



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Safety of the Food Chain
Pesticides and Biocides

PAFF-PPL-July22-Doc.A.07.01
14 July 2022

Guidance on the use of the weight of evidence approach in scientific assessments

This draft has not been adopted or endorsed by the European Commission. Any views expressed are the preliminary views of the Commission services and may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the Commission. The information transmitted is intended only for the Member State or entity to which it is addressed for discussions and may contain confidential and/or privileged material.

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT – DOES NOT NECESSARILY
REPRESENT THE VIEW OF THE COMMISSION SERVICES

This guidance has been developed in co-operation with the Member States. It does not intend to produce legally binding effects and by its nature does not prejudice any measure taken by a Member State within the implementation prerogatives under Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, nor any case law developed with regard to this provision. This document also does not preclude the possibility that the European Court of Justice may give one or another provision direct effect in Member States.

Introduction

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), following its standard procedures for development of guidance documents, including consultation of stakeholders and general public, has published the following guidance document:

Guidance on the use of the weight of evidence approach in scientific assessments.

*EFSA Scientific Committee, Hardy A, Benford D, Halldorsson T, Jeger MJ, Knutsen HK, More S, Naegeli H, Noteborn H, Ockleford C, Ricci A, Rychen G, Schlatter JR, Silano V, Solecki R, Turck D, Benfenati E, Chaudhry QM, Craig P, Frampton G, Greiner M, Hart A, Hogstrand C, Lambre C, Luttik R, Makowski D, Siani A, Wahlstroem H, Aguilera J, Dorne J-L, Fernandez Dumont A, Hempen M, Valtuena Martinez S, Martino L, Smeraldi C, Terron A, Georgiadis N and Younes M, 2017. EFSA Journal 2017;15(8):4971, 69 pp.
<https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2017.4971>*

Implementation schedule

The Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed agreed that the EFSA GD should apply to dossiers submitted from **1 January 2023** onwards, in the context of (renewal of) approval of active substances under Regulation (EC) No. 1107/2009, in those cases where it is relevant for the risk assessment, in particular for ad-hoc situations or when specifically developed and established Guidance Documents are not considered fit for purpose.