

Technical and Regulatory Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday 12th March 2019
Room Machin - FDF, 6th Floor, 10 Bloomsbury Way, London, WC1A 2SL

Members present at meeting:

Tracy Brown	BCA Secretariat
Chris Stemman	BCA Executive Director
Farzana Mehrban	Bewley's
Carla Politano	Costa
Jenny Breadmore	Fine Foods International Ltd
Eduardo Perez Martinez	JDE
Sarah Harrington	Masteroast
Chris Coates	Taylors of Harrogate

Guest Speaker

David Moore	Oritain
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1. Apologies for absence:

Mike Saltmarsh	AVA
Nick Boxall	Complete Coffee Ltd (Chair T&R Committee)
Ivan Baxter	Nestlé UK 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.

CS noted that NB has expressed his sincere apologies for not being able to Chair the meeting today.

3. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were duly accepted without comment.

4. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes

No matters arising from the previous minutes.

5. Contaminants

• **OTA**

CS noted that after several years of relative silence, this issue seems to have re-emerged, with some coffee being intercepted with particularly high levels of OTA.

CS noted that we have received a number of anecdotal enquiries about high levels.

The regulatory bodies currently seem more pre-occupied around high levels of OTA in vine fruits.

CC asked if anything had been raised about aflatoxins in general, CS nothing comes to mind at this time.

- **Acrylamide (AA) Regulation**

CS asked if anyone had received any enquiries from enforcement agencies around the regulation, none present had.

CS added currently the authorities are not making this a priority for their limited resources, and they know the "go for gold" campaign the FSA ran was not received well.

CS noted that the new edition of the toolbox was circulated out to Members on 11th March 2019, sadly there is still reference to asparaginase. CS noted at this time there is significant regulatory interest in infant products with a view to establishing maximum limits.

CC asked if the draft CoP previously circulated from the ECF now has a final version and if so when will it be published. CS confirmed there was nothing further since this 'draft' document, and we will re-circulate these documents. CC also asked could we therefore have a 'UK' best practice version that could be worked on, approved and further circulated.

Action: BCA/ALL

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

CS noted that ISIC published its paper on preparation methods, and it has found its way in front of interested bodies in Brussels. There is good understanding now that consumer exposure to Furan varies widely depending on storage and preparation as well as manufacture. The loss of Furan during the handling of coffee to the final drink is significant.

CS noted that Methyl Furans continue to be an issue specifically for coffee and we will have to confront it in due course.

- **Diacetyl**

CS noted that Diacetyl has been the subject of investigations by HSE, and was added without warning to the EH40 exposure document back in August 2018. This was extremely disappointing due to CS and CC conversations with the HSE, and further, the questionnaires completed by Member companies.

CC noted that he had a conversation with HSE a couple of weeks ago. Warren Pennington from HSE has agreed to come in and present to the BCA Members.

Action: CC/BCA

CS now feels that the time is right for the BCA and its Members to now engage with the HSE. CS added that when they had previously met last year the HSE were keen for the BCA to develop a code of practice, but things have moved on since then.

CC noted that this is an occupational health matter so would not necessarily come under the remit of the BCA as an in-house matter, but added the HSE could now start to look at other compounds.

CS noted that there has been nothing to link bronchiolitis obliterans (a lung disease) to coffee roasters in the UK at this time, although there is a reported case from the flavouring industry.

CC asked that the BCA circulate the information provided by Warren Pennington, HSE by email on the 27th February.

Action: BCA

CS added that due to how the HSE is now funded businesses now have to pay for a visit by the HSE, hence why they are likely targeting the larger companies/Members.

- **Heavy Metals & Chemicals**

CS added that apart from cadmium in vegetables, there is nothing directly related to coffee at this time. CS added that he is continuing to have a watching brief on this.

- **Mineral Hydrocarbons**

CS noted that the FDE document has now been circulated, and from a coffee perspective Members would need to assess where the risk lies, whether that is through contact with the jute bag or the outer packaging surrounding the coffee. CC noted that there is uncertainty around the methodology, but Members need to monitor.

- **Pesticides**

Glyphosphate

CS noted that the ban on Glyphosphate came in last year. Many suppliers are worried about how they can monitor this. There is a ring testing being carried out within the ECF to try and get to the bottom of this, but it is proving difficult. There are issues with false/positive results. We understand that some Members are being pushed hard to certificate that the landed green coffee does not contain this.

Methyl Bromide

CS noted that the EU have banned the use of this (under the Montreal protocol), however some countries such as India have not signed up to the ban, therefore the product needs to be below 70ppm bromide to be imported into the EU. CS added that the issue had been raised that some shipping documents have documented that Methyl Bromide been used to treat the container contents.

6. BRCv7(8) – Food Authenticity

A consensus was reached for a date for the conference call to discuss v8, and if any changes to the BCA's current v7 guidance document would be required, this call will be held on Thursday 25th April with the BRC working group.

Action: BCA

7. ISO Activities

CS noted that there was nothing new to report at this time.

8. Sustainability and Foot Printing

- **Regulatory**

CS noted that nothing specific for coffee at the moment, although there is the development of standards still underway in the EU.

9. Health Claims

- **Caffeine Claims**

CS noted these are not currently being pursued. CS added that an energy drink did get caught out the other week trying to make claims in their printed material, but this has now had to be withdrawn.

In regard to coffee there seems no industry appetite to take this further.

10. Coffee Authenticity Update by Oritain

David Moore explained his background and how he has come into the food fraud realms.

DM noted that food fraud is increasing and a huge world problem.

Oritain was formed in 2008 in New Zealand.

They mainly deal in 3 main areas, textiles, food and pharma.

The science is forensic based.

JB asked if there had been any work done on Instant Coffee, DM noted he did not believe so at this time. JB thought that retailers would be interested in this kind of research.

CC asked if work had also been undertaken on spices, DM noted this can be done on dry powders as well.

CC noted that the world of coffee and its products produced is huge, DM added that their coffee samples are not vast that this time but they are working on this. But they are willing to work with companies if they have any specific issues.

DM noted that Oritain do more than just isotope work. CC added that isotope work can sometimes be flawed.

CC asked about mapping the supply, DM noted they can take a sample at any point in the chain to get a result, for clients to try and eliminate the risk at any point in the chain.

JB asked that if a retailer wanted to work with Oritain, they would need to get samples from each of the origins that they purchase coffee from. DM noted they would work with either the retailer or the supplier.

JB asked if Oritain had looked at both Robusta and Arabica samples. CC noted that sometimes you can have plants that are a combination of both Robusta and Arabica. DM added they there would definitely need to be some forensic work on this, and something they could certainly look into if this was a specific issue.

CS asked if any industries have collectively pooled their data, DM noted that yes, they have.

CS asked if the samples taken of coffee shown on the screen were all from the same crop year, DM noted he was not sure and would need to check. But Oritain do try to understand and look at seasonality, but this should not fundamentally make too much difference.

BCA to circulate the Oritain presentation.

Action: BCA

11. Consumer Information Legislation

• Rules of Origin

CS noted that we are currently caught as a single ingredient product under Regulation 1169/2011, and may have to label to comply with Article 26(3). The ECXF continues to lobby against the inclusion of coffee.

• Labelling (Brexit)

CS made reference to the labelling changes that would be required should we leave the EU without a deal.

CS also noted that heat treated pallets would need to be used, and there is a shortage of these at this time.

CC noted that hopefully there would be a transition period.

12. Technical & Regulatory Priorities

CS asked those present if there were any questions in regard to the new document.

Following a recent audit, SH was asked for a full list of all the legislative points that are related to coffee. CS noted that this is a very complicated piece of work, easier if vertical legislation but not for horizontal legislation.

CS noted that he did produce a compendium of EU regulation in his previous role, but obviously this may have changed in the intervening period. JB added that she might be able to locate the document that might be of some assistance and would send across.

Action: CS/JB

CS noted that this could possibly something for a working group to update and maintain

Action: ALL/BCA

13. Position Statements

CS noted that in regard to anything in the regulatory sphere there have been no updates to position statements.

14. Dates of the 2019 Technical meetings

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