

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Working Group on “the evaluation of the NExBTL process as an alternative method for the treatment of rendered animal fat”

Held by WEB-conference, 5 October 2015

(Agreed on 15 October 2015)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Avelino Álvarez Ordóñez

Reinhard Böhm

Pablo S. Fernández Escámez (Chair)

John Griffin

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**

Not Applicable

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Angel Ortiz Peláez

- **Others:**

Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest,² EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Progress report: state of affairs and feedback from BIOHAZ panel meeting³

The Chair and Secretariat presented the actions agreed from the previous meeting, the state of the opinion and the contributions received prior to the meeting.

4.2. Review of the output of the assessment, conclusions and recommendations

The WG discussed the technical aspects of the alternative method, the critical review of the experimental model provided by the hearing expert and the final evaluation of the safety of the method. The technical implementation of the method at industrial scale was also discussed.

4.3. Draft Scientific Opinion: data, methodology, assessment, conclusions and recommendations

The draft of sections conclusions and recommendations were agreed. The review of the entire document was then conducted in what was considered the final draft.

5. Any Other Business

5.1. Not Applicable

6. Next meeting(s)

No other meetings were scheduled.

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00118>

Document history

Document reference

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Prepared by

Angel Ortiz Pelaez

Reviewed by

Last date modified

Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Working Group on “the evaluation of the NExBTL process as an alternative method for the treatment of rendered animal fat”

Held on 3 September 2015, Parma (Italy)

(Agreed on 11 September 2015)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Avelino Álvarez Ordóñez

Reinhard Böhm

Pablo S. Fernández Escamez (Chair)

John Griffin

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

John Spiropoulos (for items 5, 6 and 7)

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**

Not Applicable

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Angel Ortiz Pelaez

- **Others:**

Not Applicable

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted with changes:

New Point in the agenda

9:45-10:45: 5. Introduction to hearing expert. Overall assessment of the dossier and additional documentation.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest,³ EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest and the Specific Declarations of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process.

4. Hearing Expert (s)

Dr. John Spiropoulos was invited to present his views for items 5, 6 and 7 of the amended agenda of the meeting.

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes⁴ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest⁵, EFSA invited Dr. John Spiropoulos to submit an ADoI. His participation was limited to providing testimony, without the possibility to take on any role undertaken by members of the Panel, in accordance with the applicable legal framework⁶.

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. Progress report: additional documentation

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁶ Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

The WG discussed the additional information submitted by the applicant upon request of the WG. The average and minimum retention time was discussed in the light of the quality of the new data provided.

5.2. Review of the available literature and data⁷

The data included in the papers submitted by the applicant were scientifically appraised by the WG and the hearing expert. Additional data from other papers were also reviewed

5.3. Review of the assessment and methodology

The WG discussed the technical aspects of the alternative method, the reduction of risk levels as a result of the treatment, the acceptance of the of the validated measurements included in the application and the conclusions and recommendations.

5.4. Draft Scientific Opinion

The latest version of the draft Scientific Opinion was discussed and a draft of sections conclusions and recommendations was agreed.

6. Any Other Business

6.1. Not Applicable

7. Next meeting(s)

3rd meeting: October 2015 (date TBD).

⁷ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2015-00118>

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Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards

Minutes of the 1st meeting of the Working Group on “the evaluation of the NExBTL process as an alternative method for treatment of rendered animal fat”

Held by WEB-conference, 3 July 2015

(Agreed on 10 July 2015)

Participants

- **Working Group Members:**

Avelino Álvarez Ordóñez, Reinhard Böhm, Pablo S. Fernandez Escamez, John Griffin

- **Hearing Experts¹:**

Not Applicable

- **European Commission and/or Member States representatives:**

Not Applicable

- **EFSA:**

BIOCONTAM Unit: Valentina Rizzi (Chair), Angel Ortiz Pelaez

- **Others:**

Not Applicable

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

¹ As defined in Article 17 of the Decision of the Executive Director on the selection of external experts:
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/expertselection.pdf>.

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes² and the Decision of the Executive Director on Declarations of Interest³, EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of Interest and the Specific Declaration of Interest filled in by the working group members invited for the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of Interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. Mandate and Terms of reference

The Chair introduced the application⁴ received from the Finnish competent authority on behalf of Neste Oil, explained the main characteristics of the alternative method and the composition of the Working Group.

The EFSA Secretariat presented the documentation included in the dossier and a summary of the previous Scientific Opinion (EFSA Journal 2010;8(10):1825) on a similar method submitted by the same applicant.

4.2. Scope and methodology of the evaluation

The WG discussed the technical aspects of the alternative method, the need to request additional data to the applicant, the approach towards the assessment of the validated measurements included in the application and the possibility to add extra expertise to the Working Group.

5. Any Other Business

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencpolicy.pdf>

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules2014.pdf>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionDocumentsLoader?4&question=EFSA-Q-2015-00118>

Not Applicable

6. Next meeting(s)

2nd meeting: 3 September 2015. Physical meeting

3rd meeting: October 2015 (date TBD).