

Technical and Regulatory Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday 31st October 2018
Via Conference Call

Members present at meeting:

Tracy Brown	BCA Secretariat
Chris Stemman	BCA Executive Director
Nick Boxall	Complete Coffee Ltd (Chair T&R Committee)
Deirdre McCooey	Bewley's
Jenny Breadmore	Fine Foods International Ltd
Eduardo Perez Martinez	JDE
Ivan Baxter	Nestlé UK Ltd
Chris Coates	Taylors of Harrogate

1. Apologies for absence:

Mike Saltmarsh	Automatic Vending Association
Christine O'Callaghan	Bewley's
Franck Porchet	Nestlé UK Ltd

2. Competition Law Compliance

It was confirmed that the meeting would run under the FDF competition law compliance rules, as per the Golden Rules previously distributed.

3. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were duly accepted without comment.

Proposed JB and Seconded CC.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

No matters arising from the previous minutes.

5. Contaminants

- **OTA**

One report recently from RASFF:

Notification details - 2018.2888

ochratoxin A (5.9 µg/kg - ppb) in roasted coffee beans produced in Poland, with raw material from the Netherlands

Reference:	2018.2888	Notification type:	food - alert - official control on the market
Notification date:	12/10/2018	Action taken:	destruction
Last update:	12/10/2018	Distribution status:	distribution to other member countries
Notification from:	Poland (PL)	Product:	roasted coffee beans
Classification:	alert	Product category:	cocoa and cocoa preparations, coffee and tea
Risk decision:	serious	Published in RASFF Consumers' Portal:	has never been published

Hazards

Substance / Hazard	Category	Analytical result	Units	Sampling date
ochratoxin A	mycotoxins	5.9	µg/kg - ppb	31/07/2018

Close

There was an instance concerning green coffee imported into Spain much earlier this year that was previously reported, and after a legal challenge the coffee was allowed to pass.

We have received reports of much higher than usual levels of pest infestation (from most origins) this year. These have been attributed to delays and much longer than usual shipping times, and possibly poor practices and cutting corners in the handling of the coffee.

CS asked those on the call if they have experienced this, none had!

- **Acrylamide (AA)**

EU 2017/2158 was now in place.

CS asked those on the call had they had any enforcement interest, as there was still considerable ambiguity.

CS added that it seems that local authorities don't seem to be actioning currently.

Status:-

COM guidelines/FDE toolbox not adopted by the Commission and therefore has no legal status.

Chapter C:

Where levels of acrylamide exceed the benchmark levels, this does not necessarily mean that the food has to be withdrawn or recalled from the market. If considered necessary, a risk assessment has to be carried out to determine whether the food exceeding the benchmark level has to be withdrawn or recalled from the market in application of article 14 of the General Food Law 178/2002.

UK – FSA note to Local Authorities (issued in March) – previously circulated. FSA have agreed that they will review this in the light of BCA comments, but the absence of legal status for the COM document may be problematic.

FSA acrylamide and furan survey results published in June - the acrylamide in coffee figures are a little lower than we anticipated and this may make it more difficult for us to defend the benchmark levels in the new Regulation.

ECF documents awaiting final approval:



**Sector Code of Practice for Managing
Acrylamide Formation in Coffee**

September 2018

And the ECF AA leaflet – stressing that AA is not a CCP and should be managed through a PRP.

CS noted that if Members require a copy of the pending documents he is happy to circulate.

The future:

- Benchmark value review – April 2021
- Benchmark data vs Maximum limits

- **Furan (and its methyl derivatives)**

20th September 2017: EFSA publish “Risks for public health related to the presence of furan and methylfurans in food”.

This established coffee a main contributor to the adult diet.

25th October 2017: EFSA – further assessment required – call for further data

FDE – review of scientific information on furan. Lead author Richard H Stadler, Nestle Research. ECF aligned on coffee narrative. Data drawn from EFSA, literature and Nestle

ISIC funded research – Yeretdzian and Rahn “Impact of consumer behavior on furan and furan derivative exposure during coffee consumption.” Accepted for publication August 2018. The highlights (from the ECF):

- ✓ **Furan and 2-methylfuran account for 95% of the furan derivatives found within coffee.**
- ✓ **Whole beans contain the highest furan levels, less than 21% of these furan derivatives will be extracted into the cup.**
- ✓ **The Processing and Brewing method affect the level of furan derivatives in the cup.**
 - The initial concentration within the brew decreases significantly upon cooling, with longer times being associated with a greater loss.
 - Serving vessels were found to influence the cooling rate but not the furan exposure at a given temperature.
- ✓ **Furan and furan derivative concentrations decrease significantly upon cooling, reducing consumer exposure by 8.0-17.2 % on average once the coffee reached drinking temperature 55-60 °C, in ceramic cups.**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Highest manufacturing and extraction efficiency: Capsule coffees, with 11% consumer exposure ✓ Most effective extraction: Filter Coffee with 10% consumer exposure ✓ Highest concentration: Coffee brewed with the fully automatic machine | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Non detectable levels: Soluble coffee |
|---|--|

ECF has a call for 2017 and 2018 data live to satisfy the EFSA request. Using a specialist to anonymise and submit data.

Furans seen as a lower threat to health than acrylamide and recognition given that reducing acrylamide may increase levels of furan(s) but there is concern over prospective legislation. Coffee and baby food are the key products of concern and the Yeretdzian and Rahn study is very helpful in this respect. The current Prop 65 position is also supportive quoting: “Current science indicates that consuming coffee poses no significant risk of cancer (IARC research).”

CC noted that the risk is as consumed. CS added that the regulator since reducing the AA levels makes things harder to mitigate for Furan.

CS noted that if Members receive any enquiries from their customers the Yeretdzian and Rahn paper could be passed to them and believes this should significantly help with their queries. The BCA to recirculate the paper.

Action: BCA

• Diacetyl

CS noted that out of the blue, unannounced and a real blow to us, Diacetyl added to the EH40/2005 “Workplace Exposure Limits List” in August. Requires management through COSHH.

It was a recommendation made by SCOEL in 2014 that brought this about. Unfortunately, this went under the ECF (and BCA) radar.

CS asked if Members had any enquiries from HSE as this time, none currently had. CS added that he has had no further contact with HSE since working with them. CC noted that perhaps we need to reach out to them again to try and foster this relationship. CC added that he was happy to go and work on this.

Action: CC

- **Heavy Metals & Chemicals**

No update.

- **Mineral Hydrocarbons**

CS noted that the BLL (German Toolbox) for Mineral Oil Hydrocarbons was circulated in January. All seems to be quiet since.

- **Pesticides**

Glyphosphate

CS noted that this has widespread use on coffee plantations for weed management.

Controversially a proposed ban was overturned and a 5-year renewal granted in November 2017.....however France and Italy have indicated an "early ban" within 3 years. Switzerland is also considering an early ban and has also revised the authorised limit for glyphosphate... upwards.

EU default limit after 2022 will fall to 0.01ppm. This is expected to be problematic.

Iprodione

CS noted that plant protection products containing iprodione had authorization revoked. The new limit is set to the limit of determination. Legislation expected to be published in February 2019 and come into force immediately with no agreed transition. A grace period is expected and new MRLs will be effective September/October 2019.

6. BRCv7 – Food Authenticity

CS asked in regard to BRCv7 (and v8) was there any update from Members, those on the call noted none at this time.

CS asked those present if they felt that additional work to revise our v7 document would be required. CC noted he would like to review to ascertain that our document is still fit for purpose. CS asked should we review in January, as the new version comes out in February, all agreed that it could be done by conference call.

Action: BCA**7. ISO Activities**

NB noted that nothing further to report at this time.

8. Sustainability and Foot Printing

- **Regulatory**

CS noted that we had the announcement in the budget in regard to Plastics.

CS added that the WRAP Plastics pact has been launched.

CS noted that this subject was held within the Sustainability Committee, more details to follow from that Committee.

9. Health Claims

- **Caffeine Claims**

CS noted these are not currently being pursued.

10. Arabica/Robusta Analysis by Quadram

CS noted that following the publication, things seem to have gone very quiet. CS added that he will try and meet with them to establish what direction they are looking to go in next.

CC added that there may be some slight flaws within the testing that could give a false positive. CS noted that he will raise the question with the ICO in regard to coffee parentage. CS asked if WCR could possibly help?

11. Consumer Information Legislation

- **Rules of Origin**

CS noted that this may become relevant if we depart the EU.

CS added that we are still seeking to get formal recognition that single ingredient products are exempted. Various guidelines include coffee as an example! This is not helpful and confuses the matter enormously.

BCA to send around the BRC Guidance on Rules of Origin.

Action: BCA

12. Technical & Regulatory Priorities

To be reviewed following this meeting.

13. Position Statements

CS noted that the Position Statements are currently up to date, not necessarily of a technical national but Brexit, Sustainability etc.

14. Dates of the 2019 meetings:

CS noted that physical meetings seem to be an issue for some people, in planning dates for 2019 do Members wish to continue these. Those on the call felt that for Technical, physical meetings were preferable.

- Dates for 2019, please can we ask that you put these dates in your diaries.
 - **12th March 2019 - FDF**
 - **11th June 2019 - FDF**
 - **6th November 2019 - FDF**