Decontamination substances can constitute a useful tool in further reducing microbial surface contamination from products of animal origin. However, the use of those substances should only be permitted if a fully integrated control programme is applied throughout the entire food chain. Decontamination substances shall be assessed thoroughly before their use is authorised. Article 3 (2) of Regulation EC 853/2004 provides the legal basis to approve the use of substances other than potable water to remove surface contamination from products of animal origin. Applications should be submitted to the European Commission (EC). The EC forwards the mandate and the dossier supporting the application to EFSA, which carries out the scientific evaluation.

EFSA aims at providing its 1st feedback on Completeness check within 30 working days after reception of the application (Mandate + Dossier).