



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 6th MEETING OF THE BIOCONTAM BIOHAZ WORKING GROUP ON HIGH PRESSURE PROCESSING OF FOOD

(all ToRs apart from ToR1c -chemical food safety risk)

Held on 14-15 December 2020, WEB-conference

(Agreed on 4 January 2021)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Ana Allende, Sara Bover-Cid, Matteo Crotta, Chris Michiels, Artur Xavier Roig Sagués, Panagiotis Skandamis

■ EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Winy Messens

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Jean-Baptiste Perrin and Kris De Smet (DG SANTE).

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 Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



4. Agreement of the minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting held on 8-9 December 2020, WEB-conference

The minutes of the 5th Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 13 December 2020.³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. The efficacy and safety of high pressure processing of food⁴. The EFSA coordinator provided a short feedback of the briefing provided at the 141th BIOHAZ plenary meeting (9-10 December 2020). The draft protocol, that includes the problem formulation (step 1) and the planning of the methods to conduct the assessment (step 2), was shared with the BIOHAZ panel. The panel agreed with the WG proposal to consider for ToR2 the following additional hazards to be reduced by thermal pasteurization of raw milk/raw colostrum from ruminants: *Campylobacter* spp., Tick-borne encephalitis virus and *Staphylococcus aureus*. For ToR3, a discussion was held on the foods to consider (the most relevant foods known to cause human listeriosis in the EU). The WG agreed to consider foods known to cause human listeriosis that are relevant within the context of the use of HPP. The focus will be on cooked meat, smoked and gravid fish and soft and semi-soft cheese. The previously identified food category frozen vegetables will not be considered because they cannot be subjected to HPP. Additionally, when dealing with other relevant pathogens, the foodborne outbreak database will be used to identify the pathogens. The WG members checked for further clarifications of the ToRs and protocol and gave an update of the work done. Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts. The future meetings on all ToRs apart from ToR1c -chemical food safety risk, were scheduled.

6. Next meeting(s)

The next WG meetings will be held on 3 February 2021 (ToR1c - chemical food safety risks due to contaminants), on 3-4 February 2021 (on ToR1c - chemical food safety risks through food contact materials) and on 17-18 February 2021 (all ToRs apart from ToR1c -chemical food safety risk).

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/biological-hazards/wg-wg-high-pressure-processing-food-efsa-q-2020-00380.pdf>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00380>

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 5TH MEETING OF THE BIOCONTAM BIOHAZ WORKING GROUP ON HIGH PRESSURE PROCESSING OF FOOD

(ToR1c - chemical food safety risks through food contact materials)

Held on 8-9 December 2020, WEB-conference

(Agreed on 13 December 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Laurence Castle, Konrad Grob, Maria Rosaria Milana
- EFSA:
FIP Unit: Eric Barthélémy

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Bastiaan Schupp (DG SANTE).

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 Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

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² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



4. Agreement of the minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting held on 17 November 2020, WEB-conference

The minutes of the 4th Working Group meeting were agreed on 17 November 2020.³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. **The efficacy and safety of high-pressure processing of food⁴: ToR1c - chemical food safety risks through food contact materials.**

The WG presented and discussed the review of the articles selected further to the screening of the titles and abstracts of the articles identified from the literature search. A draft table of content was proposed. Tasks for the next meeting were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

6. Next meeting(s)

The next WG meetings will be held on 14-15 December 2020 (on all ToRs apart from ToR1c - chemical food safety risks), on 3 February 2021 (ToR1c - chemical food safety risks due to contaminants) and on 3-4 February 2021 (on ToR1c - chemical food safety risks through food contact materials).

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wgs/biological-hazards/wg-wg-high-pressure-processing-food-efsa-q-2020-00380.pdf>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00380>

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 4TH MEETING OF THE BIOCONTAM BIOHAZ WORKING GROUP ON HIGH PRESSURE PROCESSING OF FOOD

(ToR1c - chemical food safety risks through formation of process contaminants)

Held on 17 November 2020, WEB-conference

(Agreed on 17 November 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Annette Petersen
- European Commission and/or Member States representatives:
Not present
- EFSA:
BIOCONTAM Unit: Anna Christodoulidou, Carina Wenger

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Frans Verstraete (DG SANTE).

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 Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the

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issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting held on 10 November 2020, WEB-conference

The minutes of the 3rd Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 13 November 2020.³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

5.1. The efficacy and safety of high-pressure processing of food⁴.

The EFSA staff and the expert discussed the outcome of the literature searches and selected the articles relevant for further review.

6. Next meeting(s)

The next WG meetings will be held on 8-9 December 2020 (on ToR1c - chemical food safety risks through food contact materials), on 14-15 December 2020 (on all ToRs apart from ToR1c – chemical food safety risks) and on 3 February 2021 (ToR1c - chemical food safety risks due to contaminants).

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/biological-hazards/wq-wq-high-pressure-processing-food-efsa-q-2020-00380.pdf>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00380>

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 3rd MEETING OF THE BIOCONTAM BIOHAZ WORKING GROUP ON HIGH PRESSURE PROCESSING OF FOOD

(all ToRs apart from ToR1c -chemical food safety risk)

Held on 10 November 2020, WEB-conference

(Agreed on 16 November 2020)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Ana Allende, Sara Bover-Cid, Matteo Crotta, Chris Michiels, Artur Xavier Roig Sagués, Panagiotis Skandamis

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Jean-Baptiste Perrin (DG SANTE)

■ EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Winy Messens

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Kris De Smet (DG SANTE).

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 Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the

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issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Agreement of the minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting held on 14-15 October 2020, WEB-conference

The minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 23 October 2020.³

5. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- 5.1. **The efficacy and safety of high pressure processing of food⁴.** The EFSA coordinator provided a short feedback of the briefing provided at the 139th and 140th BIOHAZ plenary meetings (22-23 September and 21-22 October 2020). She informed the WG members that following clarifications of the terms of reference of the mandate were agreed with the EC: (a) high pressure homogenisation is out of scope, (b) the aim of the high pressure processing (HPP) is to increase the microbiological food safety, (c) HPP can be applied at different points in the processing of food and (d) nutritional aspects are out of scope. In ToR1, HPP could be applied to any food, with few exceptions (low moisture foods). The focus can be on those foods that are currently subjected commercially to HPP (for processing conditions). To broaden the range, evidence for experimental studies could complement. The translation of each ToR into assessment questions (AQs) and sub-questions (SQs) was presented and the panel proposed to change microbiological food safety "risk" to "concerns" (e.g. spores) which was agreed with the EC. For ToR2, it was clarified that the end point in the assessment is the raw milk or colostrum for direct consumption. Its further use in cheese or yoghurt production is out of scope. The minimum time/temperature requirements for thermal treatments of milk and colostrum from ruminants from legislation are applicable. The WG experts further discussed the first steps for protocol development, in particular the problem formulation (step 1) was slightly revised and the planning of the methods to conduct the assessment (step 2) was discussed. The protocol will be presented to the BIOHAZ panel for comments. Tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts.

6. Next meeting(s)

The next WG meetings will be held on 17 November 2020 (on ToR1c - chemical food safety risks through formation of process contaminants), on 8-9 December 2020 (on ToR1c - chemical food safety risks through food contact materials) and on 14-15 December 2020 (on all ToRs apart from ToR1c – chemical food safety risks).

³ <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/wqs/biological-hazards/wg-wq-high-pressure-processing-food-efsa-q-2020-00380.pdf>

⁴ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00380>

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 2ND MEETING OF THE BIOCONTAM BIOHAZ WORKING GROUP ON HIGH PRESSURE PROCESSING OF FOOD

(ToR1c - chemical food safety risks through food contact materials)

Held on 14-15 October 2020, WEB-conference

(Agreed on 23 October 2020)

Participants

- Working Group Members:
Laurence Castle, Konrad Grob, Maria Rosaria Milana
- EFSA:
FIP Unit: Eric Barthélémy

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Bastiaan Schupp (DG SANTE).

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 Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

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4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

4.1. **The efficacy and safety of high pressure processing of food³: ToR1c - chemical food safety risks through food contact materials.**

The background and Terms of Reference (ToR) of the mandate received from the European Commission (EC) were introduced to the WG including a short presentation of related EFSA work.

The WG discussed the ToR 1a and 1c related to Food Contact Materials (FCM). The EFSA draft framework for protocol development and the Scientific Committee's Guidance on Uncertainty Analysis in Scientific Assessments were shortly introduced.

The first steps for protocol development were discussed; in particular the problem formulation (step 1) was finalised and the planning of the methods to conduct the assessment (step 2) was initiated.

Upon EFSA request, Dr Yoon Song, Senior Scientist on food packaging safety from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration was invited as hearing expert to present on the FDA's work and knowledge on the effect of HPP on the migration potential including the possible changes in the FCM properties/characteristics. The EFSA and Working Group thank Dr Yoon Song very much for the valuable presentation and discussion held at the meeting.

The WG experts were appointed to lead the various parts of the scientific assessment and tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts. A timeline for WG meetings in 2020 and in 2021 was agreed.

5. Next meeting(s)

The next WG meetings will be held on 10 November 2020 (on all ToRs apart from ToR1c – chemical food safety risks), on 17 November 2020 (on ToR1c - chemical food safety risks through formation of process contaminants) and on 8-9 December 2020 (on ToR1c - chemical food safety risks through food contact materials).

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00380>

SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

MINUTES OF THE 1ST MEETING OF THE BIOCONTAM BIOHAZ WORKING GROUP ON HIGH PRESSURE PROCESSING OF FOOD

Held on 16-17 September 2020, WEB-conference

(Agreed on 2 October 2020)

Participants

■ Working Group Members:

Ana Allende, Laurence Castle, Sara Bover-Cid, Matteo Crotta, Chris Michiels, Annette Petersen, Artur Xavier Roig Sagués, Panagiotis Skandamis

■ European Commission and/or Member States representatives:

Jean-Baptiste Perrin, Bastiaan Schupp (DG SANTE)

■ EFSA:

BIOCONTAM Unit: Anna Christodoulidou, Winy Messens

FIP Unit: Eric Barthelemy

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Kris De Smet and Frans Verstraete (DG SANTE).

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 Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the

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issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

- 4.1. **The efficacy and safety of high pressure processing of food³.** The background and Terms of Reference (ToR) of the mandate received from the European Commission (EC) were introduced to the WG including a short presentation of related EFSA work. The WG discussed the ToRs and clarified these with the EC representative. The EFSA draft framework for protocol development and the Scientific Committee's Guidance on Uncertainty Analysis in Scientific Assessments were shortly introduced. The first steps for protocol development were discussed; in particular the problem formulation (step 1) was finalised and the planning of the methods to conduct the assessment (step 2) was initiated. The WG experts were appointed to lead the various parts of the scientific assessment and tasks were allocated to EFSA staff and WG experts. A timeline for WG meetings in 2020 was agreed.

5. Next meeting(s)

The next WG meetings will be held on 14-15 October 2020 (on ToR1c - chemical food safety risks through food contact material), on 10 November 2020 (on all ToRs apart from ToR1c – chemical food safety risks) and on 17 November 2020 (on ToR1c - chemical food safety risks through formation of process contaminants).

³ <http://registerofquestions.efsa.europa.eu/roqFrontend/questionLoader?question=EFSA-Q-2020-00380>