



**Evaluation of substances
for positive lists
for Food Contact Materials**
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Food Contact Materials, Enzymes,
Flavourings & Processing Aids

1

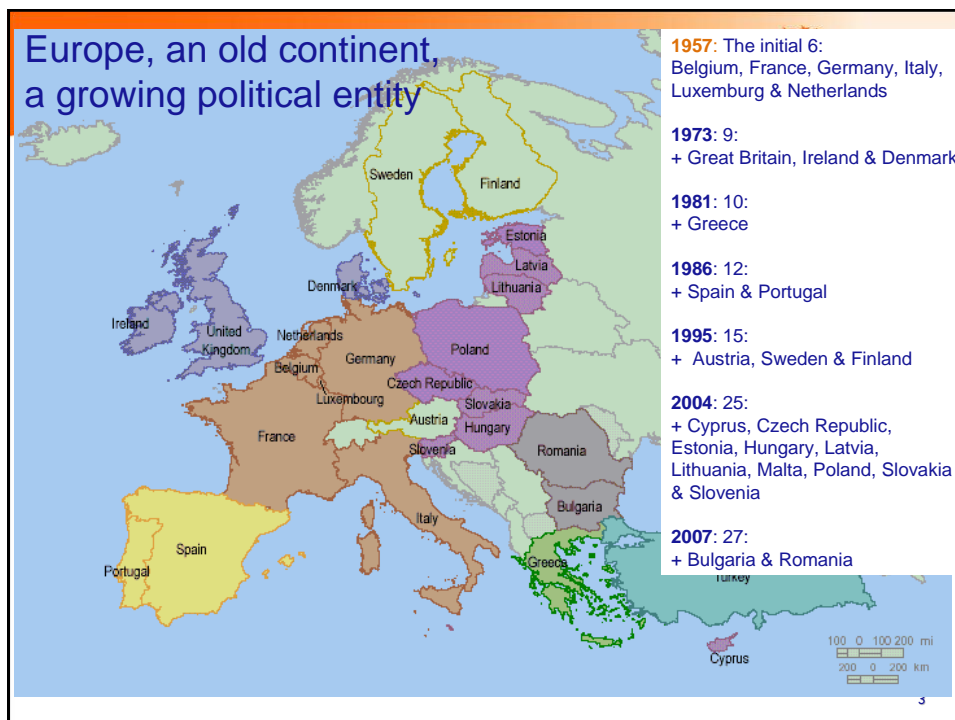


**About EFSA and
evaluations for FCM**


Evaluations for positive lists

Risk assessment in case of
crises

2



Background of creation of EFSA (2003)



- **Succession of food scares**
(e.g. Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, dioxins)
- **Loss of consumer confidence in safety of food chain**
- **Damaged trust in public authorities**
- **Need to re-cast EU food safety system and policy**

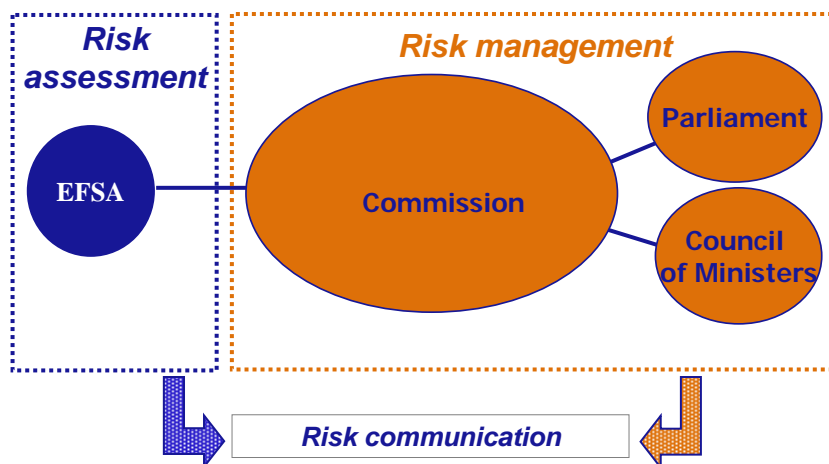
4

Regulation EC 178/2002: “Food law”, the legal background

- General principles for food safety requirements
- Setting up the European Food Safety Authority
- Setting up a procedure for managing crises
- Provides the respective responsibilities risk assessment / risk management.

5

EU Food Safety Structure



6

What EFSA does: the mandate

- **Provide scientific advice** and support for Community legislation/policies in all fields with direct/indirect impact on food and feed safety
- **Provide independent information** on all matters within these fields
- **Risk communication**



7

About risk communication



**Risk
Communication:**
deliver **a simple
and clear
message**



8

Commission does not always follow EFSA's advice

Example: EFSA has evaluated several biocides for FCM and considered uses as acceptable from point of view of food safety.

Commission (risk manager) has not authorised them (EC 975/2009), because of other considerations (e.g. broad use of biocides may raise concerns for antimicrobial resistance).

Such considerations were not in EFSA's mandate.



Daily Mail
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2010
NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 40p
It's not too late to pick up this week's children's classic with your Mail **FOR JUST £2.60**
Treasure Island

JARS OF BABY FOOD IN CANCER ALERT

Lady in blue



By Sean Poulter
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

HABY food firms have been warned to change the seals on their jars amid fears of contamination by a cancer-causing toxin. Food safety experts have demanded immediate action on a range of products from baby food to pasta sauce. The news, announced yesterday by the Food and Drug Administration, is the latest in a series of warnings from the agency. EFSA and the food industry believe the contamination is linked to the storage plastic used in the jars.

Turn to Page 6, Col. 4

Carmela Parker Boveas, arriving at the Fashion Week charity gala in London last night. SEE PAGES 8 & 9

tion  efsa
European Food Safety Authority



Consumers have a strong concern for safe food packaging

⇒ interest of NGOs & media

10

The 4 pillars of EFSA



11

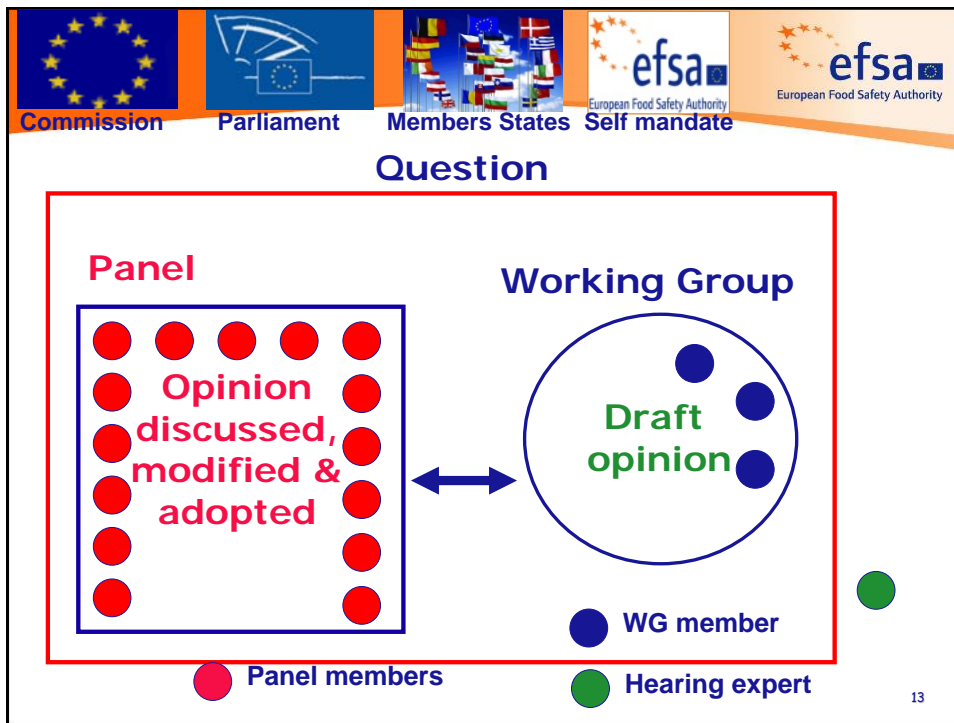


Commission Parliament Member States Self mandate

*** Commission**
*** Parliament**
*** Member States**
& EFSA (self-mandate)

may put questions to EFSA

12



Panel may send back a draft opinion to the WG for clarification & improvement

14



**EFSA does not decide on priorities:
they are set in Terms of Reference.
For positive list, it is even set in
Regulation: it is always the same:
6 months!**

15

EFSA selects the WG & Panel Members



Is he/she the one who shows the way?

- Proven scientific excellence
- Experience in risk assessment
- Absence of conflict of interest



**⇒ Appointment for 3 years
in Panel of 21 members**

16

EFSA selects the WG & Panel Members

**Experts & rapporteurs are external
(= not paid by EFSA).
This guarantees
independency of opinions.**

**A decision of a Panel cannot
be contradicted by EFSA.**

**EFSA scientific secretariat heavily contributes to
consistency of opinions, mainly at WG level.**



17

EFSA selects the WG & Panel Members

**Experts are highly committed:
At each meeting (WG or Panel) 10-20 draft opinions
are discussed,
each with 20-60 pages,
received 1-3 weeks
in advance.**

**And the experts always
know all documents
& follow the discussions....!**



18

EFSA selects the WG & Panel Members

Experts are highly committed:

- No financial interest, only indemnities
- Discussions at high level
- All relevant areas of science are represented in meetings
- Discussions are intellectually challenging
- EFSA acknowledges its experts
- Experts are proud of being selected by EFSA



Management of conflicts of interest

Expert declares that he is working / has worked recently

for a company having possible conflicts with Panel activities?

for a public organisation or University?

Cannot be Panel or WG member
Only occasional hearing expert

Has the expert a consultancy activity in the remit of Panel?

Is expert advising risk managers?

Does the funding of expert's research generate conflicts?

Can be Panel or WG member

About EFSA and evaluations for FCM

Evaluations for positive lists

Risk assessment in case of crises

21

Is my food safe?



22

Plastics Packaging materials are regulated with positive list

Cross section of a typical packaging material

Coatings	1935/2004
Printed layer	1935/2004
Plastics	2002/72-Positive list (monomers, additives)
Metals	
Adhesives	1935/2004
Paper & board	1935/2004 Only general requirement: "should not endanger human health" No positive list.

Silicones, rubber, wood chips

23

Principle of positive lists

A positive list is a list of substances which have been evaluated and which may be used to make FCM materials.

Only substances from the list can be used.

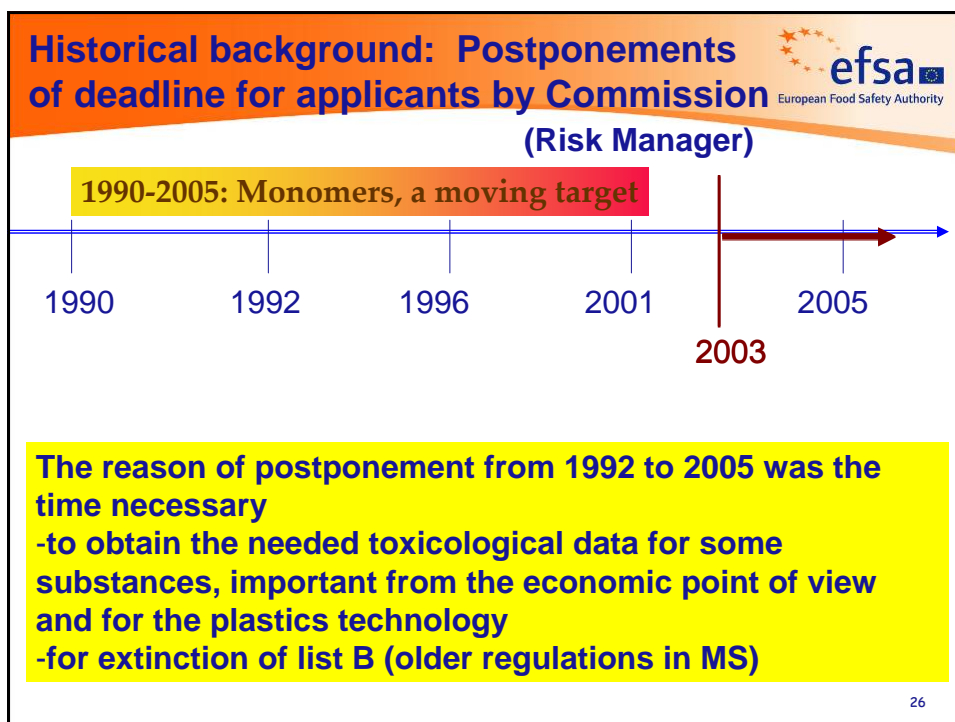
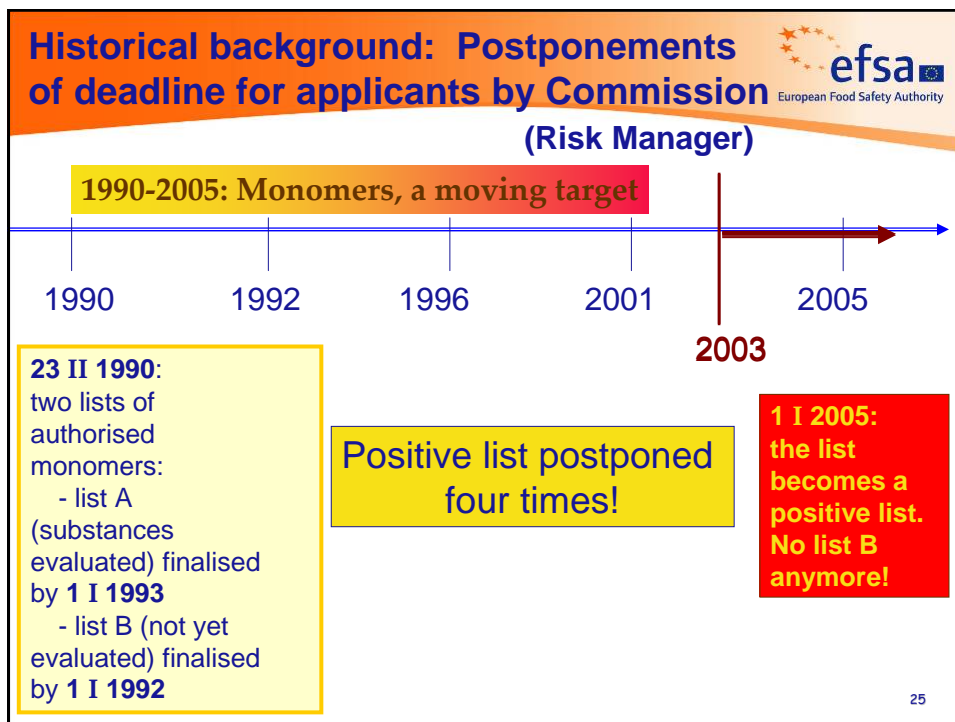
Historically there were 2 list as annexes, both for monomers & additives

- List A: **Substances evaluated** (the real future positive list)
- List B: **Substances not yet evaluated and which can be used provisionally** if a valid application has been submitted by a given deadline

Only list A is the actual positive list

The list is positive when list B disappears.

24



Historical background: additives

2004-2010: Additives



Creation of EFSA

1 III 2004:
announcement of establishment of a positive list for additives asking for submission of applications by **31 XII 2006**; by **31 XII 2007** the Commission will produce a provisional list of substances which can continue to be used if a valid application was submitted

6 III 2008:
announcement that the positive list of additives will apply as from **1 I 2010**; with the option to continue to use substances on the provisional list

27

Responsibilities of business operators

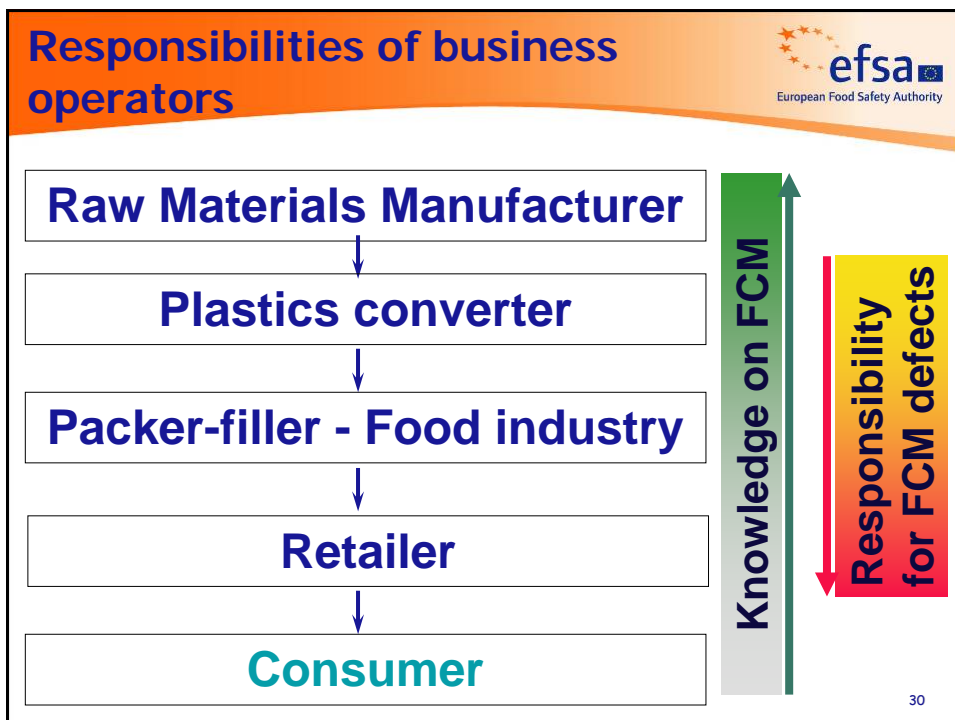
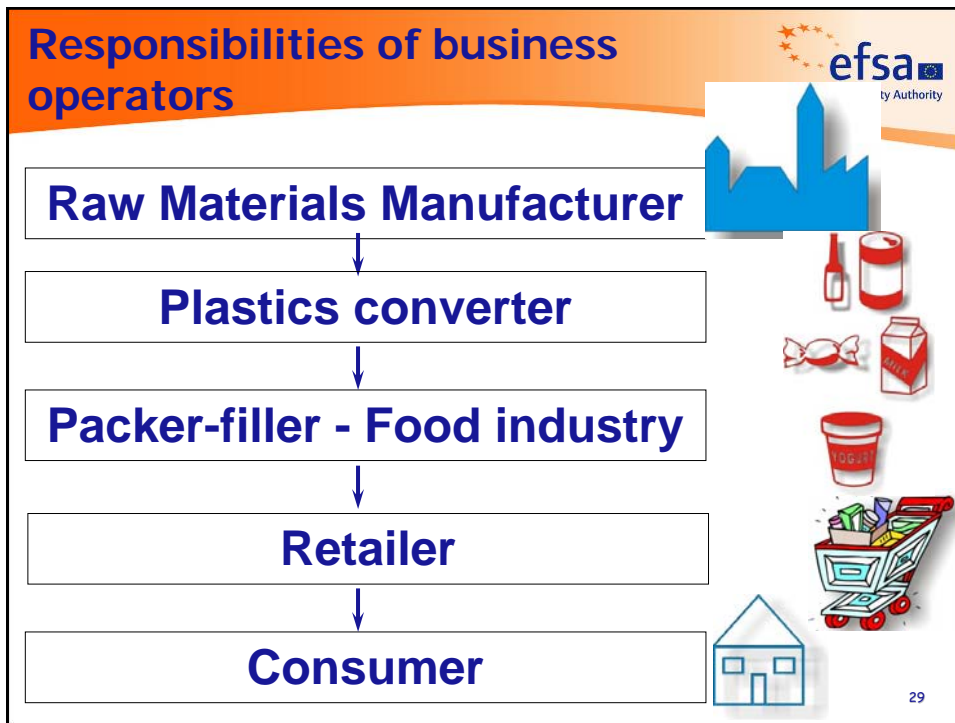
- Any food in which a specific migration limit (SML) is exceeded is illegal, whatever the size and amount on the market (independently of actual dietary exposure): e.g. **mineral water** as well as **anchovies**

High consumption
(2 l/day)

low daily
consumption

- Every business operator has to comply with the regulation and the migration limits, whatever the amounts of packages or packaged food he places on the market

28



Responsibilities of business operators

Raw Materials Manufacturer



Plastics converter



Packer-filler - Food industry



Retailer



Consumer

Supply of supporting documentation, enabling controls



31

Responsibilities of business operators

Raw Materials Manufacturer



Plastics converter



Packer-filler - Food industry



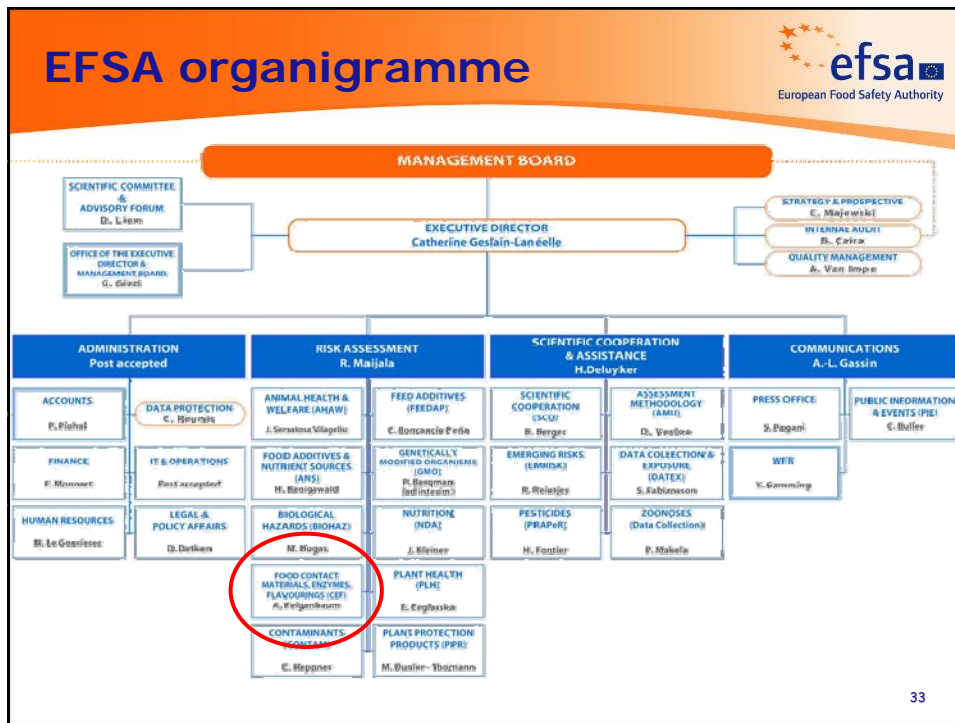
Retailer



Consumer

EU industry is playing the game: food industries request from their suppliers that law and even EFSA opinions is respected

EFSA organigramme



33

EFSA organigramme

Food Contact Materials team in CEF scientific secretariat

- Dimitrios Spyropoulos, deputy Head of Unit
- Eric Barthelemy, junior scientific officer
- + part time contributions of
 - Eva Maria Ferrari, administrative assistant
 - Anna Castoldi, senior toxicologist
 - Alina Lupu, junior scientific officer
 - Ilse Koenig & Marco Lannutti, web site, finance



34

Two types of evaluations for FCM

APPLICATIONS
for positive lists-
substances not yet
on the market

Full risk assessment
for substances already
on the market &

CRISES:

ITX, benzophenone,
4-MBP, bisphenol A

35

Applications for positive lists: the launching

Company (applicant) prepares an application
-for a new substance for plastics
-to request new conditions of use for an “old “ substance



Company follows EFSA guidelines
-to identify the data needed for the specific case
-to set up the dossier



Company sends the application to a Member State

36

Applications for positive lists: the workflow

First check of application: Member State checks the compliance of application with Regulation (intended use is plastics) or sets another priority & sends it to EFSA with a mandate (background + terms of reference)



Second check: EFSA receives the application
CEF Unit checks the completeness of the application and appoints rapporteurs, in agreement with Chair



Third check: Rapporteurs check the scientific validity of application: have all data been provided?
If not, has a scientific justification been provided?

37

Applications for positive lists: the workflow



Official acceptance:
Clock starts: 6 months!

38

Applications for positive lists: the workflow

During these 6 months, EFSA Secretariat has a very important administrative and scientific work:

- organisation of meetings, travels, Declarations of interest...
- coordination between rapporteurs, scientific documentation, consistency of final report, communication...

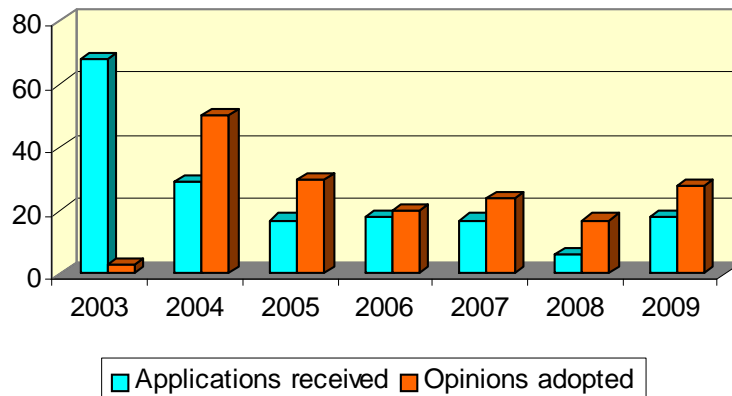
Applications for positive lists: the workflow

Steps after acceptance by EFSA of dossier for evaluation

- 1. Preparation of draft report**
- 2. Discussion of draft report in CEF FCM Working group**
(5-6 meetings per year, 2.5 days each)
- 3. Discussion of draft report in CEF Panel => opinion**
(5-6 meetings per year, 2.5 days each)
- 4. Publication of opinion on EFSA home page**
(15 working days after adoption)

Applications for positive lists: the workflow

FCM Applications / opinions



41

Applications for positive lists: the principles

APPLICATIONS for positive lists- substances not yet on the market:

- Dietary exposure is estimated based on conventional worst case scenario
- Set of toxicity data requested is based on migration values in food simulants

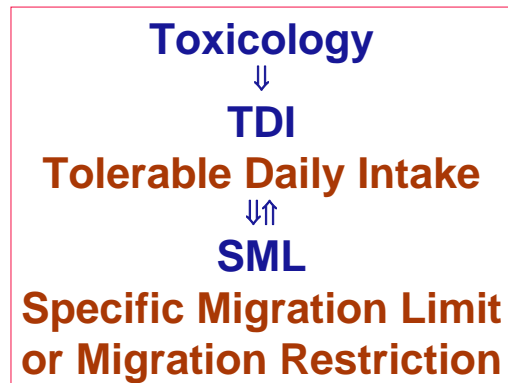
Applicants **MUST** provide the data according to EFSA guidelines.

If at validity check, it is seen that data are missing, the application is not accepted.

If during evaluations, it appears that data submitted are not adequate, additional data are needed and the clock is stopped.

42

Applications for positive lists: the principles



43

Applications for positive lists: the principles

- 1 A (high/standard) consumer weights **60 kg**
- 2 He/she consumes every day of his/her life **1 kg of food packaged with the FCM material containing the FCM substance**
- 3 **6 dm² plastic package 1 kg food**
⇒ $SML (mg/6 \text{ dm}^2) = TDI (mg/kg \text{ body weight}) / 60$

Specific Migration Limit

Migration is tested in
food simulants
(aqueous, alcohol, acid,
fatty)

**Tolerable daily intake
or restriction
(from toxicity data)**

**Consumer
weight (60 kg)**

Applications for positive lists: the threshold approach

	< 0.05 mg/kg	< 5 mg/kg	5-60 mg/kg food
3 mutagenicity tests	+	+	+
90-day study	-	+(1)	+(2)
accumulation	-	+	-
ADME	-	-	+
reproduction study	-	-	+
developmental studies	-	-	+
long term study	-	-	+

No migration should exceed 60 mg/kg food

45

Applications for positive lists: expressing restrictions

If only 3 genotoxicity tests are provided and if they are negative, can the conclusion of the evaluation be “migration acceptable till 0.05 mg/kg food”?

Answer: NO

Migration data are always requested

- They correspond to intended use
- They represent worst case situations (time, temperature)
- Applicants must demonstrate that they are able to manufacture materials complying with the likely migration restriction

46

Applications for positive lists: expressing restrictions

3-Methyl-1,5-pentanediol, a co-monomer for polyurethane, was shown by applicant to be non genotoxic.

Conclusions of the evaluation were as follows:

-SML = 0.05 mg/kg food

-Only to be used in materials in contact with food at a surface to mass ratio up to 0.5 dm²/kg food (e.g. sealing gaskets)

With such a restriction, there is no safety concern about possible migration of cyclic polyurethane oligomers (EFSA October 2009).

47

About EFSA and evaluations for FCM

Evaluations for positive lists

Risk assessment in case of crises

48

Substances already on the market, no application: crises!

APPLICATIONS for positive lists- substances not yet on the market:

- Dietary exposure is estimated based on conventional worst case scenario
- Set of toxicity data requested is based on migration values in food simulants

Full risk assessment for substances already on the market & crises:

ITX, benzophenone,
4-MBP, bisphenol A

- Dietary exposure is estimated based on surveys in foodstuffs
- Extensive use of all data available: scientific literature & industry data and cross-reading

49

Substances already on the market, no application: crises!

Crises are for special requests on substances - not covered by positive lists (not used for plastics): inks, coatings, adhesives, paper & board -with emotional content (Bisphenol A, BPA)

In principle the deadline can be negotiated (contrary to the 6-months deadlines for positive lists).

Full risk assessment for substances already on the market & crises:

ITX, benzophenone,
4-MBP, bisphenol A

- Dietary exposure is estimated based on surveys in foodstuffs
- Extensive use of all data available: scientific literature & industry data and cross-reading

50

Requests for substances already on market usually from non plastics FCM

Cross section of a typical packaging material

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Plastics	2002/72-Positive list (monomers, additives)
Metals	
Adhesives	1935/2004
Paper & board	1935/2004 Only general requirement: "should not endanger human health" No positive list.

Silicones, rubber, wood chips

51

Substances already on the market, no application: crises!



52

Substances already on the market, no application: crises!



Questions arrive from Commission (risk manager) or Member State.

The Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) between Member States if activated.

When industry has little information available, there is a crisis: loss of consumer's confidence, economic losses for food companies... and high pressure on EFSA, which has to tell what is safe and what is not safe.

53

Substances already on the market, no application: crises!



EFSA receives a question for urgent scientific advice about the risk when food is contaminated by

- a non evaluated FCM substance
- an evaluated FCM substance migrating > SML

These situations jeopardize the usual workflow.

In such cases, evaluations are usually based on:

- Survey studies of dietary exposure to the substance itself or to an equivalent substance
- Read across from similar substances for toxicity assessment, when not enough data available
- Any literature data available, which is evaluated.

54

The 4-methylbenzophenone case (4-MBP)

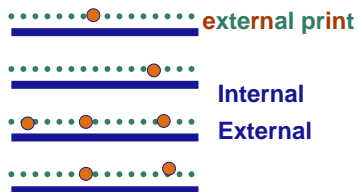
- On 2 February 2009, the German authorities have notified through the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed the migration of 4-MBP from packaging into some breakfast cereals, in a concentration of 0.8 mg 4-MBP/kg food. The Belgian Authorities later reported concentrations up to 5.4 mg/kg.
- Commission has asked EFSA about **urgent scientific advice**
- It was not possible to negotiate the deadline, due to high pressure (should the food be withdrawn from stores ...?)

55

The 4-methylbenzophenone case (4-MBP)



4-MBP, a constituent of prints, is transferred by a set-off mechanism from the outside, printed surface to the inside surface, which comes in contact with food (set-off mechanism)

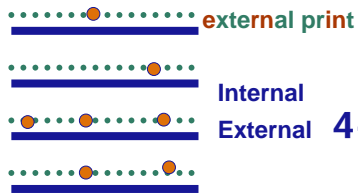


Ink constituents contaminate the inner surface of packaging films

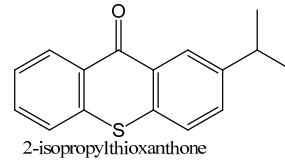
When food is packaged, it becomes contaminated with the ink constituents

56

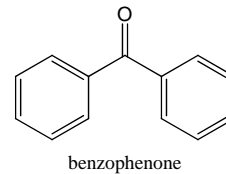
The 4-methylbenzophenone case (4-MBP)



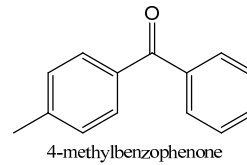
ITX (2005)



BP (2006)
benzophenone



4-MBP (2009)



57

The 4-methylbenzophenone case (4-MBP)

No data available on 4-MBP. More data on BP

⇒ **OPINION IS BASED ON READ-ACROSS FROM BP:**

- 1 4-MBP and BP have similar chemical structure. However the slight differences do not allow that the TDI of BP is applied to 4-MBP.
- 2 Read-across from BP requires an additional uncertainty factor.
An acceptable **Margin of Safety** is defined.

58

Substances already on the market, no application: crises!

Possible ways to improve both the workload and the efficiency of work could be

- pre-screening approaches for chemicals
- better communication between agencies, which are often facing the same or similar issues.

EFSA Staff



Thanks you for your attention

let us contribute
together to a safe food
&
safe food packaging



《講師プロフィール》

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(Dr. Alexandre FEIGENBAUM)

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