

**Technical and Regulatory Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 12th June 2018
FDF, 10 Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2SL**

Members present at meeting:

Tracy Brown	BCA Secretariat
Chris Stemman	BCA Executive Director
Nick Boxall	Complete Coffee Ltd (Chair T&R Committee)
Mike Saltmarsh	Automatic Vending Association
Farzana Mehrban	Bewley's
Gennaro Pelliccia	Costa
Jenny Breadmore	Fine Foods International Ltd
John Wills	Finlay Beverages Ltd
Stephanie Jordan	JDE (via conf. call)
Ivan Baxter	Nestlé UK Ltd
Chris Coates	Taylors of Harrogate

1. Apologies for absence:

Christine O'Callaghan	Bewley's
Carla Politano	Costa
Sarah Harrington	Masteroast Coffee Company Ltd
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**

CS noted that we saw some 4 weeks ago, a rapid alert for coffee imported into Spain. CS made contact with the Spanish Coffee Association to discuss this, discussions are still ongoing with border authorities but this appears to be an isolated incident.

However recently OTA seems to be more prevalent in dried fruits.

- **Acrylamide (AA)**

CS noted that we now have a working piece of legislation since the 11th April, but at this time we have no enforcement guidelines available in the UK. The enforcement approach will be very much

about mitigation and not the benchmark levels, unless these levels are significantly higher than those set in the regulation. In regard to the general direction of this legislation, it does seem we are travelling towards maximum limits. CS asked those present if they had received any calls from interested parties in regard to this new legislation, some noted that there had been some interest. The regulation around acrylamide makes a similar approach very unlikely. We have explained to the Commission that selecting processing conditions to achieve lower acrylamide may increase levels of furan.

IB asked in regard to the latest version, what were the issues that the industry were not happy with, CS noted that there were questions around the wording of results in excess of the benchmarks and that this has initiated further discussions. The question of reach of the regulation also needs definition – the scale of businesses affected is still under debate. MS asked if the definition of a small company has yet been defined, CS noted that this had not been resolved yet. MS asked if there was any update/input from the European Vending Association, CS noted none that he was aware.

CC asked if you did have an issue with levels being higher than those set, would this automatically trigger an investigation. The manufacturer should investigate and establish the cause of the high results. Enforcement authorities will have the power to view the manufacturer's results and actions taken.

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

CS noted that there have been a few developments, at a European level there has been a request for data made to FDE, but the ECF have decided not to be part of this. The ISIC paper on this subject matter is still awaited, CS noted that he will chase up ISIC as to the status of this report.

Action: CS (first part of the paper is scheduled for September publication)

CS stated that Furan is perceived as a lower risk to human health than AA.

CS added there won't be a Furan toolbox at any point soon, as we have no obvious mitigation available.

- **Diacetyl**

CS noted that we had engagement with the HSE in the UK earlier this year, the BCA were asked to facilitate an exercise with a short questionnaire with roasting and grinding businesses in the UK. CS noted that he had chased up again last week and was told they are currently reviewing this data, we await a further update from them in due course, CS will keep diarised to chase up if we have not heard anything in the next few weeks.

Action: CS

CS noted there has been another little bubble of recent activity in the US, where there is a researcher in Milwaukee trying to undertake further work on the subject matter. We remain close to the NCA on US developments.

- **Heavy Metals & Chemicals**

Nothing new to report.

- **Mineral Hydrocarbons**

CS noted that there is nothing really new to add and reminded those present of the BLL toolbox document previously circulated.

SJ noted that there seemed to be much interest from the German Association (DKV), CS noted that he will catch up with DKV at the ECF AGM next week to get an understanding from their side in regard to packaging.

Action: CS

- **Pesticides**

Nothing new to report.

6. BRCv7 – Food Authenticity

CS asked those present if they felt that additional work to revise our v7 document would be required. CS asked those present who would like to work on a BCA v8 documents, JB, CC, JW all volunteered.

7. ISO Activities

NB noted that another document “ISO CD22994 Coffee and coffee products — Determination of dry matter content of ☐ soluble coffee — Sea sand method for liquid and pasty coffee extracts”, that seems to be taking its time to go through the system. NB asked if anyone has any issues to please revert by the 22nd of June. TB to circulate the document for comments.

Action: TB

8. Sustainability and Foot Printing

• Regulatory

CS noted the possible introduction of the ‘latte levy’ and been working hard to try and ensure that this is not introduced. MS noted that there had been in excess of eighty thousand responses to the government’s calls for evidence. Much criticism had been levelled at the non-joined up recycling processes, and the ‘latte levy’ would not achieve very much – particularly if the revenue raised was not directed into supporting solutions.

9. Health Claims

• Caffeine Claims

CS noted that the ECF are now not pushing to have use of the claims. It was felt that the conditions of use being discussed were more damaging than those rising from using the claims. In the light of what is going on in the energy drinks sector and sugar probably a wish suggestion!

10. Arabica/Robusta Analysis by Quadram

CS noted that the outcomes of this research were well managed by the BCA here in the UK, and this seems to have now gone quiet in the UK media. Quadram noted that they have had some interest from the retail sector.

CS stated that he had recently received communication from the Danish Association, this work has now been picked up in a leading publication in Denmark.

11. Consumer Information Legislation

• Rules of Origin

CS noted that that he has come across an issue in the current proposal around Primary Food Ingredient, example if you have something labelled of Italian style, this is obviously not the country of origin and this would still be required on the labelling.

CS noted that this a very complicated area, and of interest to some members who would be looking to import coffee in consumer packaging into the UK after January 2021 when the Rules of Origin will apply.

CS added that it has some way to go, the Nabim, the FDF/Nabim paper which initiated Government interest in this topic can be found here <https://www.fdf.org.uk/rulesoforigin-eu-uk-fta.aspx>, and Defra document (attached separately) which were previously circulated, are both good reading materials.

CC asked about pre and post Brexit rules, CS noted that the currently the Government remain committed to parity and during the transition period we will retain parity. Of course, Post Brexit, things could change, CS noted that he is continually monitoring and trying to pick up on things as they come through.

• Labelling

CS made reference to US Prop 65 legislation (coffee can cause cancer labelling), the NCA are confident that this legislation won’t come east from California and lead to Regulation in other states of the US. We will continue to monitor this.

12. Technical & Regulatory Priorities

CS noted that this document was amended back in February this year, do members feel that there are any changes to be made, apart from possibly removing Caffeine Health Claims from this document. No other comments received.

13. Position Statements

CS noted that the revised AA position statement is out with the Communications Committee for approval and will be circulated following that approval.

CC asked about a possible position statement on Modern Slavery, CS noted that this currently sits with the Sustainability Committee, it is definitely on their radar to be addressed, but is definitely a difficult and complicated area to undertake as an industry position.

14. Dates of the 2018 meetings:

- Wednesday 31st October 2018 (Technical Committee & The Board)