

COMMITTEE ON CARCINOGENICITY OF CHEMICALS IN FOOD, CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Minutes of the meeting held at 10.30 am on Thursday 21st July 2022 by Teams.

Present

Chair: Professor D Harrison

Members: Mr D Bodey
Dr G Clare
Dr M Cush
Dr R Dempsey
Dr J Doe
Prof G Jenkins
Prof N Pearce
Dr L Stanley

Secretariat: Miss B Gadeberg UKHSA Scientific Secretary
Ms C Mulholland FSA
Dr E Hudson FSA

Assessors: Ms F Hill BEIS-OPSS
Mr L Manuel Defra
Mr N O'Brien VMD
Dr O Sepai UKHSA
Mr A Tucker HSE

Invited Experts Prof L Levy for IEH Consulting
and Contractors: Prof J Weeks IEH Consulting

Officials: Dr J O'Brien FSA Science Council

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ITEM 1: Announcements and apologies for absence

1. The Chair welcomed Members, and other attendees to the meeting. Apologies were received from Dr R Haworth, Dr D Gott (FSA), Ms C Potter (FSA), Dr R Bevan (IEH Consulting) who was represented by Prof L Levy and Prof J Weeks, Ms J Berrie (HSE) who was represented by Mr A Tucker, and Dr C Jimenez Antunez and Dr L Lawton (Defra) who were represented by Mr L Manuel.
2. The Sponsor and Secretariat team were continuing to work with the Chair to recruit to the existing and upcoming vacancies. Members would be kept informed and were encouraged to share the vacancy notices when available.
3. Members were reminded to declare any interests they may have in an item before its discussion.

ITEM 2: Minutes of meeting held on 2 March 2022 (CC/MIN/2022/01)

4. The first draft minutes were agreed with a clarification in the reserved business minutes

ITEM 3: Minutes of the joint COC COM meeting on 2 March 2022 (MUT/CC/MIN/2022/01)

5. These draft minutes were agreed with no further changes.

ITEM 4: Matters arising

Item 3 Matters Arising – Draft position paper: The Tumour Microenvironment

6. This document was awaiting publication on the Committee website.

Item 3 Matters Arising – Cancer Risk Characterisation Methods G06 Update

7. This document was awaiting publication on the Committee website.

Item 3 Matters Arising – COC Guidance Statement (G04): The Use of Biomarkers in Carcinogenic Risk Assessment – final draft – updated following COM comments (CC/2022/04)

8. This document was presented following review by COM, which had been requested given the text on genotoxicity biomarkers. A few comments had been provided by COM on the draft, and COM had agreed to draft its own guidance on biomarkers relevant to genotoxicity.
9. The Committee agreed the document could be finalised by Chair's action subject to comments by correspondence. Depending on timing of this document and the COM guidance relevant cross-linking between the two documents could be provided.

Item 3 Matters Arising – First draft updated Guidance Statement (G03): Hazard Identification and Characterisation: Conduct and Interpretation of Animal Carcinogenicity Studies

10. The Secretariat was addressing comments received from Members on this document and it would then be sent to the Chair for approval

Item 3 Matters Arising – Second draft of updated Guidance Statement G07: Alternative approaches to the assessment of potential carcinogenicity of chemicals

11. The Secretariat was addressing comments received from Members on this document and it would then be sent to the Chair for approval

Item 3 Matters Arising – Use of COC guidance

12. The Secretariat was continuing to investigate reinstating provision of website statistics to the Committee and would consider options for engaging with Government Departments and Agencies on their use of COC guidance and advice. It was noted that this was relevant to COT and COM as well, and it was noted that sometimes feedback on impact of Committee work was anecdotal, but nevertheless useful to obtain.

Item 4 - A Benchmark Dose Level for non-decolourised aloe vera whole leaf extract for the determination of the safety of hydroxyanthracene derivatives for use in food (CC/2022/05) (Reserved Business)

13. Dr Dempsey declared that she undertakes consultancy for a company producing nutritional supplements, but she did not know whether any of these supplements would be in this category. It was agreed that Dr Dempsey could participate in the discussion.

This item was discussed in reserved session. The minutes will be made public in due course.

ITEM 5: Draft document on how the Committees evaluate the relevance and reliability of data when assessing a chemical of concern – draft 0.e (CC/2022/06)

19. No interests were declared for this item.

20. This paper presented an updated version of this document which had been discussed by COM and COT as well as COC.

21. The Committee was broadly content with document. It was suggested to add in a short summary paragraph to frame the problem being addressed by the document. A few additional amendments were suggested, and it was agreed that further comments would be provided by correspondence.

22. An updated version addressing comments from all three Committees would be circulated for final comment to all three Committees prior to agreement by joint Chairs action.

ITEM 6: Follow up on Horizon Scanning – July 2022 (CC/2022/07)

23. No interests were declared for this item.

24. This paper presented the standing update on horizon scanning following the full discussion in November 2021 and the update in March 2022. Members were also informed that the COT had recently held a workshop on Food and Chemical regulation and a report of this workshop would be provided to the COC when available.

25. It was noted that the planned COC meeting in November 2022 was intended to be an in-person meeting, which would likely take the form of a workshop and include invitees outside of the COC.

26. With respect to the horizon scanning item on communication of cancer risk, it was noted that a recent publication shared with the Committee (Archives of Toxicology (2022) 96:2419-2428) was relevant to this discussion as it focussed on moving away from yes/no classification for cancer.

27. It was flagged that action was being taken on titanium dioxide in toys in the EU, and the SCCS would be looking at titanium dioxide in the context of consumer products. The COC was informed of ongoing work by COM supporting the FSA on titanium dioxide in food and it was noted that BEIS were keeping a watching brief on the area as well.

28. Interest was expressed in translation of some of the recent published papers and the COCs work on cancer risk assessment into policy and noting the diversity in regulations across many different areas e.g. food, REACH. There was broad agreement to take this forward as an option for a workshop to move the area forward. The Committee also discussed possible participants for a workshop in terms of policy makers, politicians and scientific advisors.

ITEM 7: Any other business

29. No other items of business were raised.

ITEM 8: Date of next meeting

30. The next meeting would be held on 17 November 2022 and was anticipated to be as an in person only workshop style meeting.