'tulathromycin'. This changes the MRLs for this substance in ovine, caprine, porcine and bovine tissues.
- Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/595²⁸ set out a coordinated multiannual control programme of the EU for 2016, 2017 and 2018 to ensure compliance with MRLs of pesticides and to assess the consumer exposure to pesticide residues in and on food of plant and animal origin.
- Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/408²⁹ implements Article 80(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and establishing a list of candidates for substitution. This regulation provides comprehensive lists of those substances which are considered to have endocrine-disrupting properties (EDCs) or are persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBTs).
- Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/415³⁰ amends Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011 as regards the extension of the approval periods of the active substances ethephon and fenamiphos.
- Commission Implementing Regulation 215/553³¹ approves the active substance cerevisane, in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market, and amending the Annex to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011.
- Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/707³² concerns the non-approval of *Rheum* officinale root extract as a basic substance in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council.
- Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/762³³ approves the basic substance calcium hydroxide in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market, and amending the Annex to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 540/2011.
- Commission Regulation 2015/846³⁴ amends Annexes II and III to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards MRLs for acetamiprid, ametoctradin, amisulbrom, bupirimate, clofentezine, ethephon, ethirimol, fluopicolide, imazapic, propamocarb, pyraclostrobin and tau-fluvalinate in or on certain products.

This is a comprehensive change of MRLs across a very wide range of products. Commission Regulation 2015/868³⁵ amends Annexes II, III and V to Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards MRLs for 2,4,5-T, barban,

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2015.026.01.0010.01.ENG
 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2015.026.01.0013.01.ENG
 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2015.026.01.0016.01.ENG
 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2015.026.01.0016.01.ENG
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³¹ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.092.01.0086.01.ENG ³² http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:JOL_2015_113_R_0007&from=EN

 ¹¹ http://eur-lex.eu/opa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:JOL_2015_120_R_0003&from=EN
 ³³ http://eur-lex.eu/opa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:JOL_2015_120_R_0003&from=EN

³⁴ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.140.01.0001.01.ENG

³⁵ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2015.145.01.0001.01.ENG

binapacryl, bromophos-ethyl, camphechlor (toxaphene), chlorbufam, chloroxuron, chlozolinate, DNOC, di-allate, dinoseb, dinoterb, dioxathion, ethylene oxide, fentin acetate, fentin hydroxide, flucycloxuron, flucythrinate, formothion, mecarbam, methacrifos, monolinuron, phenothrin, propham, pyrazophos, quinalphos, resmethrin, tecnazene and vinclozolin in or on certain products. The residue definition for binapacryl, dinoseb, fentin acetate and fentin hydroxide has been changed; lower MRLs for some of these substances reflect the ability of laboratories to detect lower levels.

Transmissible spongiform encephalopathies

Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 laid down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) in animals. It applies to the production and placing on the market of live animals and products of animal origin and in certain specific cases to exports thereof. Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 provides that specified risk material (SRM) is to be removed and disposed of in accordance with Annex V to that Regulation. In accordance with that Annex, SRM includes the intestines from the duodenum to the rectum and the mesentery of bovine animals of all ages. The Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council — The TSE Roadmap 2 — A Strategy Paper on Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies for 2010-2015 of 16 July 2010 (2) states that any amendment of the current list of SRM referred to in Annex V to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 (the 'list of SRM') should be based on new evolving scientific knowledge, while maintaining the existing high level of consumer protection within the Union.

Commission Regulation 2015/728³⁶ amended the definition of specified risk material set out in Annex V to Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies. On the basis of a recent EFSA Opinion and of the recommendations of the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Terrestrial Animal Health Code, the list of SRM concerning bovine animals has been amended so as to include the last four metres of the small intestine, the caecum and the mesentery (which cannot be dissociated from the mesenteric nerves, the celiac and mesenteric ganglion complex and the mesenteric fat), but to exclude the remaining parts of the bovine intestines, namely the duodenum, the colon and the small intestine except for the last four metres.

Veterinary residues

Commission Regulation (EU) No 37/2010 of 22 December 2009 deals with maximum residue limits of veterinary medicinal products in foodstuffs of animal origin. The Regulation was amended in the quarter:

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/39437 amended the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 37/2010 as regards the substance 'tulathromycin' ((2R,3S,4R,5R,8R,10R,11R,12S, 13S,14R)-2-ethyl-3,4,10,13-tetra-hydroxy-3,5,8,10,12,14-hexamethyl-11-[[3,4,6-trideoxy-3-(dimethy-lamino)ß-D-xylo-hexopyranosyl]oxy]-1-oxa-6-azacyclopent-decan-15-one expressed as tulathromycin equivalents). This revises the MRLs for this substance in various tissues in ovine, caprine, bovine and porcine species.

³⁶ <u>http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.116.01.0001.01.ENG</u>

³⁷ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2015.066.01.0001.01.ENG

Commission Implementing Regulation 1390/2014³⁸ amended the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 37/2010, as regards the substance 'eprinomectin'. This changes the MRLs for this substance in bovine, ovine and caprine tissues.

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/149³⁹ amended the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 37/2010 as regards the substance 'methylprednisolone'. This changes the MRLs for this substance in equine and bovine tissues and products.

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/150⁴⁰ amended the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 37/2010 as regards the substance 'gamithromycin'. This changes the MRLs for this substance in porcine and bovine tissues.

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/151⁴¹ amended the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 37/2010 as regards the substance 'doxycycline'. This changes the MRLs for this substance the tissues of all food-producing species.

The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (England and Scotland) Regulations 2015⁴² revoke the current statutory instruments and consolidate their provisions. The Regulations implement Council Directive 96/22/EC concerning the prohibition on the use in stockfarming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and of beta-agonists(a) and Council Directive 96/23/EC on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products(b) and provide for the execution and enforcement of Regulation (EC) No 470/2009 laying down Community procedures for the establishment of residue limits of pharmacologically active substances in foodstuffs of animal origin and Commission Regulation (EU) No 37/2010 on pharmacologically active substances and their classification regarding maximum residue limits in foodstuffs of animal origin.

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/446⁴³ amended Regulation (EU) No 37/2010 as regards the substance 'barium selenate'. The Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use ('CVMP') confirmed its initial recommendation that there is no need to establish an MRL for barium selenate for bovine and ovine species. However, the CVMP concluded that because of the fact that the depletion of the substance and its residue selenium from an injection site is extremely slow, there is a risk that consumption of an injection site would lead to an intake of selenium greater than the established safe level. Therefore, to ensure that consumers' exposure to selenium is not above the established tolerable upper intake level, the CVMP recommended that barium selenate used in veterinary medicinal products should not be administered by injection.

Consumer choice

Food labelling

The primary legislation is now Regulation 1169/2011⁴⁴ on the provision of food information to consumers, EU FIC. A useful summary of links to the legislation and guidance has been provided by Dr David Jukes of the University of Reading.⁴⁵ Domestic implementation is

³⁸ <u>http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2014.369.01.0065.01.ENG</u>

³⁹ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2015.026.01.0007.01.ENG

⁴⁰ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal.content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJL_.2015.026.01.0010.01.ENG

⁴¹ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.026.01.0013.01.ENG

⁴² http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/787/pdfs/uksi_20150787_en.pdf

⁴³ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.074.01.0018.01.ENG

⁴⁴ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:304:0018:0063:EN:PDF

⁴⁵ http://www.reading.ac.uk/foodlaw/label/links.htm

effected in England by the Food Information Regulations (SI 2014 No 1855)⁴⁶, in Northern Ireland by the Food Information Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 (SR 2014 No 223)⁴⁷ and, in the present quarter, Wales brought out the Food Information Regulations (Wales) 2014 (SI 2014 No 2303, W227)⁴⁸. Information is available on the Commission website.⁴⁹ Guidance on nutrition labelling is available on the Commission website.⁵⁰

Country of Origin Labelling

The Country of Origin of Certain Meats (England) Regulations 2015 (SI 518)⁵¹ modified certain provisions of the Food Safety Act 1990, and implemented Articles 3 to 6 and 8 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 1337/2013 regarding the provenance or country of origin of certain types of meats (fresh, chilled and frozen meat of swine, sheep, goats and poultry).

Article 26(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 sets out the obligation to indicate on the label the country of origin or place of provenance of chilled and frozen meat of swine, sheep or goats and poultry. Regulation (EU) No 1337/2013 seeks to strike a balance between the need of the consumers to be informed and the additional cost for operators and national authorities, which also has an impact on the final price of the product. Studies show that consumers require information on the place where the animal was reared. Mandatory information on the place of birth of the animal would require the establishment of new traceability systems at farm level while labelling the place of slaughter can be done at an affordable cost and gives valuable information to the consumer. As regards the geographical level there is evidence that indication of the Member State or third country would be the most relevant information for consumers.

Within Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 the concept of 'country of origin' of a food is determined in accordance with Articles 23 to 26 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/92 (2). For animal products that concept refers to the country in which the animal was born, reared and slaughtered. When several countries have been involved in the production of a food, that concept refers to the country where the products have undergone their last substantial and economically justified processing or working. However, applying it to situations in which the meat comes from animals which were born, reared and slaughtered in different countries would not sufficiently inform the consumers about the origin of that meat. Therefore, in all those situations it is necessary to provide for an indication, on the label, of the Member State or third country where the animal has been reared for a period representing a substantial part of the normal cycle of rearing for each species, as well as of the Member State or third country where it has been slaughtered. The term 'origin' should be reserved for meat obtained from animals born, reared and slaughtered, and therefore wholly obtained, in one single Member State or third country. For the cases in which the animal has been reared in several Member States or third countries and the rearing period cannot be met, an appropriate indication of the place of rearing should be provided for so that the consumer needs are better met and unnecessary complexity of the label is avoided.

Other rules are set out for traceability, packages containing pieces of meat of the same or different species obtained from animals reared and slaughtered in different Member States or third countries, minced meat and trimmings, and voluntary declarations.

⁴⁶ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/1855/pdfs/uksi_20141855_en.pdf

⁴⁷ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2014/223/pdfs/nisr_20140223_en.pdf

⁴⁸ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2014/2303/pdfs/wsi_20142303_mi.pdf

⁴⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/labellingnutrition/foodlabelling/proposed_legislation_en.htm

⁵⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/labellingnutrition/nutritionlabel/index_en.htm

⁵¹ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/518/pdfs/uksi 20150518 en.pdf

The Country of Origin of Certain Meats (England) Regulations 2015 sets out the competent authorities for Regulation 1337/2013 (each food authority, including port health authorities, in its area or district) and requires food business operators to keep records for 12 months from the end of the calendar year to which each record relates. Certain provisions of the Food Safety Act 1990 as amended are applied including enabling an improvement notice to be served requiring compliance make the failure to comply with an improvement notice an offence.

Fish labelling

The Fish Labelling Regulations 2013 (in each UK country) as amended remain the principle statutory provisions. A short guide to the EU's new fish and aquaculture consumer labels has been produced (with thanks to Dr Stephen Pugh, Defra, for drawing attention to this).⁵²

Genetically Modified Organisms

Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council provides for the authorisation, labelling and supervision of genetically modified food and feed.⁵³ The Regulation was amended eleven times in the guarter.

- Commission Implementing Decision 2015/683⁵⁴ authorised the placing on the market of • products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified maize MON 87460 (MON 8746Ø-4).
- Commission Implementing Decision 2015/684⁵⁵ authorised the placing on the market of • genetically modified maize NK603 (MON-ØØ6Ø3-6) and renewing the existing maize NK603 (MON-ØØ6Ø3-6) products.
- Commission Implementing Decision 2015/686⁵⁶ authorised the placing on the market of • products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified soybean MON 87769 (MON-87769-7).
- Commission Implementing Decision 2015/687⁵⁷ authorised the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified oilseed rape MON 88302 (MON-883Ø2-9).
- Commission Implementing Decision 2015/694⁵⁸ authorised the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified soybean BPS-CV127-9 (BPS-CV127-9).
- Commission Implementing Decision 2015/696⁵⁹ authorised the placing on the market of • products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified soybean MON87705 (MON-877Ø5-6).
- Commission Implementing Decision 2015/697⁶⁰ authorised the placing on the market of • genetically modified maize T25 (ACS-ZMØØ3-2) and renewing the existing maize T25 (ACS-ZMØØ3-2) products.

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.112.01.0022.01.ENG

⁵² http://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/documentation/publications/eu-new-fish-and-aquaculture-consumerlabels-pocket-guide en.pdf

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?gid=1436450297142&uri=CELEX:02003R1829-20080410

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2015.112.01.0001.01.ENG

⁵⁵ http://eur-le<u>x.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.112.01.0006.01.ENG</u>

⁵⁶ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.112.01.0016.01.ENG 57

⁵⁸ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.112.01.0040.01.ENG ⁵⁹ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.112.01.0060.01.ENG

⁶⁰ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2015.112.01.0066.01.ENG

- Commission Implementing Decision 2015/698⁶¹ authorised the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified soybean 305423 (DP-3Ø5423-1).
- Commission Implementing Decision 2015/699⁶² authorised the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified cotton T304-40 (BCS-GHØØ4-7).
- Commission Implementing Decision 2015/700⁶³ authorised the placing on the market of products containing, consisting of, or produced from genetically modified soybean MON87708 (MON-877Ø8-9).
- Commission Implementing Decision 2015/701⁶⁴ authorised the placing on the market of food containing or consisting of genetically modified oilseed rape GT73, or food and feed produced from that genetically modified organism.

Cultivation of GMOs

Commission Directive 2015/412⁶⁵ amends Directive 2001/18/EC as regards the possibility for the Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in their territory. This devolves responsibility in this matter to Member States.

Once a GMO is authorised for cultivation purposes in accordance with the Union legal framework on GMOs and complies, as regards the variety that is to be placed on the market, with the requirements of Union law on the marketing of seed and plant propagating material, Member States are not authorised to prohibit, restrict, or impede its free circulation within their territory, except under the conditions defined by Union law. Experience has shown that cultivation of GMOs is an issue which is more thoroughly addressed at Member State level. Issues related to the placing on the market and the import of GMOs should remain regulated at Union level to preserve the internal market. Cultivation may however require more flexibility in certain instances as it is an issue with strong national, regional and local dimensions, given its link to land use, to local agricultural structures and to the protection or maintenance of habitats, ecosystems and landscapes. In accordance with Article 2(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), Member States are entitled to have the possibility to adopt legally binding acts restricting or prohibiting the cultivation of GMOs in their territory after such GMOs have been authorised to be placed on the Union market. However, the common authorisation procedure, in particular the evaluation process conducted primarily by the European Food Safety Authority (the 'Authority'), should not be adversely affected by such flexibility. In the past, in order to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of GMOs, some Member States had recourse to the safeguard clauses and other measures. However this Directive grants Member States, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, more flexibility to decide whether or not they wish to cultivate GMOs on their territory subject to detailed provisions contained within the Directive.

Genetically modified animals

An interesting review paper was published on genetically modified animals. The past two decades have witnessed the rise of commercial crops that have been genetically modified for an increased suitability in extensive cultivation. Currently, a substantial body of research is being carried out in order to produce Genetically Modified (GM) animals that may similarly yield improvements in animal breeding, genetics and reproduction. The authors attempt a

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.112.01.0071.01.ENG

⁶² http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.112.01.0077.01.ENG

⁶³ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.112.01.0081.01.ENG

⁶⁴ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.112.01.0086.01.ENG

⁶⁵ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2015.068.01.0001.01.ENG

comprehensive review of the existing trails at animal modification with commercial applications and aimed at a deliberate release onto the market. In addition, we investigate detection and quantification options within the frame of food/feed control and traceability on the European market.⁶⁶

Condensed Milk and Dried Milk

The Condensed Milk and Dried Milk (England) Regulations 2015 (SI 675), in force from 6th April 2015 revoked and replaced the Condensed Milk and Dried Milk (England) Regulations 2003 (S.I. 2003/1596) and revoked the Condensed Milk and Dried Milk (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 (S.I. 2008/85). They implement Council Directive 2001/114/EC relating to certain partly or wholly dehydrated preserved milk products intended for human consumption, provide for compositional standards (e.g. milk fat and total milk solids) and labelling.⁶⁷

Honey

The Honey (Scotland) Regulations 2015 (SSI 208)⁶⁸ revoked the Honey (Scotland) Regulation 2003 (SSI 569) as amended by the Honey (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2005 (SSI 307) and amend the Food (Scotland) Information Regulations 2014 (SSI 312). Similar regulations have been implemented in Northern Ireland by the Honey Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 (SR 261)⁶⁹ and in England by the Honey Regulations (England) 2015 (SI 1348)⁷⁰. These Regulations implement Council Directive 2001/110/EC relating to honey as amended by European Parliament and Council Directive 2014/631/EU relating to honey. They revoke and replace the Honey (Scotland) Regulations 2003 (S.S.I. 2003/569) as amended by the Honey (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2005 (S.S.I. 2005/307).

The Regulations regulate the labelling of honey, and the use of certain names referring to "honey". Regulation 15 and the Schedule prescribe compositional criteria with which these products must comply when placed on the market as honey and when used as honey as an ingredient in a compound foodstuff that is placed on the market and intended for human consumption. Regulation 16 prescribes additional labelling requirements for the honey products regulated by these Regulations.

Meat products

The Products Containing Meat etc. (England) Regulations 2014 (SI 3001/2014)⁷¹ remain the primary domestic legislation for definitions and minimum meat content standards for certain meat products presented for sale directly to the consumer.

Similar Regulations have been enacted in Scotland with the Products Containing Meat etc. Regulations (Scotland) Regulations 2014 (SSI 289/2014)⁷² which revokes the Meat Products (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (SSI 6/2004), the Meat Products (Scotland) Amendment

⁷¹/₇₂ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2014/3001/pdfs/uksi_20143001_en.pdf

⁶⁶ A. Lievens, M. Petrillo, M. Querci, A. Patak, Genetically modified animals: Options and issues for traceability and enforcement, Trends in Food Science & Technology, Volume 44, Issue 2, August 2015, Pages 159-176, ISSN 0924-2244, <u>http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tifs.2015.05.001</u>. (<u>http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0924224415001223</u>)</u>

⁶⁷ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/675/pdfs/uksi_20150675_en.pdf

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2015/208/note/made

⁶⁹ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2015/261/contents/made

⁷⁰ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/1348/pdfs/uksi_20151348_en.pdf

⁷² http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2014/289/pdfs/ssi 20140289 en.pdf

Regulations 2008(SSI 97/2008) and regulation 18(4) of the Food Additives (Scotland) Regulations 2009(SSI 436/2009), and in Northern Ireland with the Products Containing Meat etc. Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014⁷³ (SR 285/2014).

Novel foods

Commission Implementing Decision 2015/545⁷⁴ authorised the placing on the market of oil from the micro-algae Schizochytrium sp. (ATCC PTA-9695) as a novel food ingredient under Regulation (EC) No 258/97 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Commission Implementing Decision 2015/546⁷⁵ authorised an extension of use of DHA and EPA-rich oil from the micro-algae Schizochytrium sp. as a novel food ingredient under Regulation (EC) No 258/97 of the European Parliament and of the Council (notified under document C(2015) 2083).

Olive oil

A review of the pest that has apparently led to the poor olive harvest was published. Olive products are premium food products. Their inherent chemical composition and sensory attributes make them highly appreciated worldwide. Olive products quality and composition are severely compromised by diversified agricultural and technological factors, among which olive pests play a key factor, particularly the olive fly Bactrocera oleae (Rossi) (Diptera: Tephritidae). This pest reveals cultivar oviposition preference being the cause of severe economic damages caused each year. Losses go from the field and tree to consumers table. The damage caused by olive fly, seen by an economic perspective, as well as their influence in olive products classification, quality, composition, stability, nutritional, bioactive and functional properties are discussed in the paper.76

Consumer attitudes

No new information in the quarter.

Health & nutrition

Guidance on nutrition labelling is available on the Commission website.⁷⁷ Regular bulletins are available from the Department of Health on EU legislation on nutrition and health claims.78

The June 2015 edition⁷⁹ was an update from the European Commission's Working Group on health claims. Discussion took place on a draft Commission Regulation authorising a health

⁷³ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2014/285/pdfs/nisr 20140285 en.pdf

 ⁷⁴ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.090.01.0007.01.ENG
 ⁷⁵ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.090.01.0011.01.ENG

⁷⁶ Ricardo Malheiro, Susana Casal, Paula Baptista, José Alberto Pereira, A review of Bactrocera oleae (Rossi) impact in olive products: From the tree to the table. Trends in Food Science & Technology, Volume 44, Issue 2, August 2015, Pages 226-242, ISSN 0924-2244, http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.tifs.2015.04.009.

⁽http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0924224415001028)

http://ec.europa.eu/food/labellingnutrition/nutritionlabel/index_en.htm

^{78 &}lt;u>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nutritional-and-health-claims-legislation-bulletins-2015</u> 79

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment data/file/437107/Health Claims 8 June 2015.pdf

claim related to Monacolin K and maintenance of normal blood LDL-cholesterol concentrations and amending Commission Regulation (EU) No 432/2012 (EFSA opinion Q-2012-00736). Most Members States favoured the use of warning statements on food supplements containing the substance Monacolin K.⁸⁰ The Commission proposed taking such food out of the Regulation on health claims and placing under Regulation (EU) No 1169/20112 on the provision of food information to consumers (FIC) alongside foods containing substances with similar safety warnings (phytostanols and phytosterols). An expert group will be convened to amend FIC by a delegated act. Other health claims were discussed.

Food Supplements

Annex II to Directive 2002/46/EC, replaced by provisions of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1170/2009, established the list of vitamin and mineral substances, and for each of them the forms, which may be used in the manufacture of food supplements. In the quarter Commission Regulation 2015/414⁸¹ amended Directive 2002/46/EC to permit the novel food (6S)-5- methyltetrahydrofolic acid, glucosamine salt as a source of folate in the manufacture of food supplements.

Regulation

The Food (Scotland) Act 2015⁸² established Food Standards Scotland and describes the structure and function of this new food body in Scotland coming into operation on 1 April 2015.

The Official Feed and Food Controls (England) Regulations 2009 were amended, in England, by the Animal Feed (Hygiene, Sampling etc. and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2015 that came into force on 6th April 2015, see below.

Import controls

Commission Regulation (EC) No 669/2009 lays down rules concerning increased levels of official controls on imports of feed and food of non-animal origin when warranted by evidence of increasing threats to the food chain. The regulation is therefore periodically updated as new threats emerge or others are brought under control. In the quarter two amendments were made.

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/525⁸³ increased official controls on consignments of almonds originating from Australia and pistachios originating from the United States for aflatoxins and dried apricots originating from Uzbekistan for sulphites. In addition, it was necessary to amend the endnotes in the Regulation to ensure that the controls carried out by the Member States target at least the pesticides listed in the control programme adopted in accordance with Article 29(2) of Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 (3) that can be analysed with multi-residue methods based on GC-MS and LC-MS, and maintain individual endnotes as regards certain

⁸⁰ EFSA drew attention to the Summary of Product Characteristics of lovastatin-containing medicinal products available on the EU market

http://mri.medagencies.org/download/DK_H_0744_001_FinalSPC.pdf and on citrinin, a nephrotoxic mycotoxin which can be produced by some strains of *Monascus purpureus* that may be the origin of monakolin K

⁸¹ <u>http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.068.01.0026.01.ENG</u>

⁸² http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2015/1/pdfs/asp_20150001_en.pdf

⁸³ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2015.084.01.0023.01.ENG

pesticides which are not listed in that control programme or which may require, in one or more Member States, a single-residue method.

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/1012⁸⁴ increased the level of official controls on imports of coriander leaves, basil, mint, parsley, chilli peppers and okra from Vietnam, and vine leaves from Turkey for pesticides residues.

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/1028⁸⁵ amends Implementing Decision 2014/88/EU suspending temporarily imports from Bangladesh of foodstuffs containing or consisting of betel leaves ('Piper betle') because of high prevalence of *salmonella* strains. The application of trhe suspension is to continue until 30 June 2016(notified under document C(2015) 4187).

Local authority enforcement activity

No centrally published new updates were published in the quarter. We remain open to including in this review any updates communicated by individual local authorities to the author.

Multi-Annual National Control Plan

No centrally published new updates were published in the quarter.

Food Law Code of Practice

No centrally published new updates were published in the quarter.

2015/16 national sampling priorities for food

No centrally published new updates were published in the quarter.

Annual Report of Food Incidents

The Food Standards Agency published its latest Annual Report of Food Incidents in June 2015.⁸⁶ It shows that in 2014, FSA were notified of, investigated, and managed 1,645 food, feed and environmental contamination incidents in the UK. The overall number of incidents was similar to those seen in recent years. However, in most categories, the numbers of incidents differ considerably from year to year. More than half of the incidents in 2014 were reported by local authorities (403), EU Member States and the European Commission (246) or central government bodies (266). In 2014, 61% of incidents originated within the United Kingdom, including almost all of the environmental contamination incidents. Another 9% of incidents were related to foods from the rest of the EU, while about 21% were due to imported foods from outside. The origin of the remaining 9% could not be identified.

The five largest contributors to the total number of recorded incidents in 2014 were:

⁸⁴ <u>http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.162.01.0026.01.ENG</u>

⁸⁵ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2015.163.01.0053.01.ENG

⁸⁶ <u>http://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/news/2015/14032/fsa-annual-report-of-incidents-</u> published?dm_i=116Q,3G0AN,5QIT2J,CBTQ9,1

Microbiological contamination (24%)

This is the only category where incidents have been consistently increasing over time, from 147 in 2006 to 390 in 2014. In 2014, almost a third of microbiological contamination incidents (32%) resulted from shellfish bed monitoring. High counts of Escherichia coli (E. coli) are used as an indicator of poor hygiene conditions in harvesting areas.

Veterinary medicines (13%)

The frequency of veterinary medicine incidents in 2014 was about five times the average in the years 2006 to 2012. This reflects a change in reporting procedures. The FSA is now notified of more results from on-going surveillance programmes.

Environmental contamination (12%)

In 2014, fires were the cause of almost four out of every five environmental incidents (79%). Almost all of the remainder referred either to spills and leaks or to contamination by heavy metals.

Natural chemical contamination (9%)

Algal toxins and mycotoxins (mainly aflatoxin) accounted for 87% of natural chemical contamination incidents in 2014. Mycotoxins can arise from certain moulds growing on cereals, nuts, spices and other foodstuffs. Algal toxins are a result of naturally occurring algal blooms and are potential contaminants of shellfish.

Allergens (8 %)

The number of allergen incidents were higher in 2012 and 2014 than in 2013 and earlier years. In particular, incidents related to sulphites, milk and lactose, and cereals including gluten appeared more frequently in those two years. Some of the increase in 2014 might be related to 2014/15 allergen sampling priorities. In contrast, the higher levels in 2012 were probably associated with EU legislation such as the Gluten Regulation No. EC 41/2009 coming into force.

Fertilisers & feeding stuffs

The Animal Feed (Hygiene, Sampling etc. and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2015 came into force on 6 April 2015. The Feed (Hygiene and Enforcement) (England) Regulations 2005, the Feed (Specified Undesirable Substances) (England) Regulations 2006 and the Feed (Hygiene and Enforcement) and the Animal Feed (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 were revoked. Also revoked were Regulation 51 and Schedule 7 of the Official Feed and Food Controls (England) Regulations 2009 and Regulations 4, 5, 6, 7, 21, 22, and 23 and Schedule 1 of the Feed (Sampling and Analysis and Specified Undesirable Substances) (England) Regulations 2010.

Thus the 2015 regulations make provisions for the appointment and qualifications of Agricultural Analysts, sampling for analysis, secondary analysis by the Government Chemist, and the form and evidential status of an Agricultural Analyst's certificate of analysis. Also dealt with are methods of analysis where the sampling has not been carried out in the course of official controls and making it an offence to tamper or otherwise interfere with a sample.

The 2015 regulations provide for the continuing execution and enforcement of Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 laying down requirements for feed hygiene and Commission Regulation (EC) No. 152/2009 laying down the methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of feed and also make provision as to administration generally in relation to feed law, in particular so as to

give effect to Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official controls. Part 2 of the 2015 Regulations deals with the execution and enforcement of Regulation 183/2005, which provides that almost all businesses producing, trading in or using animal feed should be either registered, or approved, by the competent authorities.

The Animal Feed (Composition, Marketing and Use) (England) Regulations 2015⁸⁷ (SI 255) amended the Official Feed and Food Controls (England) Regulations 2009 (SI 3255) and revoked the Genetically Modified Animal Feed (England) Regulations 2004 (SI 2334), the Feed (Corn Gluten Feed and Brewers Grains) (Emergency Control) (England) (Revocation) Regulations 2007 (SI 3007) and the Animal Feed (England) Regulations 2010 (SI 2503), other than regulations 1, 2 and 14.

Commission Regulation 2015/786⁸⁸ defines acceptability criteria for detoxification processes applied to products intended for animal feed as provided for in Directive 2002/32/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Feed Additives

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/38⁸⁹ authorised the preparation *of Lactobacillus acidophilus* CECT 4529 as a feed additive for laying hens and amending Regulation (EC) No 1520/2007 (holder of authorisation Centro Sperimentale del Latte).

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/46⁹⁰ authorised diclazuril as a feed additive for chickens for fattening, for turkeys for fattening, and for guinea fowl for fattening and breeding (holder of authorisation Huvepharma NV).

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/47⁹¹ authorised a preparation of alpha-amylase produced by *Bacillus licheniformis* (DSM 21564) as a feed additive for dairy cows (holder of the authorisation DSM Nutritional products Ltd, represented by DSM Nutritional Products Sp. Z.o.o).

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/661⁹² authorised the preparation of endo-1,4-betaxylanase and endo-1,3(4)-beta-glucanase produced by *Talaromyces versatilis* sp. nov. IMI CC 378536 and *Talaromyces versatilis* sp. nov. DSM 26702 as a feed additive for chickens for fattening, chickens reared for laying and minor poultry species for fattening and reared for laying (holder of the authorisation Adisseo France S.A.S.).

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/662⁹³ authorised L-carnitine and L-carnitine L-tartrate as feed additives for all animal species.

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/722⁹⁴ authorised taurine as a feed additive for *Canidae*, *Felidae*, *Mustelidae* and carnivorous fish.

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/723⁹⁵ authorised biotin as a feed additive for all animal species.

⁸⁷ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2015/255/pdfs/uksi_20150255_en.pdf

⁸⁸ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2015.125.01.0010.01.ENG

⁸⁹ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.008.01.0004.01.ENG

⁹⁰ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.009.01.0005.01.ENG

⁹¹ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.009.01.0008.01.ENG

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.110.01.0001.01.ENG

⁹³ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.110.01.0005.01.ENG

⁹⁴ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2015.115.01.0018.01.ENG

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/724⁹⁶ authorised retinyl acetate, retinyl palmitate and retinyl propionate as feed additives for all animal species.

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/897⁹⁷ authorised thiamine hydrochloride and thiamine mononitrate as feed additives for all animal species.

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/38⁹⁸ authorised the preparation *of Lactobacillus acidophilus* CECT 4529 as a feed additive for laying hens and amending Regulation (EC) No 1520/2007 (holder of authorisation Centro Sperimentale del Latte).

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/46⁹⁹ authorised diclazuril as a feed additive for chickens for fattening, for turkeys for fattening and for guinea fowl for fattening and breeding (holder of authorisation Huvepharma NV).

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/47¹⁰⁰ authorised a preparation of alpha-amylase produced by *Bacillus licheniformis* (DSM 21564) as a feed additive for dairy cows (holder of the authorisation DSM Nutritional products Ltd, represented by DSM Nutritional Products Sp. Z.o.o). Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/244¹⁰¹ concerns the authorisation of Quinoline Yellow as a feed additive for non food-producing animals at a maximum content of 25 mg/kg of complete feeding stuff with a moisture content of 12 %.

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/264¹⁰² concerns the authorisation of neohesperidine dihydrochalcone as a feed additive for sheep, fish, dogs, calves and certain categories of pigs. It gives a maximum level of 35 mg/kg for complete feeding stuffs with a moisture content of 12 %, and lays down the method of analysis for determining this feed additives as Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC), European Pharmacopoeia 6.0, method 01/2008:1547, and in pre-mixtures and feeding stuffs as High-Performance Liquid Chromatography with Diode-Array 2015/502Detection (HPLC-DAD).

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/489¹⁰³ concerns the authorisation of selenomethionine produced by *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* NCYC R645 as a feed additive for all animal species.

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/502¹⁰⁴ concerns the authorisation of the preparation of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* NCYC R404 as a feed additive for dairy cows (holder of the authorisation Micro Bio-System Ltd).

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/518¹⁰⁵ concerns the authorisation of the preparation of *Enterococcus faecium* NCIMB 10415 as a feed additive for chickens reared for laying, minor poultry species for fattening and minor poultry species reared for laying and amending Implementing Regulation (EU) No 361/2011 as regards the compatibility with coccidiostats

⁹⁵ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=urisery:OJ.L .2015.115.01.0022.01.ENG
 ⁹⁵ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L2015.115.01.0022.01.ENG ⁹⁶ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L2015.115.01.0025.01.ENG ⁹⁷ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L2015.147.01.0008.01.ENG
⁹⁷ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L2015.147.01.0008.01.ENG
²² http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L2015.008.01.0004.01.ENG
⁹⁹ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/2uri-urisery:OUL_2015.009.01.0005.01.ENG
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L2015.009.01.0008.01.ENG
http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L2015.041.01.0008.01.ENG
 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L2015.009.01.0008.01.ENG http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L2015.041.01.0008.01.ENG http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L2015.045.01.0010.01.ENG http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L2015.045.01.0010.01.ENG
¹ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L .2015.078.01.0005.01.ENG
¹⁰⁴ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L2015.079.01.0057.01.ENG
¹⁰⁵ http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/2uri=uriserv:O.U. 2015.082.01.0075.01.ENG

(holder of the authorisation DSM Nutritional Products Ltd represented by DSM Nutritional products Sp. z o.o).

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/861¹⁰⁶ concerns the authorisation of potassium iodide, calcium iodate anhydrous and coated granulated calcium iodate anhydrous as feed additives for all animal species

Commission Implementing Regulation 2015/1020¹⁰⁷ concerns the authorisation of the preparation of Bacillus subtilis (ATCC PTA-6737) as a feed additive for laying hens and minor poultry species for laying (holder of the authorisation Kemin Europa NV).

Acknowledgements

Nick Boley for systematic collection of the legislation Ellie Gadd for editorial input.

Funding from the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills under the Government Chemist Programme for work carried out in this project is gratefully acknowledged.

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2015.137.01.0001.01.ENG
 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:JOL_2015_163_R_0003&from=EN