

12 August 2016

If you have any views or questions as regards the issues set out in this letter, please respond by 16th September 2016 to FoodEnquiries@fss.scot

To Interested parties,

RE: working policy on the application of Article 14 of Regulation (EC) 178/2002 as regards food contaminated with Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC)

I write to confirm that the EU Commission has frozen discussions on the draft EU STEC Guidance until the evidence base on the risks associated with STEC is further developed and member states can reach a consensus view on proportionate risk management responses.

In the meantime, the UK negotiating position has been translated into a proposed working policy on appropriate interventions following the detection of STEC in foods by Official Controls or Food Business Operator sampling and testing programmes. This is a joint draft FSA / FSS policy which incorporates the consultation we have undergone with industry stakeholders, other government departments and the independent expert Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF). Thank you for your valuable input to date.

Enclosed is the adapted draft, which tabulates the advised interventions more clearly in a separate Annex. Before issuing the advice, we would be grateful for any further comments on this version. Please note the invitation for specific comments on pages 3 and 5, which we would appreciate your input on.

Next steps:

- We aim to issue the advice by the end of September 2016 in tandem with FSA, although please note that this is a working position that should be reviewed as new information emerges and our knowledge develops
- There remains no indication of when the next Microbiological Criteria Commission working group will next be held; however, it is likely to focus on Campylobacter.

Yours faithfully,

Jennifer Howie
Regulatory Policy Branch