

**COMMITTEES ON CARCINOGENICITY AND MUTAGENICITY OF
CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE
ENVIRONMENT (COC and COM)**

Update on the work of the FSA Joint Expert Groups – for information.

Introduction

1. Now that the UK has left the European Union, the authorisation of regulated products that would previously have been done by the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) is being done in the UK. Three Joint Expert Groups (JEGs) have been established by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to cover the authorisation of regulated products and these will be overseen by the COT and, where applicable, the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF) who will provide challenge, comment and assurance of their work.

2. The three JEGs are

- AFFA JEG – the Joint Expert Group on Animal Feed and Feed Additives
- FCM JEG - the Joint Expert Group on Food Contact Materials
- AE JEG - the Joint Expert Group on Additives, Enzymes and other Regulated Products.

3. JEG Members are independent experts and have the range of expertise necessary to cover the scientific aspects of the dossiers. One of the aims was to ensure that the expertise was such that COC and COM would only need to become involved in regulated products where an issue was complex and specialist advice was required.

4. The FSA does not have the policy lead for all regulated products. Food supplements, infant formula and follow-on formula, and foods for special medical purposes are the responsibility of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in England, FSA NI, Food Standards Scotland and the Welsh Government. The Nutrition Composition, Labelling and Standards Group represents the four nations in this area and may seek the advice of the COT, COC, COM or the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition (SACN) on individual topics as needed.

Current work of the JEGs

5. The JEGs started work in January 2021 at the end of the transition period. Since that time, they have undertaken a number of activities

AFFA JEG

6. AFFA JEG have reviewed several applications for new authorisations, and renewals of authorisation for currently permitted feed additives. They are currently working on an application for the feed additive 3-nitrooxy propanol (3-NOP), a methane reducing additive.

FCM JEG

7. FCM JEG has reviewed several applications for plastic additives and recycling processes and is currently awaiting further information from the applicants. They are continuing to review the available dossiers and are providing input to policy colleagues on requirements for dossiers and guidance.

AE JEG

8. AE JEG have reviewed a number of extensions of use for currently permitted food additives. They are currently working on an application for the use of blue microalgae as a food additive and two Opinions for the extension of use of mono- and di-glycerides of fatty acids and polyglycerol polyricinoleate.

Secretariat

February 2022