

COT 2025 meeting notes

[COT Meeting: 4th February 2025](#)

At their February meeting the Committee reviewed 2 reserved items:

- A joint position paper from the Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes (ACNFP) & Committee on Toxicity (COT) on establishing a Safe Upper Limit for delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (Δ 9-THC) and its precursor as contaminants of hemp-derived products and CBD novel foods Draft Statement (Reserved).
- A draft Committee Advice Document on the recycled poly (ethylene terephthalate) decontamination process for use in the manufacture of materials and articles in contact with food RP 1862 (Reserved).

They continued their work on the maternal diet with a discussion on [mercury](#) and considered further information on deriving a health-based guidance value for [antimony](#) to support development of UK Drinking Water Standards.

In addition, they reviewed 2 requests for comment on EFSA's Public Consultations:

- The EFSA Panel on Food Additive and Flavourings (FAF) 'Draft guidance on the preparation of an application for authorisation of a food additive submitted under 4 Regulation (EC) No 1331/2008' TOX/2025/05.
- EFSA Draft Guidance for Public Consultation: Draft guidance document on the submission of data for the evaluation of the safety and efficacy of substances for the removal of microbial surface contamination of foods of animal origin intended for human consumption [TOX/2025/08](#).

Finally, the Committee discussed the [draft 2024 Annual report](#), 2025 [horizon scanning](#) and potential topics for the annual COT workshop.

[COT Meeting: 25th March 2025](#)

At their March meeting the Committee reviewed 3 reserved items:

- COT Workshop Report- Gut Reactions: xenobiotics and the microbiome (Reserved).
- Working Group on Plant-based drinks- Draft Report (Reserved).
- Review of the safety of ashwagandha in food, drinks and food supplements (Reserved).

In addition, they reviewed a Risk Assessment of T2 and HT2 mycotoxins in food, and a risk ranking scheme for emerging marine biotoxins.

Finally, the Committee listened to presentations from the [FSA Fellow and PhD student](#) updating the Committee on their progress.

[COT Meeting: 20th May 2025](#)

At their May meeting the Committee reviewed 3 reserved items:

- Committee Advice Document on the Authorisation of the substance Blue Microalgae Extract (Blue Galdieria Extract) for Use as a New Food Additive in the 'Colour' Functional Class. (RP507).
- Safety of Nitrates and Nitrites as Food Additives- Presentation from RSM UK Consulting LLP.
- Matters arising: Flavourings guidance: weight-of-evidence document for exposure assessment.

They continued their work on the maternal diet reviewing a discussion paper on the effects of [calcidiol](#) supplementation during preconception, pregnancy and lactation and a first draft statement on [mercury](#) in the maternal diet.

Finally, they reviewed a statement on the derivation of a health-based guidance value for [antimony](#).

[COT Meeting: 15th July 2025.](#)

At their July meeting the Committee reviewed 1 reserved item, Committee Advice Document on the Authorisation of the extension of use of curcumin (E 100) to a new food category "egg analogues" (RP41).

They continued their work on reviewing first draft statements on:

- [The risk for T-2 and HT-2 mycotoxins in food](#),
- [Citrinin in the maternal diet](#).

They also reviewed a First Draft statement of advice on the risk to human health from consumption of [bivalve molluscs](#) (shellfish) harvested from UK waters

associated with marine biotoxins.

COT Meeting: 9th September 2025

At their September meeting the Committee reviewed a paper on [Deriving a health-based guidance value for boron to support development of UK Drinking Water](#).

They also reviewed three EFSA draft options:

- [Evaluation of the safety of preparations from the fruits of sweet and bitter fennel](#),
- [Risks to human health from lectins in food](#).
- [Δ⁸ THC – Derivation of a Health Based Guidance Value](#)

The Committee also continued their work on reviewing two second draft statements on:

- [Citrinin in the maternal diet](#),
- [Mercury in the maternal diet](#).

COT Meeting: 21st October 2025

At their October meeting the Committee reviewed a scoping paper on the potential risk(s) of Garcinia Cambogia and commented on Smoke Flavouring CADS (Reserved).

They also reviewed a summary of the [European Food Safety Authority's scientific opinion on the guidance on the use of read across for chemical safety assessment in food and feed](#).

The Committee also continued their work reviewing two draft statements on:

- First draft statement the safety of ashwagandha in food, drinks and food supplements (Reserved).
- Second draft statement on the risk for [T-2 and HT-2 mycotoxins in food](#).

Under Any Other Business they heard a presentation on FSA work to support negotiations and planning for implementation of an EU-UK SPS Agreement (reserved)

COT Meeting: 9th December 2025

At their December meeting the Committee reviewed a first draft statement on the [derivation of a health-based guidance value for boron](#), they also reviewed a [Supplementary statement on Bisphenol A \(BPA\)](#).

The Committee discussed the [draft EFSA opinion on dioxins](#) – comments will be submitted to the EFSA public consultation.

The Committee continued their work on the maternal diet:

- [Echinacea in the maternal diet](#).
- [Scope of the nutrition and maternal health project](#).

Finally, they received for information purposes: [COMEAP Statement on airborne nano- and microplastic particles and fibres](#), which used the approach of the Synthesis of Epidemiological and Toxicological Evidence (SETE) sub-group.