European Food Safety Authority

Plant Pest Risk Assessment: EFSA's role

Elzbieta Ceglarska
Plant Health Unit

Joint conference
EFSA-Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
Radenci, 29 August 2009

The regulatory context of plant health

- **Council Directive 2000/29/EC *on protective measures against introduction into the Community of organisms harmful to plants and plant products and against their spread within the Community***

- **Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement (WTO SPS)**

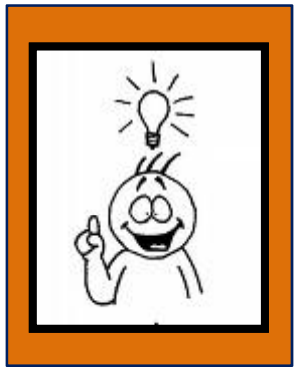
- **International Plant Protection Convention (FAO IPPC)**



RISK ASSESSMENT

EFSA's Mission [Reg. 178/2002, art 22.5(b)]:

European Food Safety Authority



"... provision of scientific opinions on other matters relating to animal health and welfare and plant health" (art 22.5 (b))



efsa
European Food Safety Authority

The EFSA Journal (2009) 1055, 1-19

SCIENTIFIC OPINION

Mortality verification of pinewood nematode from high temperature treatment of shavings[1]

Scientific Opinion of the Panel on Plant Health

(Question No EFSA-Q-2009-00447)

Adopted on 16 April 2009

PANEL MEMBERS

Richard Baker, David Caffier, James William Choisnel, Patrick De Clercq, Erzsébet Dormannné Simon, Bärbel Gerowitt, Olga Evtimova Kiradjova, Gábor Lövei, David Makowski, Charles Manceau, Maria Luisa Marinci, Alfons Oude Lansink, Dionysios Perdikis, Angelo Porta Puglia, Jan Schans, Gritta Schrader, Robert Stefkle, Anita Stromberg, Kari Tiilikkala, Johan Coert van Leeuwen and Irene Vloutoglou.

SUMMARY

The European Commission requested the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) to provide a scientific opinion on the report "Mortality verification of pinewood nematode from high temperature treatment of shavings" provided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

The pinewood nematode, *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* (Steiner and Buhrer) Nickle, is listed in Community plant health legislation and protective measures include a requirement that wood shavings of coniferous wood (except that of *Tsuga* L.) originating in the United States (US) must be heat treated to achieve a minimum core temperature of 56 °C for at least 30 minutes.

The USDA, through the United Kingdom (UK) Authorities, requested the recognition of an alternative treatment by the European Community. The request was supported by a report of an experiment entitled "Mortality verification of pinewood nematode from high temperature treatment of shavings" and additional explanatory information. This report (and additional explanatory information) presents a treatment process whereby wood shavings are exposed to high temperatures (398 °C) for a short time (3 minutes). The report was submitted to EFSA's Scientific Panel on Plant Health for evaluation with regard to the reliability and effectiveness of the proposed treatment method, as an alternative to the current heat treatment requirement. A scientific opinion was requested to assist risk managers in considering the technical justification for derogation from the current treatment requirement for wood shavings of

[1] For citation purposes: Scientific Opinion of the Panel on PLH on a request from the European Commission on mortality verification of pinewood nematode from high temperature treatment of shavings. The EFSA Journal (2009) 1055, 1-19

© European Food Safety Authority, 2009

EFSA's Tasks [Reg. 178/2002, art. 23]:

- to provide … best possible scientific opinions …
- to promote and coordinate development of uniform risk assessment methodologies …
- to commission scientific studies necessary for the accomplishment of its mission;
- to search for, collect, collate, analyse and summarise scientific and technical data…
- to undertake action to identify and characterise emerging risks…
- to ensure that the public and interested parties receive rapid, reliable, objective and comprehensible information …



EFSA's core values & guiding principles

- Risk assessment separated from risk management
- Independence
- Scientific excellence
- Transparency and openness
- Responsiveness



EFSA PLH: Scientific Panel on Plant Health

- Created Dir. 575/2006
- Recognition PLH essential factor in food chain
- **The mandate: to provide scientific opinions on risks related to plant health in order to help secure the safety of the food chain**
- **Scientific excellence:**
  - 21 permanent members
  - external experts on specific issues
  - selected in open call
  - knowledge, expertise & skills in plh related fields



- I term → 2006-2009
- II term → 2009-2012

EFSA PLH: Scope of the Panel's activity

- ***Risks presented by non-indigenous living organisms harmful to plants and/or plant products that are associated with the movement of plants or plant products and which may enter, establish, spread and cause harmful effects on plants and/or plant products and biodiversity***

<u>The range of the organisms of concern includes:</u>

- **plant pathogenic microorganisms (viruses, bacteria, fungi and other yet unidentified pathogenic agents)**
- **phytophagous invertebrates**
- **parasitic plants**
- **weeds**



EFSA PLH: Achievements

- 40 opinions (on request from the Commission)
- 2 guidance documents
- Scientific colloquium on phytosanitary risk assessment
- Scientific events and publications
- 21 plenary meetings



EFSA PLH: Example opinions

- **DOM PRAs [30 opinions]**

  (evaluation of documents prepared by France on organisms considered harmful for citrus and banana in French Overseas Departments of French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique and Reunion)

- **Citrus Black Spot [The EFSA Journal (2008) 925]**

  (evaluation of pest risk assessment and additional supporting evidence prepared by South Africa on *Guignardia citricarpa* Kiely)

- **Oak Processionary Moth [The EFSA Journal (2008) 1195]**

  (evaluation of a PRA prepared by the UK on *Thaumetopoea processionea* L. and extension of the scope to the EU territory)

- **Oriental Chestnut Gall Wasp *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* Yasumatsu [EFSA-Q-2009-00677]**

  (evaluation of risk to plant health within the EU territory)

EFSA PLH: Guidance documents

- **Guidance document on evaluation of pest risk assessments and risk management options prepared to justify requests for phytosanitary measures under Council Directive 2000/29/EC**

- **Guidance document on a harmonised framework for pest risk assessment and the evaluation of pest risk management options by EFSA**

  public consultation
  http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1211902676628.htm
  deadline: 02 October 2009



EFSA PLH: Collaboration with Member States

- **Art 36 projects**

  - 2 on-going
  - 1 launched



- **Special Advisory Forum on PLH**

EFSA PLH: Art. 36 projects

- **PRASSIS**

  Pest risk assessment in the European Community: inventory of data sources

- **MO-PEST**

  Models for pest's epidemiology: review, documentation and evaluation for pest risk analysis

Call for proposal – Pest risk assessment for the European Community on plant health: A comparative approach with case studies

Deadline 2 October 2009

Special Advisory Forum on Plant Health

European Food Safety Authority

➢ Meetings:

- 1st annual meeting, 8-9 October 2008
  http://www.efsa.europa.eu/EFSA/efsa_locale-1178620753812_1211902107736.htm

- 2nd annual meeting Parma, 22-23 October 2009



EFSA PLH: Objectives for 2009-2013

1. **Provision of high-quality, independent and transparent scientific advice for decision making in the EU**

   i. **Opinions by request from the Commission, European Parliament and Member States on organisms harmful to plants or plant products**
      - **Evaluation of PRA documents**
      - **Extension to EU territory**
      - **Assessment of plh risks**

   ii. **Development of internal guidance documents to ensure high quality, consistency and transparency of the scientific outputs**

EFSA PLH : Objectives for 2009-2013

2. **Contribution to further development of science-based approach for pest risk assessment in the EU in close collaboration with Member States**

   i. **Further development of methodologies**

   ii. **Responsiveness in emergency situations**

   iii. **Scientific support for EU surveillance programmes, diagnostics and analysis of data**



EFSA PLH: Objectives for 2009-2013

3. Communication and collaboration

i. EU Risk mangers (Commission, SCPH)
ii. MS Risk assessors (networking)
iii. European consumer
iv. Scientific community
v. International organisations incl. EPPO



“PLH formula”

$$B + B = B$$



European Food Safety Authority

Thank you for your attention!

elzbieta.ceglarska@efsa.europa.eu