

Directorate-General for Health & Food Safety

Update of legislative provisions on mycotoxins in cereals

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Challenges as a consequence of changing weather conditions – mycotoxins

- Tension between MLs based on the application of prevention / ALARA versus changing climate/weather conditions and year to year variation
- Approach to tackle the year-to-year variation of *Fusarium* toxins/mycotoxins from a legal point of view
- Increasing prevalence of aflatoxins in Europe (increased levels of aflatoxins in the South-East of Europe in 2012 – 2013)
- Increased levels of *Fusarium* toxins in maize in (large parts of the) EU in harvest 2013 and 2014
- ...

Aflatoxins in maize (2012/13)

Several notifications on high levels of aflatoxin in maize intended for feed

Following issues/ challenges were observed :

- * the complexity of the traceability
- * the variability of the aflatoxin results (within a lot / at different stages in the distribution chain
- * the representativeness of the samples taken the traders at loading
- * the need for an early warning.
- * the need for a much) larger transparency in the cereal chain → enabling to manage the risks

Fusarium toxins in maize (harvest 2013 and 2014)

- * shortage of supply for food maize millers experienced/expected

- * Possible temporary derogation discussed – not granted

Reasons:

- certain MS not convinced of shortage of supply
- exposure to certain mycotoxins already close or exceeding the health based guidance value

- * Follow-up

- shortage of supply problems experienced following non-granting derogation
- root-cause analysis → see further in presentation

Major challenge for the future - MYCOTOXINS

- Conference at the occasion of Milan EXPO 2015 on 5 June 2015 "Regulatory challenges following increased prevalence of mycotoxins in feed and food following climate change"
- Observations: Increased prevalence of mycotoxins at higher levels in cereals produced in the EU. Major cause is climate change and in particular the extreme weather conditions during critical growth stages of cereals in particular maize. However also other causes (agricultural practices) might contribute → in depth root-cause analysis appropriate
- Conclusion: For a sustainable solution, it was concluded that it would be appropriate to elaborate a comprehensive EU mycotoxin (prevention) approach, including agricultural and environmental aspects

Ergot sclerotia and ergot alkaloids

- Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/1940 of 28/10/2015 establishing a maximum level of 0.5 g/kg for ergot sclerotia in unprocessed cereals with the exception of corn and rice (food)
 - Includes also a provision that before July 2017: maximum levels for ergot alkaloids have to be established

Developments in the future - MYCOTOXINS

- Parent compound -> parent compound + metabolites + modified (masked) mycotoxins
- Deoxynivalenol: updated risk assessment from EFSA expected early 2016 : feed and food, acetylated derivatives, modified deoxynivalenol → regulatory follow-up, including analytical aspects

Developments in the future - MYCOTOXINS

- Review of Health Based Guidance Values (HBGV) for zearalenone, fumonisins and T-2 and HT-2 toxins considering the metabolites and the modified forms → regulatory follow-up including analytical aspects
- Sterigmatocystin, citrinin: more occurrence data needed , more data on toxicity (genotoxicity and carcinogenicity)
- "Emerging" mycotoxins: enniatins, Alternaria,...
- Moniliformin, diacetoxyscirpenol: EFSA opinions awaited

Directive 2002/32/EC detoxification

Article 8:

Commission may define

- acceptability criteria for detoxification processes as complement to the criteria provided for the products intended for animal feed undergone such processes

Member States shall take the measures to guarantee

- the correct application of detoxification and conformity of detoxified products



Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/786 of 19 May 2015

This Regulation shall apply to a detoxification process through which an undesirable substance listed in Annex I to Directive 2002/32/EC is on purpose removed from non-compliant feed,
'physical detoxification process',
'chemical detoxification process',
'(micro-)biological detoxification process'.

This Regulation does not apply to a physical detoxification process through which the contamination by an undesirable substance is reduced or eliminated solely by cleaning, sorting or mechanical removal of contaminants or certain parts of the contaminated feed.



Commission Regulation (EU) 2015/786 of 19 May 2015

* A detoxification process shall only be applied **if the EFSA has performed, on request of the Commission, an scientific assessment of the detoxification process**, concluding that **the detoxification process complies with the acceptability criteria.**

* **It applies as from 1 July 2017**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION !